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Christmas Comes Early to THIRTEEN'S *Great Performances*
With the **Andrea Bocelli and David Foster:**
My Christmas Concert

A-list Lineup of Musical Guests
Makes This a "Starry" Night

(New York, NY – October 5, 2009) Everyone's favorite "Hitman" **David Foster** joins *Great Performances* superstar **Andrea Bocelli** for a new Christmas concert of holiday classics airing on Thanksgiving night. Showcasing Bocelli's unmistakable soaring vocals are lush new arrangements infused with the distinctive Foster touch. The inspiring concert performance, recorded at the **Kodak Theatre** in Los Angeles, also features special musical guests **Natalie Cole, Mary J. Blige, Reba McEntire**, Welsh mezzo-soprano **Katherine Jenkins, The Muppets** and the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir**. Among the featured songs highlighted will be "White Christmas," "Oh Holy Night," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Jingle Bells," "Silent Night," "The Christmas Song," "What Child is This" and many more. **Andrea Bocelli and David Foster: My Christmas** will be broadcast in the New York City/tri-state viewing area on THIRTEEN's *Great Performances* series in HD on Thanksgiving night, Thursday, November 26 at 8 p.m. EST, with additional broadcasts continuing in December on PBS stations nationwide (check local listings).

Great Performances is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America’s most prolific and respected public media providers.

The *My Christmas* concert is the ultimate holiday musical experience from Andrea Bocelli, showcasing the tenor in performances of traditional carols and other favorites in English, with a few additional selections in Italian and German. Regarding Christmas music, the star remarks, “I have long dreamed of recording a holiday album that captures the beautiful traditions of the holiday season. Every year, these songs have brought incredible joy to me and my family, and it is my hope to give back that same joy by making this album.” Of her experience singing Elvis Presley’s “Blue Christmas” with Bocelli during the taping, country music star Reba McEntire told the *Toronto Sun*, “I sat there in awe. I just loved it. (His voice) is rich like frosting on a cake – decadent. It’s so full. I stood there right beside him and just watched him.”

An iconic figure in music who has sold more than 60 million albums to date, Bocelli continues to defy categorization, age barriers and labels of any kind. In concert or on the opera stage, he has sung with everyone from Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo to Bono and Celine Dion. In addition to his solo **Great Performances** concert programs, Bocelli’s many memorable television appearances include the Oscar and Grammy Awards telecasts, mentoring contestants on *American Idol* and performances at the Official Ceremonies of the Olympic Games, all of which have propelled Andrea Bocelli into becoming a global household name in contemporary popular music.

Produced by Mitch Owing, with David Foster, David Horn and Filippo Sugar as executive producers, **Andrea Bocelli and David Foster: My Christmas** is a production of Sugar S.r.l. and THIRTEEN for WNET.ORG.

Great Performances is funded by the Irene Diamond Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, public television viewers and PBS.

For ***Great Performances***, Bill O'Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer. Visit **Great Performances Online** at www.pbs.org/gperf for additional information about this and other programs.

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