



THE RCA RECORDS LABEL

SEPTEMBER 25, 2002

KELLY CLARKSON SOARS TO NO. 1, SETS *BILLBOARD* HOT 100 RECORD

Kelly Clarkson's debut RCA Records single has become one for the record books. In an unprecedented jump on this week's *Billboard* Hot 100 singles chart, "Before Your Love"/"A Moment Like This" has catapulted from the No. 52 spot to the coveted No. 1 spot behind a whopping 236,000 in sales. As a result, the double A-side single from the 'American Idol' champion represents the largest leap to the No. 1 spot in *Billboard* Hot 100 history.

"We're in uncharted territory," says Geoff Mayfield, *Billboard*'s Director of Charts. "It's unusual to have a retail single to begin with and it's even more unusual to have one sell decent numbers. This is the first one to sell more than 200,000 since 1999, so those are pretty big accomplishments."

"People really got a charge out of watching ['American Idol'] -- participating in it and voting on it -- and a single is a relatively inexpensive way to invest in the experience," adds Mayfield.

Next up for Clarkson: *American Idol: Greatest Moments* CD, featuring the top 10 finalists, will be released October 1st.

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BMG is the global music division of Bertelsmann AG, one of the world's leading media companies, with annual revenues of \$18.45 billion. BMG owns more than 200 record labels in 42 countries including Arista Records, RCA Records, RCA Label Group – Nashville, and Ariola. In addition, BMG owns one of the industry's most highly regarded companies and one of the world's largest music publishing companies.