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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PIANIST MICHEL CAMILO
WINS LATIN GRAMMY® AWARD**

***Rhapsody in Blue* Claims Best Classical Album**

Cleveland-based Telarc International Corporation is proud to announce that Michel Camilo has been awarded a Latin GRAMMY® in the category of Best Classical Album by the Latin Recording Academy for *Rhapsody in Blue*, released on February 28, 2006. Winners were announced at the 7th Annual Latin GRAMMY® Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 2 at Madison Square Garden in New York. The ceremony was broadcast live on the Univision Network.

On *Rhapsody in Blue*, the Dominican-born pianist pays homage to George Gershwin with the help of the 95-piece Barcelona Symphony Orchestra (Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya), conducted by Ernesto Martínez Izquierdo. On the heels of two of his finest recordings to date – the Grammy winning *Live at the Blue Note* (2003) and the intimate *Solo* (2004) – Camilo's latest Telarc release seamlessly merges jazz and symphonic sensibilities with a unique rendition of Gershwin's immortal "Rhapsody in Blue," followed by some of the great American composer's lesser known works – his Concerto in F, followed by his Prelude No. 2 for solo piano, with a touch of improvised blues.

"This is so great!" says Camilo, "I am honored to win my first Latin GRAMMY® for Best Classical Album! It feels like a dream come true since it took me several years of preparation into making this album a reality and pay tribute to one of my favorite composers: George Gershwin and his music. I am grateful to my producer Elaine Martone and my conductor Ernest Martínez Izquierdo for understanding and supporting from the very beginning my personal vision of these works and for taking care of capturing and bringing out the beautiful playing from all the wonderful musicians of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra. It was amazing how easily we all connected and were able to make music together. Also, thanks to Bob Woods and everyone at Telarc for believing in me, and most importantly to my wife Sandra for her constant love and for always keeping me inspired and creative."

"I am thrilled to win my first Latin GRAMMY® Award," says producer Elaine Martone, Executive Vice President of Production at Telarc. "This recording is a great example of how music crosses boundaries of many kinds. The idea of a Spanish orchestra playing traditionally American repertoire with a jazz pianist could make some skeptical. I would tell those people to listen to this recording. Gershwin would have most definitely approved of the swinging and energetic playing of the wonderful Michel Camilo and the stylistic accompaniment of the Barcelona Symphony and their conductor. When we were recording the piece, I felt the power and magic of the music."

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On April 24, 2007, Camilo returns to the straight-ahead trio format with the release of *Spirit of the Moment*, which features bassist Charles Flores and drummer Dafnis Prieto.

Since 1980, Telarc has been honored with 49 GRAMMY® Awards for performance, production, and engineering. Other important awards have included the French *Grand Prix du Disque* and *Diapason d'Or*; Japan's *Record of the Year*; Germany's *Audiophile CD of the Year*; *Gramophone Magazine's* 2004 Label of the Year. Although it began as a classical-only recording company, Telarc now boasts a catalog of more than 1000 recordings, ranging from classical and classical-crossover to jazz, contemporary jazz, Americana, pop and blues. Telarc releases approximately fifty-five recordings each year, working with a notable roster of artists

The Latin Recording Academy is a membership-based organization comprised of recording artists, musicians, producers and other creative and technical recording professionals who are dedicated to improving the quality of life and cultural conditions for Latin music and its makers. In addition to producing the Latin GRAMMY® Awards to honor excellence in the recording arts and sciences, the Latin Recording Academy provides educational and human services programs to the Latin music community.

Michel Camilo's *Rhapsody in Blue* (CD-83611) was released on February 28, 2006.

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