

michéal CASTALDO

For Immediate Release

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MICHÉAL CASTALDO TO PRESENT EXTRA-VIRGIN, THE MUSICAL, AN EVENING OF "CLASSIC ITALIAN SONGS & OLIVE OIL" AT SKOKIE THEATRE, JUNE 26, 2011

Singer-Songwriter and olive oil connoisseur to offer unique multi-media experience of Italy

CHICAGO, March 1, 2011, Skokie Theatre Foundation

On June 26, 2011, Vital Records' performing artist michéal CASTALDO will conduct an evening of song and stories, set against the backdrop of majestic vistas of Calabria, Italy, that will feature an audience-participation olive oil tasting and competition. The experience will be a journey through the senses—all for the price of admission to The Skokie Theater.

The evening, dubbed "Extra-Virgin, The Musical," will be co-produced by the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation and Mr. Castaldo's Majestic Castle Music Productions.

The unique multimedia culinary/musical concert is designed to appeal to classical-crossover lovers and fans (those who like Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, Josh Groban, or Il Divo), olive oil connoisseurs, and all who enjoy *la dolce vita*, the sweet life.

Mr. Castaldo will sing classic and timeless Italian songs from his current CD, "Aceto," from his previous CDs, "Villa" and "La Dolce Vita 'NAmerica," as well as selections from his repertoire, which will include the intermezzo of *Cavalleria Rusticana* by Pietro Mascagni, the crowd-pleasing aria "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's *Turnadot*, Ennio Morricone's "Nella Fantasia," Verdi's "Va Pensiero". The twist in this show will be the many American Hit songs such as "Stand My Me," "Unchained Melody," "Sound of Silence," "Hallelujah," "I Started a Joke" all sung in Italian.

"I'm very excited to perform in the Chicago area once again and to present this special and unique program," Mr. Castaldo says. "Chicago has a special place in my heart. In the early '90s I was best man at my best friend's wedding here, and this is the city where I met my wife, Bozena."

Between songs, Mr. Castaldo will share his family's story as olive oil producers, which began when his great-grandfather bought a parcel of land with savings he earned as a miner helping to build the New York City subway system from 1897 to 1905. Audience members will then get a chance to do a blind tasting of four different brands of olive oil (including Mr. Castaldo's own), and will vote on a favorite. At the end of this musical evening the winning olive oil will be announced. CDs and olive oil will be available for sale after the event for those who want to take the "Extra-Virgin, The Musical" experience home with them.

michéal CASTALDO is an award-winning Italian classical-crossover tenor whose work has been called a "plush world of ballads and utter sweetness" by *celebritycafe.com* and "the perfect complement to an Italian music collection" by *La Gazzetta Italiana*. His family's orchards in the foothills of Calabria, Italy,

where michéal lived until age 3, have long been committed to producing and distributing fresh and vibrant olive oil at affordable prices. "The result, 'Private Reserve' olive oil... is a textbook olive oil: just the right color, flavor and texture to appeal to everyone," as described by thenibble.com, the online magazine about specialty foods for the connoisseur. www.michealCASTALDO.com

The art deco Skokie Theatre, built in 1912 and revitalized in recent years as a venue for young performing artists, provides a venue for creative events such as michéal CASTALDO'S "Extra-Virgin, The Musical."

For details of the June 26th event and to learn more about The Skokie Theatre Music Foundation, visit <http://www.skokietheatre.com>

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. A portion of the proceeds will benefit La Dolce Vita Foundation.Org

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michéal CASTALDO's CD's "Aceto," "Villa" and "La Dolce Vita 'NAmerica," can be heard on Pandora Internet Radio and are available on Amazon.com, iTunes.com and E.Rossi & Co. NYC Little Italy.

To learn more about michéal CASTALDO's projects visit:

www.michealCASTALDO.com (Classic & Timeless Italian Songs)

www.NewYorkCityOliveOilCoop.com (Estate EVOO for New Yorkers and Beyond)

www.LaDolceVitaFoundation.org (Blues Cruise ... Driving you Sane)

www.VillettaMimmaVittoria.com (Villa Rental in Southern Italy)