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April 20, 2012

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.— When two of his songs were nominated for the same 2012 Dove Award songwriting category, GWU Alumnus Carl Cartee joked that with twice the odds of winning would come twice the disappointment if he lost. As it turns out, he had no reason to worry.

Cartee's song "Hope of the Broken World" took home "Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year" at the 43rd Annual GMA Dove Awards last night at the Fox Theater in Atlanta, Ga. The song is co-written by Jennie Riddle and recorded on Selah's "Hope of the Broken World" album.

Cartee's song "All Things New," co-written by Jeromy Deibler, Ronnie Freeman and Jason Ingram, on the Nicol Sponberg's album "On Our Way Home," was also nominated.

Chonda Pierce and David Mann served as co-hosts of the televised portion of the event, which will premiere Tuesday at 8 p.m. eastern time on gmc, with a special encore at 10 pm et.

Cartee, a Cleveland Co. native, is best known locally for the annual Christmas concert he gave, along with Gardner-Webb University and The Shelby Star, to benefit the Salvation Army Food Closet. In its 12 years, the annual Cartee Christmas Concert raised more than 15,000 pounds of food and more than 2,000 toys—not to mention the proceeds from the evenings' CD sales that Cartee always donated.

"As a songwriter, you really appreciate it when professionals who have a valuable opinion say to you that they admire your work," said Cartee of the nominations, which are determined by industry peers.

"It wasn't a matter of if Carl would win; it was when," said Noel Manning, a longtime friend and the coordinator of Cartee's 12 Christmas concerts at Gardner-Webb. "It's a proud day for anyone who knows and loves Carl and his family."

Cartee is still a frequent worship leader at summer camps and winter conferences for Crossroads Worldwide Ministries, based in Boiling Springs and operated by Cartee's close friend and fellow Gardner-Webb alumnus Clayton King.

Based in Nashville, Tenn., Cartee is a staff writer for Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing and an artist-in-residence at Fellowship Bible Church in Brentwood, Tenn. He is the founding owner of Mighty Oak Records, and together with his wife Heather, the creator of the annual Inspire Worship Conference.

The Cartees have been married 12 years and have four sons.

The Dove Awards are the premier industry awards for Christian music, as meaningful as the Grammys for the mainstream music world. More information is available at doveawards.com.

More information about Cartee's ministry is available at carlcartee.com or inspireworshipconference.com.