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Pre-Order Dynamic Catholic's First-Ever Christmas Album

A Rebirth of Sacred Music

CINCINNATI (October 10, 2016) – Experience the rebirth of an ancient musical sound for the holiday season. *O Emmanuel*, a 10-track album, features GRAMMY Award-winning pianist, conductor, and composer J.J. Wright, Chicago-based Fifth House Ensemble, the Notre Dame Children's Choir, adult vocal soloists, and a jazz piano trio. The mesmerizing synthesis of jazz improvisation and classical and sacred music takes listeners on a journey into the essence of the Christmas season.

"You have sacred music, you have new music, you have young people singing," says Melissa Snoza, executive director of Fifth House Ensemble. "Hearing the jazz idioms next to that is just such an incredible thing."

Child choristers have always played central roles in the musical life of the Church. *O Emmanuel* features the angelic voices of the Notre Dame Children's Choir, whose mission is to re-energize the ancient tradition of sacred music. Wright uses the young singers to inspire the wonder and awe of the holiday season.

"Christmas is best experienced through the eyes of a child," says Wright. "There is nothing like seeing the excitement on my children's faces on Christmas morning. I wanted to capture that magic in the album."

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O Emmanuel fuses the ancient texts of the “O Antiphons” with chant (“Hodie Christus natus est”), hymnody (“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”), and jazz improvisation. Recorded at the University of Notre Dame’s DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, the album was produced and edited by GRAMMY Award-winning producer Thomas Moore and engineered by GRAMMY Award-winning engineer Robert Friedrich of Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

For more information about *O Emmanuel* or to pre-order a copy of the CD, please visit OEmmanuel.com. The first 1,000 people who pre-order the CD will receive:

- Five Christmas cards with unique *O Emmanuel* album art. Perfect for wishing loved ones a very blessed Christmas.
- A guided listening experience with composer J.J. Wright. Discover the art behind the music.
- A chance to win one of fifty copies of *O Emmanuel* signed by GRAMMY Award winning pianist and composer J.J. Wright.

For media inquiries, to request a review copy of *O Emmanuel*, or to schedule an interview, contact Lindsey Wopschall at 859-980-7389 or lindsey.wopschall@DynamicCatholic.com.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

J.J. Wright

J.J. Wright is a GRAMMY Award-winning pianist, conductor, and composer. Originally trained as a jazz improviser, Wright has released two of his own CDs and won a GRAMMY for his work with internationally acclaimed jazz vibraphonist Dave Samuels. As a member of the United States Naval Academy Band, Wright played for foreign dignitaries and high-ranking officials, including the president. Wright holds a Masters of Sacred Music from the University of Notre Dame and is currently working on his doctorate. For the 2016–2017 academic year, Wright is studying at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome while he writes his dissertation and interns with the Sistine Chapel Choir. Visit jjwrightmusic.com to learn more about Wright and his work.

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Notre Dame Children's Choir

The Notre Dame Children's Choir (NDCC) is an ensemble for Christian sacred music vocalists from birth through age seventeen. The NDCC cultivates child choristers to be leaders of churches and communities through music education, spiritual exploration, and community engagement. Initiated in 2013 with forty-five students, the NDCC expanded to more than 200 singers across eight choirs. The ensemble commissions new music, publishes through the NDCC Choral Series, and records regularly. The NDCC tours nationally and captivated audiences in a TEDx Conference talk at the University of Notre Dame titled "What If Children Were More Than Cute?" Dr. Mark Doerries is the artistic director of the Notre Dame Children's Choir. He teaches conducting at the University of Notre Dame and performs and speaks throughout the United States and Europe. Visit sma.nd.edu to learn more.

ABOUT DYNAMIC CATHOLIC

Dynamic Catholic is dedicated to re-energizing the Catholic Church in America by developing world-class resources that inspire people to rediscover the genius of Catholicism. The nonprofit organization is passionate about helping Catholics and their parishes become the-best-version-of-themselves.

From inspiring events to life-changing books to world-class programs, Dynamic Catholic is reaching millions of Catholics and their parishes, helping them grow spiritually and transform their corner of the world. Learn more at DynamicCatholic.com.

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