

AUGUST 2021

SGN **SCOOPS** MAGAZINE



Ernie Haase

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Our Mission

SGNScoops exists to promote the gospel by unveiling what is intriguing and real about gospel music. With integrity, we aspire to highlight people who are fulfilling a call to minister and emphasize the music that inspires audiences and glorifies God.

Publisher- Rob Patz
Editor- Kristen Stanton
VP of Sales & Marketing- Vonda Armstrong
Layout/Design- Staci Schwager, Pete Schwager
Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley
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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Welcome to the Publishers Point for August 2021!

What does it mean to be family? What's your definition? I'm going to give you my definition – not Webster's but mine. Family are the people that you trust, the people that you love, the people that you would do anything for.

By my own definition, I am rich in family. Many of you who read this I count as family. There's an old song that my dad used to sing and that I heard again recently at my new church: I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. If you're like me, you just enjoy saying that last line.

People ask me how we came up with the #WeAreFamily slogan that we use for Creekside. Vonda Armstrong came up with the slogan, and I knew immediately it was the sentiment that encompasses Creekside.

Family has always been very important to me. I've always looked forward to family events, so the season that we are about to enter – which include my birthday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas – are some of my favorite times. I'm fortunate. Not only do I have a great family, but I have friends who are just like family. Recently I was on a plane thinking about the months to come, and I was so blessed to think of all

the people that I would have around me during this time.

It also caused me to reflect on the fact that there are many out there who aren't as fortunate as I am. Some people don't have families. Some people don't have friends they consider family. And some people don't have the family of God.

Family means having someone to love you unconditionally in spite of your shortcomings. Family is loving and supporting one another even when it's not easy to do so. Family isn't always about being connected biologically because there are other things that bind us together.

So I want this to be our challenge – not just yours but mine also – over the next four months, find new people who may be lonely, people who may be struggling, and bring them into your circle the way Jesus would do. Find those people who may need a little bit of extra love and show them the love of Christ.

I hope to see you October 21-23 in Pigeon Forge for Christian Country at the Creek and October 24-28 in Pigeon Forge for Creekside Gospel Music Convention. To reserve your hotel room or purchase your VIP passes, you can call or text me at 425-754-1147.

Until the next time, this is the Publisher's Point.

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DJ Spotlight

Ron Foster



by Vonda Armstrong

This month we are taking a look behind the scenes with radio veteran Ron Foster of WZZK in Birmingham, Alabama. Thanks so much to Foster for coming into the DJ Spotlight this month. Be sure to listen to him every Sunday on 104.7 WZZK in Birmingham or online at www.wzzk.com for his Sunday Morning Gospel Jubilee.

Vonda Armstrong: What's been going on with Ron Foster?

Ron Foster: Let me start my answer to that question by saying I'm blessed. Blessed to be alive and healthy. Blessed to have recently celebrated my 34th wedding anniversary with Kim. And blessed that I'm now in my 20th year at WZZK in Birmingham. The weekly four-hour show continues to be extremely popular, consistently being ranked among the top spots in the ratings. Our listeners LOVE this music!!!

VA: Tell us about your family and about your son, Austin. What's going on with his music?

RF: As I mentioned, Kim and I recently celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary. Kim is a paralegal and works at a law firm in our hometown of Columbiana, Alabama. Austin is married to a lovely young woman named Emma. Emma is from St. Louis. They

met when they were both students at Samford University. Emma works in marketing, and Austin is getting his masters degree in speech pathology. And he also does a lot of the production work for the Sunday Morning Gospel Jubilee. Kim and I are extremely proud of Emma and Austin, and we love being "empty-nesters."

VA: What is your favorite Southern gospel song that is playing on the radio now?

RF: Wow! That's a hard question to answer because there are so MANY great songs currently out. A



song I'm loving right now is "Start With Well Done" from Greater Vision. But as I said there is a lot of great music out now, and I'll probably have a new "favorite" song next week.

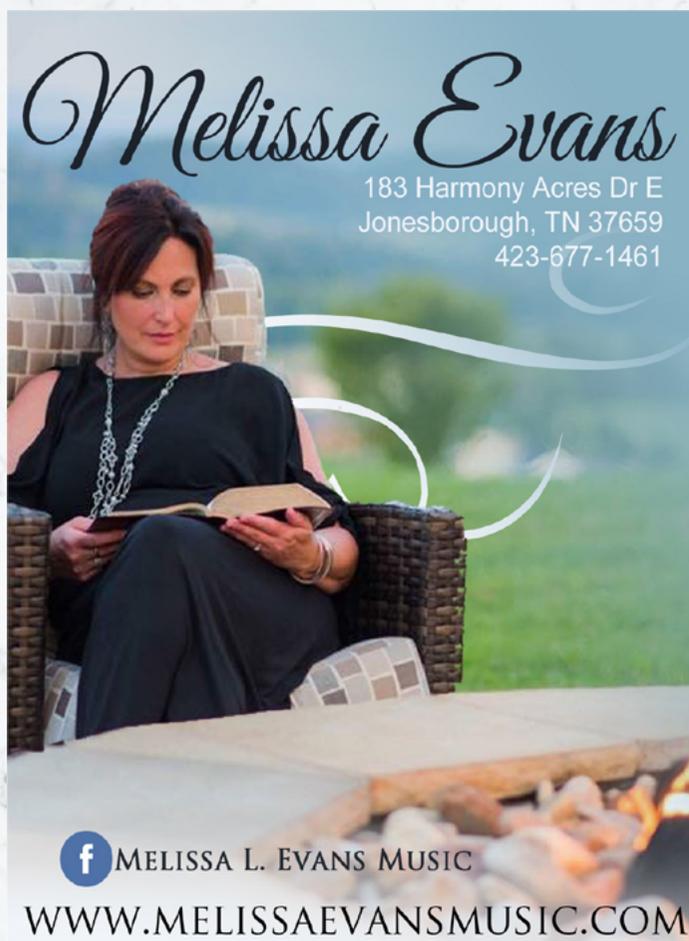
VA: What is your favorite gospel convention and why?

RF: The National Quartet Convention is next month and I can't wait! For a southern gospel music fan, that week is heaven on earth. The Convention has been in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for the past several years, and I think that's the perfect location. The NQC is a family-friendly event, and Pigeon Forge has so much to offer. Time spent in the Smoky Mountains is always special.

VA: If you were promoting a concert right now, what would your lineup be?

RF: Another tough question since our industry is filled with so many, many wonderfully talented artists. As a former promoter, I can attest to the fact that promoting is a tough job. Promoters want to provide the audience with not only a few hours of entertainment, but a memorable experience. I love it when I've attended a concert and a week later I'm still talking about it. So if I were still promoting, I would bring in the artists who could do it all – entertain and minister.

FINAL NOTE: Since The Sunday Morning Gospel Jubilee is just a weekly program, and not daily, I enjoy posting on Facebook throughout the week. I love tossing a topic out into the vast world of social media, and getting a good conversation going. Although Kim tells me there are times when I scare her to death doing it. LOL. It's just all in fun.



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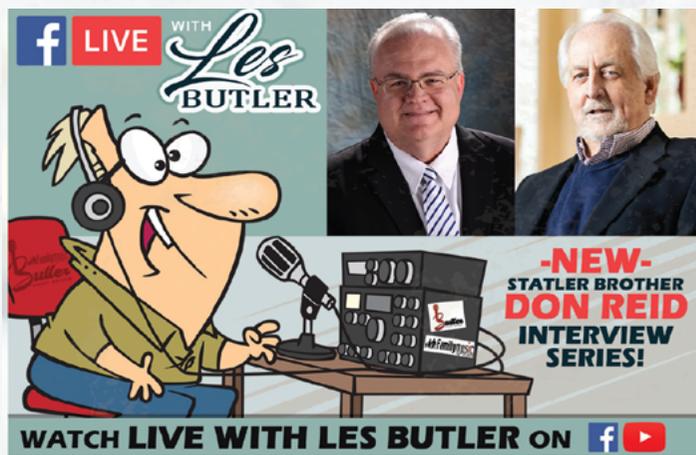
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Keep on Keepin' On



By: Jimmy Reno

Ernie Haase found himself in new territory in 2020. For the first time in his career, he questioned if he should continue on. The pandemic hit the entertainment industry as a whole very hard. Signature Sound found themselves having to cancel the remainder of their 2020 schedule in order to do as much as they could to keep fans and members of the group safe.

"When things shut down around March or April of 2020, I told the guys I had this idea for a tv show called Friday Night Sing. So we gave our heart and soul to that and it ran all the way until December 25th. Unbeknownst to me, God used that to bless not only way more people than we would reach traveling on a bus, but He used that to keep me busy and keep my mind from being idle."

After Christmas was over in 2020, the group still wasn't touring and this began to have an impact on Ernie.

"I'm always creating, and we had recorded over 64 songs. I'm always in a building mode. After Christmas, during January and February, we still weren't touring, and that's when I went dark; that's when I was tired, that's when I didn't have anything to wake up for and that was for the first time in my life. I was sitting with my family in Atlanta, Georgia, and it was really cold, and then January 6th that

mess happened up there at the [U.S.] Capitol. It seemed like the whole world was falling apart," he explained.

Ernie realized during this period that he had friends on each side of the issues arguing and this bleak period tested him. "They were on their Facebook pages mad at each other, and all I could think was what could I do? Then it's like the Lord said to me, if all you have left is one more breath, rise up in faith and take a step. I'm here to tell you to keep on keeping on. So the songs [on the new album] came from a dark place but the songs aren't dark. I think the songs on this record will touch people. I think this record is not only the greatest expression of my artistic heart, but from the heart of a sojourner, going through life with the listeners."

The new album titled "Keeping On" contains 14 songs. The title song, which has now been sent to radio, kicks off with a B-3 organ and the group's signature harmonies. Each song is a positive, bright, uplifting tune that so many need to hear in times such as these. "I think we put a lot of stock in numbers and that's ok, that's how we gauge success, whether it is how much money you make this year or for a group, if you worked this many gigs in a year or you sell so many CD's in a year, they're all gauges. But I felt like He was asking if I wanted to have quality or quantity in this way of life, or do

you want to take advantage of a horrible situation and see about how to be more effective. Those are the reasons I kept going on and had a new vision. A spiritual green light that said “keep on keeping on.”

Departing from their usual song selection process for an album, for the first time, Ernie co-wrote 9 of the 14 songs. “I told my wife, this might be my Waterloo, this might be the one nobody listens to much. I’ve always said that when an artist starts writing the majority of their own songs or starts publishing their own songs, that’s just not a good sign. So I went against my own rule there but only because in January and February, we were not even scheduled to go into the studio. The Lord just poured all those songs on me. I called Wayne Haun, our producer, then he came over and we spent 3 days arranging the songs. It came together fast.”

The first track on the album is titled “Morning Song (Thank You Lord).” This song came from inspiration Ernie had one morning when a scripture came to mind.

“One morning, it was just a beautiful morning and the birds were singing and the scripture came to mind, the birds don’t err, they don’t fuss and they don’t fret. The Father loves them and takes care of them. Look at the field and flowers and how beautiful it’s dressed. How much more are you? I was like thank you Lord for the grace I’m waking up to everyday and that ended up being the opening song. I told Wayne [Haun], we need an overture to start the album like everything is waking up from a long winter. I can’t wait for people to hear that song”.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit very close to home for Ernie, not just in the loss of dates for his group, but a family member who had contracted the virus passed away.

“My Uncle, Freddy Haase, passed away with Covid and we had to say goodbye to him. My Dad said, ‘I know Freddy knew I loved him, but I just didn’t say it enough.’ I said well I think as he started to fly, he could see all the tears; he knows. I said we’re not that far behind him and that’s where that song [Not Far Behind You] came from.”





The track titled "Not Far Behind You" is a ballad with heartfelt, emotional lead vocals from Ernie that is encouraging for those who have lost loved ones.

Every track on the new album literally has a story behind the song.

"There's a song on there called 'Good To Be Home'. Back in January, our TV network out of Atlanta, Georgia, called and said they wanted to re-air the Friday Night Sings, but they couldn't do it on Friday. So, how could they make it work? So I told them I had just written a song called 'Good To Be Home' and what if I rebuilt it and called a new season Good To Be Home and they loved it. That's where that song came from."

The new season for the group's Friday Night Sing, Good To Be Home, won't focus on things like the [Covid-19] lockdown. It's about changing things.

"It's not about lockdown and isolation, it's about people wanting to change the culture, and we change that culture one home at a time. I have all these visions of what can be now. Thank God for a reason to wake up every morning and put my hand

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to a task.”

The challenges during the pandemic also brought the members of the group closer together.

“To go through what we went through together, losing the majority of our income, it actually brought us together as brothers. There’s an intimacy in our live shows now that I’ve never experienced before. I think everyone is coming back with a more grateful heart. I’m not trying to trivialize this but I think it’s the gift from covid. I think gifts came out of it.”

For a writer, every song is special and holds meaning. Sometimes those songs may be a little extra special.

“We have a lot of fun songs on the album. That’s what I want people to hear. That while these came from a dark time, these are very light feeling songs. There’s one that would be one of my favorite upbeat songs, it’s called ‘When We Fly Away Home.’ We wrote that one and it pushes all the right buttons but the music is different. It’s a throwback to the 80’s, which is when I graduated high school. That

particular song helped dictate the [album] cover art. So ‘Morning Song’, ‘Wake Up’ and ‘When We Fly Away’, those 3 songs are ones I think people will enjoy when they are getting up and getting ready for work.”

The one song that continues to speak to Ernie from the album is the title song.

“I keep going back to “Keep On Keeping On.” That song is a song I believe churches will sing. I believe it’s a way to open up worship service. I’m really excited about the title song.”

The Keeping On tour kicked off June 19, 2021 in Memphis, Tennessee. “We are very excited about seeing people. There’s nothing like a live show. When you connect with people’s hearts in a live setting and they let you know it, there’s just nothing like it.”

As hard as 2020 was on the group and the entertainment industry collectively, and despite the loss of income for the members of Signature Sound, every member returned, ready to start touring again.



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“The guys all returning speaks a lot about their character. Back in June of 2020, when we had to say we couldn’t tour the rest of the year, we are going to focus on the Friday Night Sing, I couldn’t have done that had the guys not individually told me that they trusted me and knew I had done all I could do. There was a level of trust there. I value these guys so much. Their talent, their character, their walk with the Lord, their love of their families and the trust they’ve given me.”



The members of the group all managed to find side jobs to do to make additional income and that benefitted the group.

“The guys found side jobs that supplement and keep things going. That’s been a good thing because it’s given us a little more independence and flexibility to not have to go out and work 250 dates a year. One thing we learned was we didn’t want to go away from being part of our homes, our community and being part of our churches. We’re going to continue to be involved this way even if we have to do less dates and get down the road and not make as much money. The way we value success and our lives have changed.”

The financial impact of Covid-19 is still hurting areas of the entertainment industry and this is an issue Ernie knew he would have to contend with as the group embarks upon their new tour.

“The financial economy of covid, is still crippling the performing arts centers. People are still worried

about the stipulations that are put on each individual building. It’s the same problem with cruises right now as well. By the fall of 2021, unless there’s another spike [in Covid-19], I think we’ll see things open. There’s just a lot of concern over the uncertainty of whether the concerts happen and if not, will they get their money.”

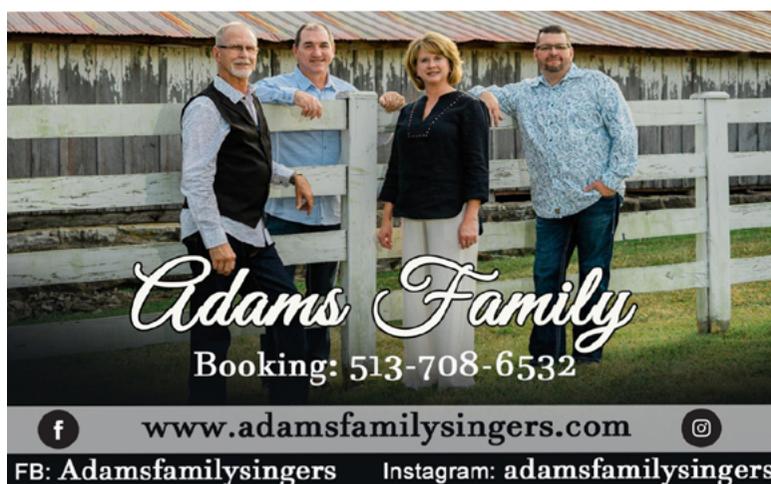
The vision Ernie has for this tour and what he hopes to see is people deciding to keep on living. Keep moving forward.

“If I could put a big banner in every lobby of these concerts, and I may do this, and just say, you know what it is that’s keeping you from taking a chance and keeping on. You know what you’re afraid of and the obstacles. You know what it is. The same way you would drive a stake in a date you accepted Christ as your savior, I want you to drive a stake in this date and say with one more breath, I’m going to take a step and keep on keeping on. Every morning to wake up and say thank you Lord for the grace I’m waking up to everyday.”

Ernie hopes this album helps the listeners decide to drive a stake into that date and be committed from that moment to moving forward and thanking God for the graces He gives every day. He hopes to reach as many people as possible with this message and to share the vision the Lord has given him.

“I think Signature Sound is more effective now than we’ve ever been and that’s saying a lot. This past year has definitely changed the way we viewed gauging success.”

Signature Sound invites everyone to join them on this journey to keep on keeping on.



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Beyond the Song With

A'Men Quartet

By: Jantina de Haan

I've been listening to the latest project by A'Men Quartet called Just Getting Started and caught up with them and their bass singer David Proctor for this edition of Beyond the Song to learn more about their ministry.

Jantina de Haan: You are 4 guys behind the mic based in Texas. Please give us a short introduction of who you guys are. Please tell us when and how this journey started.

A'men Quartet: Josh Samaneigo is the 1st tenor of the quartet. He enjoys different musical styles and has performed with various university choirs, ("Southwestern Singers"), semi professional ensembles, ("Paradigm Vocal Ensemble"), and acapella groups, ("In Unity"). When not making music, Josh loves his work as a 1st grade teacher. And most of all, he is enjoying life with his wife and two teenagers, Eden and Mia.

Grif Griffith is our lead singer and 2nd tenor. He now calls Texas home, but being born and raised in Ohio, Grif has remained an avid fan of the Ohio State University Buckeyes...as well as embracing the Dallas Cowboys. Being from a musical family, Grif has been singing since the age of 4 and has sung with many groups and choirs all across North Amer-

ica and internationally. Like Josh, Grif is an educator and is the Education Administrator for a multi-state system of schools. God is Number One for Grif, but very close seconds are his wife, Nilsa, and his two children, Amarylis and Buddy.

Jason Renken is the group's baritone. Influenced by musicians in his family, Jason began singing at an early age, earning a reputation as a talented young soloist. This led to time with a traveling contemporary Christian music band, ("The Heritage Singers") and a 15-year run with the choral vocal ensemble, ("Paradigm Vocal Ensemble"). Jason works as a researcher in the energy field which keeps him busy when not singing with A'men. But job #1, (not really a job at all), is being the devoted husband to his wife Amy and daddy to two young boys, Jacob and Joshua.

David Proctor is the senior member of A'Men, bass singer and songwriter for the group. By birth and by choice a life long Texan, he and his wife, Sarah, and their 3 grown sons call the Dallas/Fort Worth area home. But most importantly there are 2 grandchildren, Addy & Kate, who definitely have their "Poppy" properly trained. Music has always been an important part of David's life and when he heard the Cathedrals with George Younce at bass, he was

hooked on Southern Gospel Music. To sing bass for a Southern Gospel Quartet was obviously the next musical path to follow.



The A'Men Quartet had its beginnings in 2005, when the associate pastor of their home church, (Pastor Gayle Tucker), asked Josh, Grif, Jason and David to come together to sing one song for an upcoming Easter program. The positive response was unexpected, but large enough to encourage the guys to actually form a permanent group, the A'Men Quartet. Though there were several changes in members over the years, (Josh had to leave early on), and out of state job locations, the core group of Grif, Jason and David stayed together, and when the time was right, Josh was finally able to rejoin the group. The original vision of Pastor Gayle's, and the never ending blessings from the Lord has led A'Men to where we are today. Our current CD says it best... the A'Men Quartet is Just Gettin' Started.

Again, and you ain't seen nothin' yet.

JH: What's the story behind the group's name?

AQ: The name "A'Men" is very important and meaningful to the group. It is an abbreviation of the

name "Adonai's Men." In doing research for the name, we found the name "Adonai." In Hebrew, Adonai is the plural form of Adon, which means "Lord," "Master," or "Owner." We chose this name to acknowledge and recognize God's Authority and Ownership over our lives and our music ministry. So shortening Adonai's Men, we became the A'Men Quartet.

JH: You have 2 projects out, are they both produced by Kevin Williams who we all know from the Gaither homecoming series?

AQ: Our 1st CD, Saving Grace, was truly a home grown project that we couldn't have done without our producer and sadly, late friend, Greg Cabrera. He was a talented guitarist/songwriter, (and brother of Latin Grammy winner, Patty Cabrera), who provided his home studio and the production of the vocals for the CD that we are quite proud of. On Saving Grace, the Lord blessed us with our friend and 1st tenor, Jesse Jackson. The 2nd and current CD Just Gettin' Started was the first in a special relationship with Kevin Williams as our producer and friend. God was leading from the very beginning, preparing the way before David even had the first conversation with Kevin about the possibility of working with him as a producer. Kevin expressed an interest, and with a friendship established, working together to create something special became a reality. We are indeed blessed and are getting ready to record the vocals for A'Men's brand new project with Kevin.

JH: I hear several styles while listening to the Just Gettin' Started project. Please fill us in about that. "To Surrender" is even in two languages. What's the story there?

AQ: A'men has a strong cultural mix. We bring a diverse background of music styles and influences from Gospel, a little bit of Country, Classical Choral music, acapella, traditional church hymns and of course Southern Gospel music, and it all gets blended together to produce what we believe is just right for the A'men Quartet.

David Proctor: When I wrote the words [for To

Surrender], my attempt was to portray the idea of giving all, surrendering all to Jesus, because that was what He did for us on the cross. He surrendered all!!! As the melody took shape, the idea of a sweet, Spanish ballad tune became the only way that song could portray the message in the way it was given to me. Then, because it was a Spanish ballad, we wanted to sing one of the choruses in Spanish. To do that properly, with proper pronunciation and word structure, Grif's mom, (Carmen Fuentes-Griffith), translated and provided vocal direction so that the Spanish would properly be presented. I believe it turned out just like it was supposed to... a beautiful song with an important message.

JH: Share with us about the new release "Good Enough"

AQ: What I would like to share with you are the thoughts that Kevin Williams had about this song. It was a song that I wrote and shared with Kevin

early on in our relationship. Here is what Kevin shared with me just the other day: "Good Enough" gets right to the heart of some issues that I think believers struggle with quite often. How can we do enough or say enough or be enough to merit what Christ has done for us? That's just the way we as humans are wired. But the fact is, nothing about us would or could ever be good enough to earn His love and grace. It is He who redeems us and creates in us what He sees as beautiful.. We are His creation and he delights in us. When David Proctor sent me the lyrics to the song, I came unglued and called him immediately. It still pierces my heart every time I hear it."

I think Kevin's words really express why we want to release "Good Enough" for the next radio play song. Please pray for it's message to be heard. We hope you like "Good Enough" and that it touches your hearts as well.

JH: What is the message you share when you stand in front of a crowd That is of help for those who are in a storm and are searching for a way out?



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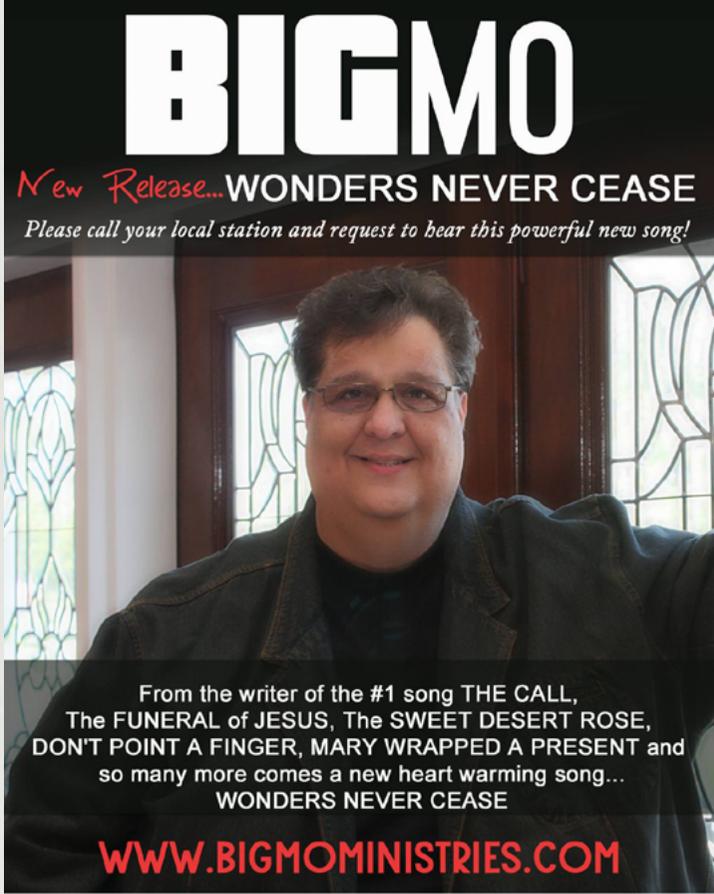
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AQ: When we sing for people, we want to make sure that our listeners hear about God's Grace for us, for them, for the world. People are looking for answers to a lot of problems. We want to point to the One and only Answer to those problems, and point to the One who wants to be our forever Friend and to wrap His arms around us if we will just let Him. We want to show the audience that it is ok to have fun in a praise setting... to enjoy each other... and to enjoy time with Jesus. And during the following days, our prayer is that one of our songs will be remembered and bring encouragement if needed.

JH: What is ahead for A'Men Qt? Are you back to traveling?

AQ: Well, we are still feeling the effects of COVID. Churches are beginning to open up, but very slowly. We can't wait to get in front of people again. We are in the final stages of our new project. "What Color is Love" is a special song written by Grif's aunt, Eleanor Wright, a wonderfully gifted songwriter. Mark Kibble, (a member of the world renowned, Grammy award winning group, "Take 6"), is our producer for that song and we are excited about having it on this project. We will finish our studio work with Kevin, who again has arranged the vocals and instrumentation for all the rest of the songs. So please keep us in prayer that these songs continue to share the right message. All the songs are great, originals and covers. And everybody... get a copy as

soon as it comes out!

JH: Time for a little fun now! I already know who the oldest and wisest guy is on the bus, that's you David!

But who's the joker on the bus?

AQ: Josh.. but we try not to pay any attention to him. His latest thing is to get a picture of everybody dressed up like the Bee Gee's. Go Figure !!

JH: Who's the quietest one?

AQ: Jason.. Then David... but that's just as the old guy, he's trying to take a nap and if he's asleep, he doesn't have to dress up as a Bee Gee.

JH: Who's the most serious guy?

AQ: We all really have serious moments... which is good. That strikes a good balance for the group and helps us all stay focused when we need to be on point.

JH: Who's the most practical one?

AQ: Definitely Jason... When all of us start off in different directions, he comes up with good options and suggestions.... Like singing on Key!!

JH: Who's the most organized?

AQ: Grif does the organizing when we get ready to perform and he takes the lead in getting concerts set up, making contact with the right people, etc. I think sometimes Grif has to feel like he is herding cats as he tries to get us up on stage at the same time, in the same place and with mics in our hands. JH: Is there a story that still stands out to you that you experienced in the time of traveling as a quartet?

AQ: Well, we all have had experiences, one on one, with someone who just wants to talk... they have something on their heart and need someone to just listen. We are honored that, through the music, they feel that we can be approached. That's part of the ministry, to allow music to use us in ministering to someone who needs to feel the Love of Jesus. Our God is a God who protects. Several years ago, the quartet had a weekend of performances for the Hope Channel at a retreat in Asheville, North Carolina. We arrived along with a major snowstorm that blanketed the entire region and caused multiple travel shutdowns. We had a great weekend of fellowship and music, but then we had to find a way to get home before the weather shut everything down. After 6 return flight bookings and then cancellations, we finally found a flight out of an airport that was about 80 miles away. What should have taken 90 minutes of drive time took 5 hours of very tense driving through slick roads, deep snow and extreme cold. But God brought us safely to the airport and then safely home, despite the snowstorm and dangerous road conditions. Then there are some of the funny stories. One that stands out is the concert where one of the mics that we were given to sing with was a lapel mic. Since Grif is the shortest member, we give that one to him.

JH: What's the best way to reach you, to pick up some of your music or even book you guys for a service or event?

AQ: You can get downloads of our music on itunes, Amazon

On our webpage www.adonaismen.com Be sure and look for A'Men Quartet. We discovered that there are several Amen sites out there, including a heavy metal band... that is why there is only one A'Men Quartet

For booking: adonaismen@gmail.com, amenquartetbooking@gmail.com
for David: dnproctor1@gmail.com
(214) 392-2763 (leave message)

JH: To wrap up this interview, is there a final message of hope you want to leave behind that could make a difference for whoever needs to read it and is hanging on by the last straw?

AQ: I think that John 3:16 says it best. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son that whosoever...." Not just the saved, not just the person sitting on the front row of church, not the richest or smartest, not the most beautiful – simply "whosoever" – that means you, me, everybody and anybody who needs Jesus, just as you are, at that moment. Look to Jesus and you can walk on water!!

Thanks so much A'Men Quartet guys for sharing your ministry to the SGNscoops Magazine. May God continue His blessing on the work you do reaching out to those who are lost and need to hear the greatest message that Jesus saves today. That whenever you are in your life, He is waiting for you.



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STATE ANNUAL SINGING CONVENTION



Celebrating a Century of Southern Gospel The State Annual Singing Convention in Benson, NC

by Rachel Harris

At the Singing Grove, in the center of town stand several shady oak trees that shelter the overflow of the large crowds attending the Benson Sing -- the perfect scene to celebrate 100 years of Gospel Music.

Gospel Music is integral to the town of Benson; it's what they're most well known for, and it certainly brings its share of tourists to the town each June. The State Annual singing convention is a free event for the public. It is also free to enter the singing competition and round robin as well. The event is open to groups and choirs from anywhere in the United States but usually attracts groups from the East Coast.

“Traditionally, we have a singing contest but this year the board of directors decided that the centennial should be more of a celebration; a homecoming,” said

Rayvon Best, Manager for The State Annual Singing Convention Board. However, this year they focused on meet and greet of the families of the founders of the convention, it's directors, and past and present winning groups.

In the back of the large white tent, tables were set up with the names of the founders and flowers in memory of each one. J.V Barefoot, T.C Miller, J.B Raynor, J.H Rose, and Simon P. Honeycutt. There were autograph books for Founder families and for anyone that had ever sung at Benson. Old programs and Newspaper articles going back at least 50 years were there too! I was privileged to sign the books for my family; The Josh Harris Family. We actually won the 2017 Consolation trophy.



Joey Gore and The Wilmington Celebration Choir took the stage as well. Torrential rain kept the normally large crowd at bay but people still made their way to the Singing Grove.

It was still raining on Saturday, but the crowds were beginning to gather. Some groups and vendors packed up trying to keep their merchandise from being wet while others huddled under their tents to keep dry. The smell of barbeque and ribs filled the air, and the old fashioned ice cream was stationed in its normal spot behind the stage like it has been for the last 14 years! As people began to get in line for their traditional ice cream flavors of chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry, as well as their most surprising flavor and my personal favorite, homemade banana ice cream.

So needless to say, I have my own Benson memories. I grew up occasionally coming to the town of Benson for one reason only -- the state annual singing convention. From the first year I came until now, it has never felt awkward, strange or foreign. It has always felt a bit like coming home. The staff is welcoming and kind, the music glorifies God our savior, and the people that come are there to worship God. It really is a wonderful experience that I am happy to keep repeating. The history, the fashion, and even most of the songs have changed, but one thing remains: a need -- a calling -- to serve the Lord through Southern Gospel Music.

Saturday night Wesley Pritchard and the Fayetteville Community Church Worship Team took the stage. Each member was talented and together harmonies were tight. They are certainly a choir to be reckoned with.

Last year the Singing Convention was cancelled due to Covid, and this year was better than ever. According to Rayvon Best, "It took 3 years of advanced planning to create such a special and memorable tribute to the last 99 years of Gospel Music. Since this year was to be set apart, they decided that it should be more of a celebration than a competition."

Sunday began early in the morning as The Benson Sing took on the appearance of a good ole southern church service. Mark Trammell brought the message and the quartet led the congregational singing. At noon the round robin singing started and was followed by the Mark Trammell quartet and the 2021 Convention Choir. And then a little after 3:30 the Temple Choir, the 2019 Grand champions, preceded the final group of the 100th State annual singing convention, The Hoppers. The Hoppers were truly a joy to

The Convention is a three day event. Choirs, duets, trios, quartets, and family groups from across the United States took the stage. Some groups were well known, and some were local singers and choirs, but all came together for one purpose to glorify God through music.

Friday night kicked off the way Singing in the Grove started 100 years ago -- with choirs! "We started out with choirs to tie it back to the roots," said Rayvon Best. They invited area churches and community choirs were formed. There were 3 different choirs that represented 18 churches!





hear, and their hearts for God were apparent as well as their love for their mother who was unable to be at the sing due to health reasons.

Sunday was also a time of remembrance. Part of the directors of the Benson sing and one of the group members of the Montgomery family, Robin Steagall, sang the memorial tribute song, “Sheltered in the Arms of God” written by Dottie Rambo. Instead of applause, the crowd was asked to remain silent in remembrance of all who have been a part of the convention and have gone on to be with Jesus over the years. The memorial service was closed in prayer and The National Anthem was sung.

I was able to briefly interview several groups at the event. You, our readers, will be able to tell through the following responses how special a town like Benson is and what kind of impact The State Annual Sing has had on Gospel Music and continues to have to this day.

The Masters Hands, a mixed trio that’s been singing for the last 20 years, said, “The Benson Sing is one of the best venues in North Carolina and I wish we could see more types of these venues.”

Mary Ann West of The Crusaders of North Carolina said that their group has been together for 45 years. Since she was from out of town she recalls asking, “The Benson sing, what’s a Benson sing? And we’ve been coming ever since and that was over 40 years ago.”

Group member Reginald Mann with the acapella group Divine Intention shared their experience about the Benson Sing: “It’s not so much about the competition, it’s just about doing it for our God.”

Janice Horrell with The Horrells said that she started coming here with her family, The Jenkins Family, and then began singing with The Horrells. Their group has been coming to the sings now for over 8 years, and they just enjoy spending the whole weekend at the Benson Sing.

Keith Oxendine sang with The Oxendine Quartet and The Oxendine Family. In 1993, The Oxendine Quartet was the Grand Champion. Keith remarked, “The Benson Sing was just a good atmosphere, family oriented; just a good time laid back with your family with some flat-out singing, and the staff are supportive of all the groups.”

Back when our family group was singing, The Oxendine Family was there to cheer us on along with another Benson favorite duet, The Nortons and Namon Bullard and his group at the time. So it’s not just about how supported you feel by the staff but how the groups support and encourage each other as well.

Vernon Simmons and Mike Easton of The Trinity Quartet said, “We have been coming to the Benson sing for 15 years and have had the privilege to win the Quartet division for about eight of those years.” They also went on to say, “We enjoy coming every year. It’s like coming home. Everyone in the town, especially the staff, treats you like family.”

The Rivenbarks are also personal friends of my family and it was great to sit down and talk with Keith Rivenbark and Kayla Dowdy, two of the members of the group who are also father and daughter. They have been coming for about 25 years, and Keith was even on the board of directors for about 4 years.

Keith and Kayla won the Duet division several years

in a row and have been singing together for about 10 years. "It's a blessing to watch your daughter grow up and sing with her daddy and now continue in that tradition. The State Annual Singing Convention has opened so many doors for my family."

When asked what this Centennial Celebration meant to her, Mrs. Robin Stegall part of the Board of Directors for over 25 years and singer with The Montgomery Family, replied, "To me, it's about keeping Southern Gospel music alive; so many churches don't use it so many young people haven't heard it they only hear what's on the radio and then they hear Southern Gospel and seem to love it!"

The Dunns from Portsmouth, Virginia, said that they've been attending for over 40 years! They have been singing as a duet since 2009 and have been The Dunns since 2012. The group won Mixed Trio in 2010 and in 2012 they won best duet. The Dunns said, "It's more than just a sing -- it's like a big family reunion like that song "When All God Singers Get Home."

Several years ago, I was at the Benson sing and Ernie Haase and Signature Sound were the main group. They were actually rained out that year and decided to sing underneath the picnic shelter with the rain coming



down. That really made an impression on me. As well known as Ernie Haase and Signature Sound are in the Southern Gospel community and in Southern Gospel music in general, they are still just normal people who love God and are simply serving him. I was pleased to finally get to see them this year on the main stage and they did a wonderful job with their tight harmony and great stage presence. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound have a new CD that just debuted called Keeping On. Dean Hopper with The Hoppers said, "Being here for six decades, being able to see how it's kept on the path but progressing through the decades, true to the music but bringing in new talent, I'd say that Southern Gospel love is still alive today. To be back here again on the 100th anniversary is a real honor."

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Mark Trammell, of The Mark Trammell Quartet, has sung in North Carolina for 45 out of the 47 years that he has been singing and said, "You don't ever get tired of people being polite." It reminds him of that scripture "be not weary in well doing" and he said that's just "the southern way."

In fact, throughout the history of the Benson Sing, the little town of Benson and local merchants have provided labor, materials and financial support to keep the sings going. There are many that provide a way for The Singing in the Grove to continue holding the sings annually. Hundreds of sponsors line the booklets that are given away freely or for donations. Luby and Catherine Ward have been extremely generous in their giving for this event. They provided a generous donation for the purchase of the baby grand piano, the sponsoring for the Grand Champion trophies, and even for some of the headline groups. For the past 2 years he has also provided the cost for the singing tent. Isn't it true that God always provides us a way; even if it's not in the way that we expect it.

The Mark Trammell Quartet sang one of their latest radio songs called "God Has Provided Himself a Lamb." Mark Trammell says, "I am honored to be a part of the 100th anniversary of The State Annual Singing Convention and should the Lord tarry his coming I pray there be 100 years just like it!"

The memories and traditions at The State Annual Singing Convention were proclaimed tremendously this year as they commemorated 100 years Of Cele-

brating Southern Gospel Music. Next year the celebration continues with the Triumphant Quartet.

I know if the people of the town of Benson could say one thing to our readers they'd say, "See you at the Singing Grove when we celebrate the 101st year of Gospel Music! We sure hope to see you there where we'll welcome you to the sing!"

And I have to agree with Mark Trammell too. I pray that there are 100 more years just like it, and if not, that we'll be singing with the heavenly choirs making our own joyful noise to the Lord and continuing to praise his name .

For more information about the Sing:
www.facebook.com/thestateannualsingingconvention
www.gospelsingingconvention.org
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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	YOU'RE HOME TO STAY	GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN
2	WHAT A DAY	LEGACY FIVE/DAYWIND
3	ANYTIME'S A GOOD TIME	HYSSONGS/INDEPENDENT
4	THESE ARE THE DAYS	KINGSMEN/CROSSROADS
5	NEVER CHANGING GOD	KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS
6	START WITH WELL DONE	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
7	WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME	11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS
8	I'LL SOON BE GONE	OLD TIME PREACHERS QT/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
9	RELIGION ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE	JOSEPH HABEDANK/DAYWIND
10	MESSIAH OVERCAME	KAREN PECK NEW RIVER/DAYWIND
11	THIS IS AMAZING GRACE	OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS
12	HE WON'T JUST GET YOU BY	FIELDS OF GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
13	RAISED ON RED	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
14	I CHOOSE JOY	TAYLORS/STOWTOWN
15	HE'S LEADING THE WAY	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
16	THE ROCK THAT NEVER AGES	LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS
17	WHEN YOU SAID PEACE	TIM LIVINGSTON/INDEPENDENT
18	THE FINAL WORD	WHISNANTS/UIA
19	MY KING IS KNOWN BY LOVE	CRABB FAMILY/DAYWIND
20	GOD WALKS IN	FREEMANS/INDEPENDENT
21	WHEN WE ALL GET TOGETHER	MARK TRAMMELL QT/CRIMSON ROAD
22	YOU CAN'T SAY HE DIDN'T LOVE US	MARK BISHOP/CROSSROADS
23	THERE'S A MEETIN'	JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS/INDEPENDENT
24	HEALED BY THE STRIPES	BROWDERS/INDEPENDENT
25	THOSE HANDS	DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS
26	THE WAY	GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC
27	OVERWHELMING	MYLON HAYES FAMILY/UIA
28	FIRST CHURCH OF MERCY	THE SOUND/NEW DAY RECORDS
29	HE WALKED OUT	TRIUMPHANT QUARTET/STOWTOWN
30	I CALL IT HOME	TRIBUTE QUARTET/DAYWIND
31	KEEP MOVING ALONG	PERRYS/STOWTOWN
32	THE GOD I KNOW	ERWINS/STOWTOWN
33	A NEW THING	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
34	THE 99	LEFEVRE QUARTET/NEW DAY RECORDS
35	THAT'LL PREACH	MERCY'S WELL/INDEPENDENT
36	HEAVEN IN YOUR HEART	PHILLIPS & BANKS/INDEPENDENT
37	UNSPOKEN	JORDAN FAMILY BAND/NEW DAY RECORDS
38	FAITHFUL ONCE AGAIN	STEELES/STOWTOWN
39	IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN
40	HEAVEN	EPPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
41	THAT SOUNDS LIKE HOME TO ME	BILLY HUDDLESTON/INDEPENDENT
42	YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND	LITTLES/INDEPENDENT
43	THAT'S WHY WE PRAY	HEART 2 HEART/INDEPENDENT
44	BECAUSE I SAID SO	PHILLIPS FAMILY/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
45	THIS SHIP WAS MADE TO SAIL	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
46	DON'T GO DOWN	PAUL JAMES SOUND/INDEPENDENT
47	THE GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES	LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS
48	IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM	FAMILY LEGACY/INDEPENDENT
49	LOVE WALKED IN THE ROOM	BATTLE CRY/CHAPEL VALLEY
50	LIVE A LITTLE	DYSART FAMILY/INDEPENDENT

SGN SCOOPS

HOME OF THE **THE DIAMOND** AWARDS



POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
51	NEW DAY, SAME GOD	AUSTIN AND ETHAN WHISNANT/UIA
52	BORN AGAIN	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
53	POTTER'S WHEEL	WISECARVERS/CROSSROADS
54	I WANT TO TAKE SOMEONE WITH ME	PRIMITIVE QT/INDEPENDENT
55	THE DEAL	LES BUTLER & FRIENDS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
56	I WILL STAND FOR JESUS	CLEAR VISION QUARTET/CHAPEL VALLEY
57	THE DAY I GOT SAVED	HIGH ROAD/NEW DAY RECORDS
58	WELCOME HOME	VERNON GREESON/INDEPENDENT
59	HARD TIMES	ZANE & DONNA KING/STOWTOWN
60	YOU GOTTA HAVE A SONG	JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND
61	I KNOW THAT WAS YOU	TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS
62	SING ABOUT GOING HOME	BARRY ROWLAND & DELIVERANCE/CROSSROADS
63	KEEP ON MOVING ON	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND
64	FAITH SHINES BRIGHTER	THREE BRIDGES/CROSSROADS
65	CAN'T LOSE FOR WINNING	CHRONICLE/INDEPENDENT
66	PEACE IN TRUSTING	ISAACS/GAITHER MUSIC
67	BREATHE IN BREATHE OUT	SACRED HARMONY/INDEPENDENT
68	THINKING OUTSIDE THE GRAVE	MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS
69	THE BEATITUDES SONG	RIVER'S EDGE/INDEPENDENT
70	ASK BARTIMAEUS	PURPOSE/CHAPEL VALLEY
71	LOOKS LIKE JESUS TO ME	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
72	HOW GOOD DOES GRACE FEEL	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND
73	HOME IS SOUNDING SWEETER	INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS
74	CALLING ALL PRODIGALS	KENNA TURNER WEST/CROSSROADS
75	ALL THE WAY	CHANDLERS/CHAPEL VALLEY
76	HE HAS OVERCOME	TROY BURNS FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
77	PRAY 'TIL SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME	KRAMERS/STOWTOWN
78	IN THAT OLD FASHIONED WAY	KT & T/INDEPENDENT
79	I WILL FOLLOW CHRIST	AVENUE/INDEPENDENT
80	MILES OF MIRACLES	LIBERTY QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
81	WHEN I PRAY	ISBELL FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
82	I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN	GOLD CITY/SONY
83	IN AN INSTANT	STEVE HESS & SOUTHERN SALVATION/MANSION
84	I'M SAVED	COMMON BOND QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
85	I AM THE MAN	DIXIE ECHOES/INDEPENDENT
86	RISE ABOVE THE FALL	DAY THREE/INDEPENDENT
87	HOLY ALL OVER AGAIN	FORRESTERS/GODSEY MEDIA
88	THANK YOU LORD	CHARLOTTE RICHIE/GAITHER MUSIC
89	GET ON THE WHEEL	HOPE'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT
90	THAT'S MY HOME	CROSS ANCHORED/INDEPENDENT
91	ADDRESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION	SOUTHBOUND/INDEPENDENT
92	ONE DAY SOON	CHERI TAYLOR/INDEPENDENT
93	NO ROOM FOR HATE	MARK LOWRY/GAITHER MUSIC
94	ALMOST HOME	MICHAEL COMBS/INDEPENDENT
95	HOLD FAST	STEVE LADD/CROSSROADS
96	TO SAVE MY LIFE	CAROLINA BOYS QUARTET/CROSSROADS
97	RUN TO HIM	JAY STONE SINGERS/CROSSROADS
98	ROLL BACK RIVER	TIFFANY COBURN/STOWTOWN
99	RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW	JOY HOLDEN/INDEPENDENT
100	CHURCH IT'S TIME TO PRAY	ERIC HORNER/INDEPENDENT



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BLUEGRASS TOP 10 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	HEAR JERUSALEM CALLING	JOE MULLINS & RADIO RAMBLERS/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
2	SOMEDAY	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
3	PEACE IN TRUSTING	ISAACS/GAITHER MUSIC
4	MARCH AROUND JERICHO	CAROLINA BLUE/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
5	TRAVELING THE HIGHWAY HOME	GRASCALS/CROSSROADS
6	WHEN HE BLESSED MY SOUL	DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER/INDEPENDENT
7	WHEN HE CALLS MY NAME	ALAN BIBEY & GRASSTOWNE/INDEPENDENT
8	WE DON'T HAVE MUCH FARTHER TO GO	JIMMY HOWSON/INDEPENDENT
9	PRECIOUS MEMORIES	GREG MOSES/INDEPENDENT
10	LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN	JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS



CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	RAISED ON RED	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
2	HE WILL SEE ME THROUGH	DON STILES/INDEPENDENT
3	I KNOW THAT WAS YOU	TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS
4	JUST ANOTHER STORM	CALEB HOWARD/INDEPENDENT
5	WE'RE AMERICAN PROUD	MIKE LEICHTNER/INDEPENDENT
6	GOD WALKS IN	FREEMANS/GOLDENVINE
7	TOOLS OF THE TRADE	ROGER BARKLEY, JR/INDEPENDENT
8	TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS	FAITH'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT
9	JESUS MEDLEY	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
10	CLOSE TO HOME	BARRY LEE WHITE/INDEPENDENT
11	MAMA'S SOLDIER MAN	BARBER FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
12	I'M MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER	MARY BURKE/INDEPENDENT
13	THAT'S WHAT WE DO	SHELLEM CLINE/RED COUNTRY RECORDS
14	A NEW THING	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
15	BEACON OF LIGHT	CAROL BARHAM/M.A.C. RECORDS
16	I BELIEVE I'LL GO ON	DIXONS/INDEPENDENT
17	I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HIS LOVE	DON STILES/INDEPENDENT
18	GOD'S LOOKING AT MY HEART	JIM SHELDON/ZENITH RECORDS
19	THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSING	MITCHELL WHISNANT/INDEPENDENT
20	THE DAY I GOT SAVED	HIGH ROAD/NEW DAY RECORDS
21	THIS SHIP WAS MADE TO SAIL	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
22	THE LAST WORD	KEVIN & KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT
23	STANDNG IN THE RAIN	BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT
24	DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL	DEBBE BENNETT/INDEPENDENT
25	HEALING STREAM	CHUCK DAY/INDEPENDENT
26	GOOD MORNIN' LORD	CARROLL ROBERSON/INDEPENDENT
27	HEAVEN	EPPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
28	WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN	SONSHINE ROAD/INDEPENDENT
29	WHY	CHOSEN/INDEPENDENT
30	AIN'T NO ROCKS	JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY
31	WE DON'T HAVE MUCH FARTHER TO GO	JIMMY HOWSON/INDEPENDENT
32	YOU ARE MY GOD	CHELSEA ESTIS/INDEPENDENT
33	GOD IS MY REFUGE	TIPTONS/INDEPENDENT
34	MAMA'S PRAYER	KELLY PERRY/INDEPENDENT
35	LOOK DOWN IN LOVE	REED BROTHERS/INDEPENDENT
36	FATHER FORGIVE ME	MICHAEL KNIGHT/INDEPENDENT
37	OH BROTHER HOLD ON	WILSONS/INDEPENDENT
38	THANK GOD FOR GRACE	TAMMY RENEE/INDEPENDENT
39	I WASN'T READY YET	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
40	GOOD TIMES	GREG LOGINS/MILLENIUM

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2	WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME	WISECARVERS
3	SOMEBODY TELL	TRIBUTE QUARTET
4	WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES HERE	BOB SELLERS
5	SHINE YOUR LIGHT	CHITANS
6	ENTER IN	INSPIRATIONS
7	WHEN IT COMES TO JESUS	OLD PATHS
8	JUST A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS	OLD TIME PREACHERS QUARTET
9	SUBJECT TO CHANGE	BIBLETONES
10	HE HAS OVERCOME	TROY BURNS FAMILY
11	JESUS SPEAKING PEACE	RICK WEBB FAMILY
12	THE OLD STORY	SOUND STREET
13	I'M SAVED	COMMON BOND QUARTET
14	HIGHER	ADAM CRABB
15	RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW	JOY HOLDEN
16	GOT HAS GOT THIS	FROSTS
17	CHURCH IT'S TIME TO PRAY	ERIC HORNER
18	A LITTLE MORE FAITH IN JESUS	DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER
19	HE ANSWERED YOUR PRAYER	MIKE BLANTON & EVIDENCE
20	HEAVEN SONG TODAY	BUTLER BROTHERS QUARTET

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THE LIVING LEGACY OF SONGWRITER SAVANA FOUST

by Charlie Griffin

Noted gospel songwriter Ms. Savana Foust graduated to her heavenly home October 2015. But her legacy is still being sung today. Her songs are sung in concerts by the big named artists and by regional and church groups. They are songs of life, promise and relationship.



The message of a Savana Foust song is timeless and fresh as the new day dawning. Yet there is more than words to her crafted music. Her songs give hope and reach the emotions of where we live today.

Throughout her life, she was a wife and mother, a typical southern homemaker of the time. Later she would be a songwriter. She was a friend to all who met her. Her faith in God guided her throughout her life. She loved and was loved by many!

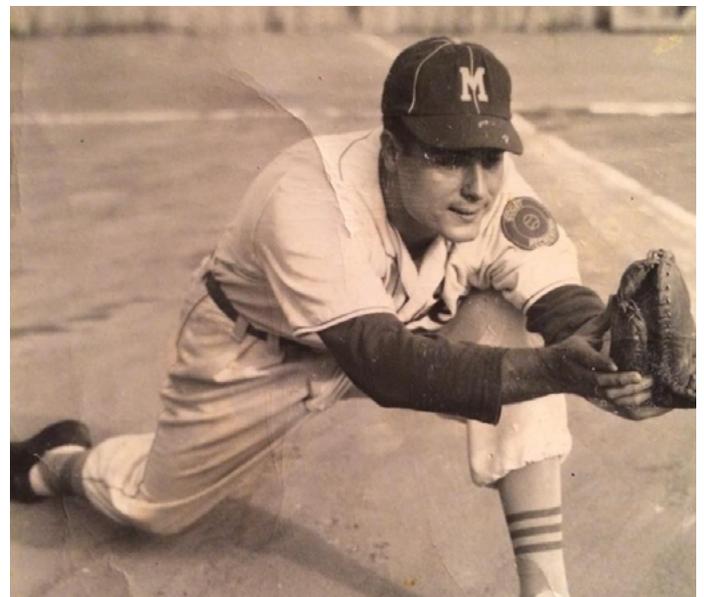
A native of Alamance County, she married the love of her life Lou Foust. Her husband was always by her side. He took care of her and was her lifeline for almost 70 years. Their relationship is a benchmark of true love for others to see and follow. The Foust family attended Bethel Baptist Church in Graham, North Carolina. It was an integral part of her life until the

day she said goodbye.

In past conversations, Savana said she met the man who would be her husband a few days before Valentine's Day, saying she knew the moment their hands touched, she had found the man she would be with the rest of her life.

As their life began, they found out how to build a happy home. She said it often, "We put God first and we had each other. Yes, in the hard times we trusted God and through our faith, our love has lasted."

Lou played professional baseball with the Giants organization for seven years. Then he joined the Army and played there too. After returning from the military, he became a wildly successful regional tire salesman. Selling tires led to starting his own business, Lou Mark Industries in Greensboro, North Carolina. When you spoke with him you would quickly learn that Savana was the love of his life and it was all about family. After her passing, he would often say "Savana's waiting for me to come home." Lou joined Savana in November 2019.





When you talked to her about faith, she would say her favorite verse of scripture was Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not upon thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge HIM, and He shall direct thy paths.” She would say her life was living proof of that promise.

Savanna Foust was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1975. Her foundation of faith and family sustained her through this trying time. Miraculously, the Lord

healed her. In this miracle, she received a true God given gift. Unable to read music or sing, Foust would write over 400 gospel songs through the years, becoming one of the most acclaimed gospel songwriters of the time.

The first major group to record a Savanna song was the Singing Americans. Ivan Parker was featured on the powerful “Somebody Touched Heaven For Me”. Another prayer song is perhaps her most popular song, “Somebody Touched Me” by The Cathedral Quartet which featured Danny Funderburk. Other songs that make a mark along the way, “Test Of Time,” “Blood Washed Band” and “Come On Home”.



Foust left a legacy of over 400 songs, recorded by countless hundreds of artists. Her songs are still being recorded.

She and Lou loved to travel to hear the groups that recorded and sang her songs. Alamance County’s Savanna Foust was better known as “Honey” to her family and friends. Husband “Big Lou” was also known as “Poppie.” Both would show up at a concert with big smiles and just fit right in. In their presence you knew you were among friends and they loved their gospel music. To say they never met a stranger, would be an understatement.

She was not one to have her picture taken. So, to get a pic with her it was a feat. However, Riversong CEO Bill Traylor and Norman Holland were two of her favorites and somehow, they could muster a photo.

She lived the songs she wrote about. Her songs were songs of living life in the now, sharing life’s blessings.





those special requests and for those who didn't know the Lord. She so wanted to share Jesus so they could find their way home.

From conversations of how God had moved in her life, family or to how God gave her the gift of songwriting, Savana Foust left a mark that very few in gospel music circles can achieve.

Daughter Cindi says, "Mom and Dad were special people. I think where they came from is what made them so special. Times were different when they grew up and met. Their roots led them to meet and build a life together. Their faith, belief in family, their determination is what made us a real family.

Two major blessings are miracles on their own. After ten years of marriage, Cindi was born. A miracle child the doctors said would not happen. Almost ten years later, a son, Johnny, would join the family. With the growth of the family through time came five grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren would complete the gospel music loving family. Honey and Poppie made sure it was all about family.

The journey is more than the songs Savanna Foust wrote. She was not just a songwriter and Christian, but she was a prayer warrior. She prayed intensely for

"Mom loved writing songs. It was her passion; her life and she was a kid in a candy shop when she pitched a song. I remember when she wrote 'Blood Washed Band'. She called me and sang it to me over the phone. She asked if I liked [it]. I was, well it is ok, but I don't feel the goose bumps. But what did I know, and it was a good song!

"Mom would be giddy when she would go to talk to a group about recording one of her songs.



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hero. That is all I can say.”

From the corner of her room Savana would write out in long hand the lyrical prose that she came to know as God’s way of blessing even more a country girl who married the love of her life and had a family she adored. Foust’s songs live on and are still touching lives today. Her living legacy is the music of faith and family that is fresh every time you hear “Somebody Touched Me” or any other song and you find yourself singing along and feeling oh so much better to be part of the Blood Washed Band.

“When Roger Bennet of the Cathedrals was on Heaven Bound’s bus listening to ‘Somebody Touched Me’, she was ecstatic when they signed on the spot to record the song. Mom loved songwriting and giving the gospel message in a new song. I would just listen, type them out and help hand them out. Mom is my





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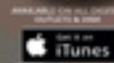
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From Imagination to Animation



By: Carrie Hofmeister

Have you ever watched an animated film and thought, how do they do it?! How do they make it look so real?! How do they make the water move, or the sun to shine?! Well, after talking to master animator, Brannon Hollingsworth, I now know that way more goes into making an animation than you might think. The time and work that goes into even just a 22-minute episode, will make you appreciate any animation ten times more than you already did.

Brannon Hollingsworth currently resides in North Alabama. His friendly, southern accent quickly made me feel at home like I was back in Kentucky. If I closed my eyes, I could picture myself sitting on my dad's back porch, holding a cup of coffee, listening to my dad complain about politics. Although Brannon looks like he could be on Duck Dynasty with his rustic beard, he is nothing but a big teddy bear with the biggest heart for the Lord. By the end of the interview, he had me in tears as he prayed for my 12-year-old stepdaughter like she was his own. He made me feel like a friend and is definitely a picture of what it means to love God and love people. If there is anyone whose only goal is to please God with his talent, it's Brannon.

After writing a story in the 5th grade, Brannon grew a love for writing. He says he went to school for love and not money. I say there is nothing wrong with that. I'm sure my mom would have rather me gone for love than not at all. I didn't go to school for love but maybe I should have since that didn't work out. (Insert laughter)

Let's go back to about 15 years ago. Brannon's long-time friend, Michael Thoenes, called him up to help him run a YouTube channel that he had started.



Starting out, it was more of how to draw and paint videos. Brannon was asked to help write descriptions for the videos and behind the scenes stuff. The channel blew up bigger than expected, and they came up with a new idea called The Pic Train. The Pic Train was more early education videos, like learning how to count and recognizing numbers. Their content was such a hit that they had gotten picked up by the world's largest Christian network, TBN. As most people in the business would say, they had arrived.

After several years of working together with their new company, Brainy Pixel, they had both come to a point where they were thinking of quitting. They of course didn't tell each other that, afraid of what the other one would say or think. At this point in their career, not everything that they were doing was Christ centered. On one Friday, Michael called Brannon to tell him that he was going to the Christian Worldview Film Festival. While he was there, he decided to give it all to God and asked God to show him how to make it work. After Michael returned home, they both revealed their hearts to each other and decided from then on that they would only create things that were glorifying and honoring to God. They realized at that moment that God was

saying to them, "What you were doing was good, but it wasn't glorifying me."

For the next month Michael and Brannon both prayed about what their next step was to be. After that month, they felt that God was telling them to make a full 3D animation film. Something they had never done before. About one year later at the Christian Worldview Film Festival, they got the opportunity to sit down with some major people in the business and talk about their ideas. While this film is still in the works, it's also so top secret that I wasn't even allowed to know what it's about. What I do know is that they have a lot of people in the business telling them what an amazing idea this is so stay tuned! I'm still waiting for a voice over part so who knows, maybe you'll hear me on it. Brannon, are you seeing this?

While there are major costs, work, and time that go into making a full animation 3d film, they wanted to create something that could get their name out there and show what they can do. So, they created a show called Cubekins. Cubekins is like Veggie Tales set in Mayberry. They are made up of squared characters that live life as Christians. I watched the episode, and I have to say it was adorable. It really



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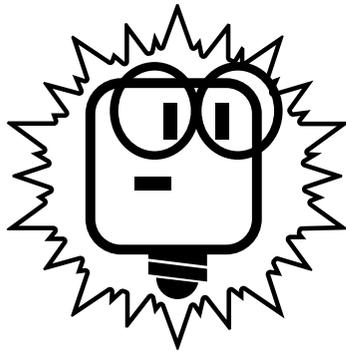
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normalizes what it's like to be a Christian family. It shows how you can deal with problems as a family by prayer, looking to scripture, and putting God first. Mind you, there is currently only one episode out right now and it alone has 12 or 13 selections or nominations at film festivals.

minute with a total of 31,680 frames in that 22-minute episode. I bet you couldn't guess that it took 180 hours just dressing the set for one room. What does that mean, you ask? Well you have to build it in 3D, texture it by incorporating the look and feel, lighting, etc. I could go on and on with a list of what



Brainy Pixel

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it takes to make an animation film come to life. There are so many intricate steps that go into making an animated film. You also have to pay your actors, composers for the songs in

the film, musicians, and all the people behind the scenes that make this possible.

When talking about just what goes into creating an animation, I was blown away at the work that it takes just for one minute of animation. Did you know that just for the one episode of Cubekins that is only 22 minutes long, it cost about \$8,000 to \$10,000 per minute? Every second is 24 frames of animation (picture). That's 1,140 frames in just one

After talking with Brannon for just a few minutes, I could see the passion that he has for animation. For some of you, it may just be a silly hobby, but for Brannon and Michael, it's a talent that they use for the glory of the Lord. When asked what their sole



purpose for doing what they do is, Brannon said, "We want to create top quality God honoring content. There's a lot of power in entertainment. Our youth and our faith are worth it."

From the moment that Michael and Brannon decided to listen to what God wanted them to do, God began to work. When an office space was given to them for free and expensive equipment was donated, it quickly confirmed that they were doing exactly what God wanted.

Michael and Brannon are currently fundraising for the film in progress and the biggest way that you can be of help is by visiting www.patreon.com/brainypixel. There you can donate anything that you feel led to and also be a part of future creations and take a look behind the scenes!

You can also check out their website at www.brainypixel.com to learn more about them and what they do. If you would like to check out Cubekins, please visit www.cubekins.com. You can also find it on Youtube by searching cubekins! Brainy pixel is also on all major social media platforms. Go check them out and follow or like them to show support!

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Contributors

Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group.



Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show the southern styles show since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNscoops.com, including the all digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond

Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com

Stephanie Kelly is a public speaker and owner of



Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebie, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com

Vonda Armstrong is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Vonda draws on a vast knowledge of



Southern Gospel Music for her expertise in the field. In addition to her many personal friendships she also hosts a weekly radio show which keeps her in touch with many of Southern Gos-

pel's leading executives and artists. It also allows her a fresh view of new music and latest happenings inside the industry. Vonda is also a group owner and manager as well! A self-starter Vonda has started and managed several "new" events in Southern as well as "Country Gospel" Music. These events are fast becoming trend setters within the industry. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and



writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian

college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back. But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.

Justin Gilmore is a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point



Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order

to share his love of this great style of music.

Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist,



teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGN-Scoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at www.charliegriffin.net.

Contributors

Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middleschool English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion of teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony. To learn more about Jennifer visit <http://jennifercampbell.net>.



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer. He is behind the scenes making sure content is uploaded to the servers properly and that the monthly digital magazine can be properly downloaded each month. He and his family have a farm in East Tennessee. www.cloverleafhorses.com



Staci Schwager enjoys design work of all kinds.

Whether its graphic design layouts or interior design she loves and has an eye for color and layout. In her spare time she can be found usually with a paint brush in hand doing some type of project. She and her husband Pete enjoy their farm life in the East Tennessee



mountains.

Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The MysteryMen quartet, Florida Boys, and Mark209. Off the road, he enjoys spending time with his wife Christa, his three kids and one granddaughter.



Robert York's love for Southern Gospel music began at a young age when his parents took him to Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosed by Warren Roberts. After retiring from USPS after 35 years, he decided to start promoting concerts. The goal was nit only to promote our concerts but to promote any Gospel concerts in our area. When his wife graduated to heaven in 2013, he was at a crossroad. After much prayer God led him to continue promoting concerts. He still very mush enjoys attending concerts and writing about the groups as well.



Jeff Lowe, from Massillon, Ohio, has been involved in Southern Gospel Music for 46+ years. In 1974, at the age of 14, Jeff started singing bass with The Soulseekers, a mixed group from his hometown. There have been several groups since that time, and in 2009, Jeff started Mercy River Quartet. Eleven years later, the group is still serving the Lord and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having written for other publicationsaJeff is excited to be a part of the SGNScoops family!



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by many popular gospel artists. Shis is also a Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.



Contributors

Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of The Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a



past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad.

Carrie Hofmeister is a staff writer for SGNScoops magazine, covering a wide range of stories that push her to step outside of her comfort zone. She has always had a passion for writing, whether stories, songs, feelings, or just what happened that day. When she isn't writing articles, she and her husband, Mitchell, write and sing their own music, traveling to wherever God opens a door.



Rachel Harris is from the Port City of Wilmington, NC. She began writing songs when she was 11 years old. She also enjoys writing poetry and feature articles. Aside from writing, she enjoys teaching and being a wife and mom.



Lindsey Sipe heard God tell her that she would work in country music when she was just 4 years old. Currently making her living as a publicist, artist/media consultant, and freelance journalist through her company LIT Nashville, telling stories is Lindsey's specialty, whether it's through writing, photography, social media, or on camera interviews.



April Potter Holleman is a 24-year veteran in music business serving in consulting, marketing, radio, publicity and most known for her booking and management agency April Potter Agency where she has had the privilege of working with numerous, multi award-winning artists and speakers. She joins SGNScoops as a speciality guest writer. You can follow her www.apotteragency.com, FB www.facebook.com/aprilpotteragency or IG [april_potter_agency](https://www.instagram.com/april_potter_agency)

