FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 2, 2012

Contact: Tassi Castillo/Kendra States
The Lavidge Company
480-998-2600

American Idol Season 11 Winner Phillip Phillips to Headline America's Tallest Fresh-Cut Christmas Tree Lighting Event at Outlets at Anthem

PHOENIX – Outlets at Anthem is proud to announce Phillip Phillips as the headlining performer for the eleventh annual lighting of the nation's tallest Christmas tree, being held from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, in the shopping center's center court. Outlets at Anthem is located 15 minutes north of the Loop 101 off Interstate 17 at the Anthem Way exit 229.

"We are ecstatic to bring Phillip Phillips to the Outlets at Anthem for our annual Christmas tree lighting spectacular," said Sallyann Martinez, marketing director for the upscale factory outlet center in north Phoenix. "Our Christmas tree lighting event has become a savored holiday tradition for families across the Valley with fun for every age including various national and local performers, an appearance by Santa Claus, giveaways, special shopping discounts and even snow! We pride ourselves in showcasing some of the best rising talent in the nation at our annual event, and look forward to the addition of this one-of-a-kind artist that captured America's votes and hearts last season on American Idol."

Twenty-one-year-old singer and guitarist Phillip Phillips won the coveted American Idol title on last season's finale with his debut single, "Home," showcasing his rich, raspy vocals and masterful guitar skills. This single marked the highest debut on the Billboard

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Digital songs chart with 278,000 downloads sold. Now, with a Billboard Hot 100 top-ten debut under his belt, the Leesburg, Georgia-bred songwriter is gearing up to record his first album for 19 entertainment/Interscope Records, expected to hit stores in early 2013.

Phillips first began studying guitar when he was 14 and soon found himself mastering riffs from classic-rock tracks like Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water" and Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train." Several years later, Phillips formed an acoustic band with his sister and brother-in-law and added singing to his repertoire. "I used to always keep my singing to myself and never let anyone hear me, but then my sister and brother-in-law caught me one night and told me I had to start singing in the band," he says.

After graduating high school, Phillips began studying at Albany Technical College in Georgia and continued playing music with his brother-in-law. With encouragement from his family and friends, Phillips took a break from working in his family's pawn shop and auditioned for American Idol in the summer 2011—and soon found himself tearing through powerful, full-throated performances on the Idol stage.

As he readies himself to record his debut album, Phillips aims to channel that soulful spirit into acoustic-driven rock with an earthy, authentic sound. "I'm still so amazed at how this has worked out," says Phillips. "I knew I'd always have music no matter what happens, but I never imagined that it would get to this level. I'm so excited to just get going and have a great time doing it."

Previous entertainers at the Outlets at Anthem's annual Christmas tree lighting event include Taylor Swift, Michelle Branch, Honor Society, Disney's "Good Luck Charlie" star Shane Harper and Disney's "Hannah Montana" star Mitchel Musso.

The tallest Christmas tree in America, standing at 110 feet, will arrive at the Outlets at Anthem on Thursday, Oct. 25. To follow the tree's journey to Phoenix, visit the Outlets

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American Idol Season 11 Winner Headlining Outlets at Anthem Event

at Anthem's website at www.outletsanthem.com, or on Facebook at

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Craig Realty Group is a shopping center development firm founded by Steven L. Craig and is based in Newport Beach, California. The firm specializes in upscale factory outlet centers. The company currently owns and operates **Outlets at Anthem** in Phoenix, Arizona; **Cabazon Outlets** located near Palm Springs, California; **Citadel Outlets** in Los Angeles, California; **Outlets at Conroe** located near Houston, Texas; **Outlets at Hillsboro** south of Dallas/Fort Worth; **Outlets at Castle Rock** located south of Denver, Colorado; **Outlets at Loveland** located north of Denver, Colorado; **Outlets at Silverthorne** located west of Denver, Colorado; **Outlets at Vicksburg** in Vicksburg, Mississippi; **Woodburn Company Stores** located near Portland, Oregon and **Outlets at Traverse Mountain** in Lehi, Utah.

The company is currently developing **Plaza San Clemente** in San Clemente, California, a 650,000 square foot mixed-use project, **Sussex Commons Lifestyle Outlets** in Frankford Township, New Jersey, **Chicagoland Outlets at Country Club Hills** located 25 miles southeast of downtown Chicago, Illinois, and **Lifestyle Outlets at Manteca**, a joint venture project in California's central valley. Craig previously developed Carlsbad Company Stores, which was sold to an east coast developer, and Franciacorta Outlet Village in Brescia, Italy. Craig was also responsible for the development of Desert Hills Premium Outlets in Cabazon, one of the largest and most successful manufacturer outlet centers in the world and was instrumental in developing Camarillo Premium Outlets in Camarillo, California. For more information about the company, visit www.craigrealtygroup.com.