

TobyMac Wins Artist of the Year at 2013 Dove Awards

Gospel singer **TobyMac** scooped the big prize at the 2013 Dove Awards on Tuesday when he was named artist of the year for a second time.

The star, who has been nominated for the prestigious award seven times and won it in 2007, saw off competition from **Chris Tomlin**, **Francesca Battistelli**, **Lecrae** and **Tamela Mann** to earn the accolade at the Christian music ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee.

The singer has been hailed as one of the best-known **Christian rappers** and found fame after becoming only the third Christian artist to have a number one debut on Billboard's Top 200 chart with his album *Eye On It* in 2012.

He says, "I've always come from hip-hop roots albeit I'm a pop artist... I've always thought, man, if you're talking about hope, if you're talking about faith, you can't limit it to one style of music... **Gospel** hip-hop has always existed, it just has never had the platform it's finally getting."

Other top winners include singer-songwriter **Matt Redman**, who scooped six trophies, including songwriter of the year and song of the year for *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*, and Ed Cash, who was named producer of the year.