

# SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2016



# GOLD CITY

ALSO FEATURING  
SNEED FAMILY, TREY IVEY, MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET, LOREN HARRIS



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## OUR MISSION

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

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**

I hear the statement often, “Where has the time gone?!” But as we enter the month of November, I have been saying that myself. Where has this year gone? It has seemingly gone by so fast, so many things have happened during the year 2016. I am truly thankful that God has been faithful to me in every area of my life. I’m not saying I haven’t had any heartache or trouble or haven’t lived with the stress of normal business; I’ve had all of those things, but I can truly say that God has seen me through every circumstance, through every heartache, through every detail in business that needed to be taken care of. He has done it and for that I am truly thankful as we enter the month of November and look to the future which is 2017.

Thanksgiving for me has always been a very special time as it was a day to spend with my dad watching as many football games as we possibly could, and talking about how, if we were the coach, we would do it differently. I miss him very much. It has been 12 years since we’ve had the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving together and been the sofa coaches that we were.

I am thankful for my legacy and my heritage. My father was a man who had no time for people who didn’t want to be successful. He was driven to learn every day and when people were lazy it drove him crazy. As I’ve gotten older, I realize somehow I picked up the same trait. I love to learn and I’ve been excited this year by new challenges that have made me go back to reading and studying.

But that’s not really what this month’s Publisher’s Point is about. It’s about being thankful; thankful in everything, no matter how big or how small. We need to be thankful. The Bible says in Psalm 28:7, “The Lord is my strength and my shield, I trust Him with all my heart. He helps me and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of Thanksgiving!”

Now be honest, how many of us are so full of Thanksgiving and full of joy that we burst out in song? I know one person that will be: My mom. If you are ever around her for any length of time, she will sing you an answer to whatever it is you are questioning her about. When I was younger, I thought it was kind of annoying, but as I’ve gotten older, I find it very amazing that she can pull songs from the past and answer questions with the lyrics. My mom is probably one of the most positive and joyous people I know, so when I think of that verse, I think of her.

Now I want to challenge each and everyone of you. As we look to a new year in just a little over a month, that we will look at 2017 and be thankful, and get to the point that we are thankful enough and joyful enough in our hearts, that we burst into song. Because when we do that, the lost and hurting world that is out there that is looking for something, that is pleading for something, that is doing everything they can to cover up the hurt that is in their life, will look to people like you and I who are radiating joy through the word that we say and the songs that we sing. And they will find the Source of that joy: Jesus.

Until next month: Be thankful. This is the Publisher’s Point.



# Mark DUBBELD Family

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## “Can You Handle It”

The Power of Being Thankful

By David Staton

I read an article recently about a mother who stopped to get her kids some ice cream cones. She watched her kids take the ice cream and as they took their tasty treat from the lady behind the counter, the mom noticed that not one of them offered a simple *thank you*. As soon as they walked out of the ice cream shop, the mother took every single ice cream cone and threw them in the trash.

The kids, obviously upset, asked why she would do such a thing. The mom explained the importance of being thankful. This may seem extreme, but that mother probably made a lasting impression on her kids about how important it is to be thankful.

We live in a self-serving, entitled, *what's in it for me* society. It's hard to find people who are truly thankful for anything. My wife and I try our best to instill thankfulness in our kids. We do our best to make sure that “Thank You” is part of their regular vocabulary.

A great example of the power of thankfulness can be found in Luke 17: 11-19 when Jesus heals 10 people plagued with the most horrible disease of that day, leprosy. They all walked away, enjoying the healing, restoration and freedom they thought they would never see again, yet only one of them turns around to thank Jesus, who so graciously had just made them whole again.

Not long ago, someone asked me a question that I think every Christian should answer. The question was, “If

you could be any kind of Christian, what kind of person would you be?” I had never been asked that before, but after thinking about it, I answered. I would want to be the kind of Christian, that should scripture continue to be written for future generations, my name would be mentioned.

I would want my faith to be so strong, that demons tremble when I walk into a room, and I would allow God to use me in such a way that I would not just be a footnote, or lumped into a generalized context.





What kind of monumental thing would you have to do to be mentioned in scripture? This one leper was worth being mentioned simply because he was thankful! Wow! Let that sink in for a minute. A simple “Thank You” was enough to get you mentioned in scripture.

There was enough power in a simple *thank you*, to have the Son of God point you out of a crowd.

Think about the people in your life that give you so much. Think about your kids who love you unconditionally, or your wife who supports you and pours so much into you and your kids. Think about the employer that believes in you enough to continually give you a salary to provide for your family. Think about your pastor who spiritually feeds and equips you spiritually.

Now do something that has so much power and go to each of them and thank them for what they mean to you. Then think of a God who created you and gave you everything and more than I just mentioned.

Thankfulness! It’s a powerful thing!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

# Cross Pointe



“Angels” is on the new project by Cross Pointe – “Act IV Scene 1”  
Call your Southern Gospel station and DJ and request, “Angels”  
sung by Cross Pointe!  
“They’re all around us, angels.  
Some of them just don’t have wings”

Cross Pointe just released their new single “Angels”  
WRITTEN BY JAY DEMARCUS OF RASCAL FLATTS  
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# *Gold City* Authentic and Unified

By Paige Givens

In 1980, Gold City Quartet came together for the first time and added a new blend of voices that would change gospel music. Even though the group has undergone many changes in the past 36 years, with new voices coming and going, one thing has remained the same with this celebrated group: They still sing for the same One who brought them together in the first place! Their harmony on stage is only made sweeter by their harmony off stage.

Daniel Riley, baritone and owner of Gold City, explains the group's current lineup. "This is not a brand new group with four parts who just got together at once. Group members have come aboard to this already established group at various times. So, each member had a different start date. Joining me on stage now are tenor Thomas Nalley, lead Scott Brand, bass Chris West, and pianist Bryan Elliott.

"Scott is our newest member. He had filled in a few weeks for us and auditioned in the process, but his first official date was at the Memphis Quartet Show on June 18, 2016. I think when we brought Scott on, we all knew there was something special happening, and it still feels like that now, on stage and in the studio as we're working on our next recording. I'm excited about this current lineup and what I'm hearing each night. If the feedback from fans and our peers is any indication, they are excited too."

Since its inception in 1980, this Gadsden, Alabama, group has won numerous awards from fans and the Southern Gospel music industry, has sung and recorded many number one songs, and has received prestigious honors. Yet Gold City Quartet continues to remain grounded and points all success to the Lord.

The group maintains a very full, year-round schedule of events. There are some that stand out to Daniel. "We work so many dates each year, it's hard to pick a favorite. Some we love because of the venue, others because of the area of the country, most because of the great fans we have. We know when we're in a certain area, we're going to see certain friends there. We have so many promoters we work for who have become dear friends. I think we'd be hard-pressed to pick just a few. We love what we do and Who we do it for.

"I think when you are called to do this, God puts a joy in your heart about it, and it really doesn't matter where you're at. Sure we do have those places and dates we look forward to, but I think it's as much about the people as it is the places. We have had some great experiences, for sure. We had an incredible time at Times Square Church in New York City a few years ago, and last year we traveled to Brazil where the people are absolutely crazy about southern gospel music, particularly quartets."

So much time on the road leads to much time on the bus. Daniel talks about how the group's efforts to pass the time along have become somewhat of a sensation on social media called *Live With The City*. "There's really not a way to explain what we do on there. We just show life on our bus, and people love watching us be us. It gets boring on the bus. We come up with crazy ways to pass the time. We have done the Chubby Bunny Challenge, a Taco-Eating Contest, we've played the Bean-Boozled game. At least once or twice a weekend, we go live and you can see for yourself what happens when the five of us and our sound engineer, Dillan West, are held captive on a bus for long periods of time."

Along with silly road moments, Daniel realizes also that every moment has been a moment of God's grace and provision. "When we had the bus fire a few years ago that totally destroyed our tour coach, equipment, and bus barn among other things, had that been a week we were scheduled to tour, we would likely either have been on that bus out on the road or there would have been men sleeping on the bus in the bus barn when the fire broke out.



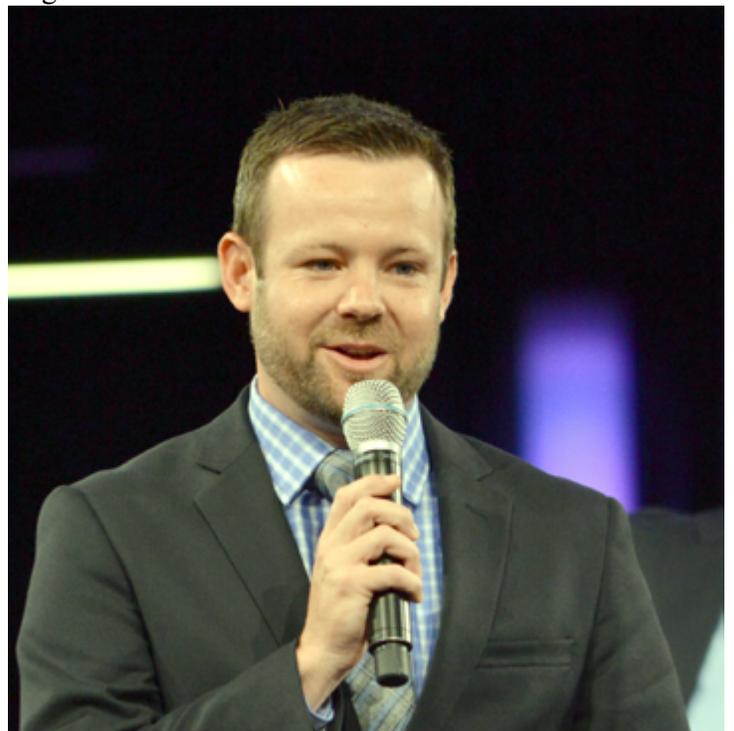
"When you look at the tragedy in that perspective, it will cause you to find thankfulness really quick. I think of so many things that God has kept us from and carried us through, and that just reaffirms to me that He has had His hand of protection on this group from the start. That gives us all the determination we need to *keep on keeping on*, sharing the life-changing Gospel."

He continues, "If you see us on stage, you will see five guys who are serious about what we do. I travel with guys who love to sing and love to share Jesus in the music we



share. We've been given a gift and calling by God, and the best way we know how to honor Him for that gift is to give it back to Him, and we try to do that every night we are on stage. That is serious to us.

"Leaving our families and homes each week is not easy, so if what we do on stage isn't about the Lord, we would not sacrifice the people that mean the most to us; we'd just stay at home. It's our calling and ministry. When we get to a concert, everyone has their job. The bus door opens and we go to work. All the guys do their part to contribute to the goal of Gold City being the best it can be on and off stage.





Bryan Elliot says, “Chris is the loud one, and he’s always keeping something stirred up.” Chris West declares, “Danny is the glue that holds everyone together. He’s the engine that runs the machine. The conductor of the orchestra. He also signs my paychecks!”

Daniel concludes, “Scott is devious, too. He’s always up to something. You can never take him seriously. He always has something up his sleeve. He fit right in from day one when he joined us. And so I guess the general consensus is that we’re all just as liable as the next one to keep something going to keep it interesting on the bus while we’re traveling. It does keep those long hours on the road from being so boring, that’s for sure.”

“Speaking of offstage, like I said, if you have seen us on Facebook Live or spent any time with us in concert, you know these guys are basically crazy. They’re all fun to be around and we have a good time. That couple of hours you see on stage is the icing on the cake. It’s the easy part of what we do. Trust me when I say, as a manager, the harmony on the bus when we’re traveling down the road is more important than the harmony you hear when we’re on stage. When there are guys on the bus whose personalities gel and who all like each other and get along, it’s a much more pleasant trip. And that’s what we have on our bus.”



So, in essence, what happens on the Gold City bus does NOT stay on the bus. The harmony and friendship that the group cultivates off stage really does shine through their entire ministry, whether they are singing on stage, recording albums in studio, or talking and listening to fans and fellow Gospel music lovers. The ministry starts within the group and it radiates outwards.

After 36 years, Gold City Quartet is still going strong! Daniel concludes, “Gold City is hard at work on a new yet-untitled mainline recording on New Haven Records label that is slated for a release near the end of the year or the first of 2017. But prior to that, we are hoping to release a special compilation of some most requested hits along with a couple of new songs. We are booked exclusively by the April Potter Agency and our schedule is filling up for 2017 and we want people to check out our schedule and come see us in concert!”



The other members in Gold City take a few minutes to describe their bandmates. Scott Brand says, “Thomas is probably the most quiet one, (keeps) to himself most of the time, but he can be sneaky so you have to watch him.” While Thomas Nalley adds, “Bryan is definitely the life of the party, but a real instigator. He actually has the rest of the gospel world fooled! He’s a pizza freak, and he’s the most paranoid of anyone on the bus.”

Photo Credits: Craig Harris and Gold City

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By Lorraine Walker

### Creekside 2016 Review

November has arrived and with it the 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention! Held from October 31st through November 3rd, it is likely that it will be over by the time most of you will read this feature. We hope that those of you who attended are already making plans for next year. If you didn't make it, keep watching this magazine for all the details for the 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention!

There are so many people who contribute to Creekside, that it is impossible to name them all. However, we will begin by thanking our wonderful artists who came and gave of themselves this week. These artists include:

Hope's Journey  
The Connells  
Broken Vessels  
Dave Mumford  
Jordan's River  
Gold City  
Troy Burns Family  
The Griffins  
Bless'd Ministries  
Landon Villines  
The Bates Family  
Hazel Sain  
HeartsSong  
Sneed Family  
Mark 209  
Keith Stapler  
The Schofields  
Amy Richardson  
Ava Kasich  
Sacred Harmony  
Jeffrey Branham  
Archie Watkins

Shellem Cline  
Surrendered  
Kristen Stanton  
The Webb Quartet  
Tina Wakefield  
The Hyssongs  
The Riders  
Dallas Rogers  
The Tim Greene Trio  
Shane Cruse  
The Shireys  
Lindsay Huggins  
The Williamsons  
Charlie Sexton  
Linda Foster  
The Hymn Sing Choir  
Terry Unthank  
Eagle's Wings  
Debbie Seagraves  
Revived Quartet  
One Touch Quartet  
Tim Greene

The Faith Praise Team  
Freedom Quartet  
The Drummond Family  
The Epps Family  
Redeemed Trio  
Shelby Ledford  
Purpose  
Annette Bingaman  
The Dodrill Family  
The McKay Project  
Carol Barham  
Majesty IV  
Rocky and Gail Smith  
The Plath Family  
South of Heaven  
The PaceSetters Quartet  
Mercy Rain  
CrossPointe  
Inheritance  
The Pine Ridge Boys  
The Chandlers  
Ava Kasich



We were thrilled to welcome all of the special guests and surprise artists that entertained us at various events. The Creekside Honors Archie Watkins on Monday night as well as the 2016 Diamond Awards held on Tuesday night were arranged and produced by many who are associated with SGN Scoops. The Tuesday and Thursday Showcases were put together and hosted by Vonda Easley and Ava Kasich. On Tuesday morning, we welcomed Tim Greene for a special Breakfast, and we appreciate all who were involved with the administration and procuring the refreshments for it.



Special thanks and warm applause to Scott Roberts and the Five O'clock Band. You outdid yourselves with great music and flexibility. Thanks for always providing the best warm-up for any audience.

SGN Scoops would also like to thank Patricia Mathis and WATC TV, Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today, Salina Clay, the SGN Scoops Social Media team, all the volunteers and the staff of SGN Scoops who assisted in any way with the Convention.



We are thrilled that the 2016 Creekside Classic was a hit. The newest Southern Gospel Golf Tournament was held Wednesday morning. Special thanks to Russell Wise for coordinating this event.



From the Jam Sessions to the Evening Concerts to the Midnight Prayer services, so many people worked tirelessly to set in motion Creekside for this year, and you are all so valued and respected for your abilities and dedication.





This event was constructed prayerfully and thoughtfully, and during this fifth anniversary, we could see the growth and the touch of God on Creekside. We are so thankful that He is part of our gathering and we pray He will always be an integral part of all that is done through Coastal Media, SGN Scoops and Creekside Gospel Music Convention. See you next year!



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**IT'S HERE!!** Jason Cooper's latest CD Project entitled "Grace" is now available!

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# The Sneed Family

## *Redeeming the Time*

By Jaquita Lindsey

In 1982, a young man named Jeff Sneed started a quartet that went by the name Glory Bound. Fresh out of high school, he and four of his choir friends began traveling and singing. After all these years, Jeff is still sharing the gospel in song alongside his wife and children. This Glasgow, Kentucky family group consists of Jeff Sneed and his wife, Pam, the couple's daughter, Amanda, and her husband, Caleb Cowan, and their two sons, Jacob and Seth.

among the family groups. This family makes regular appearances at the National Quartet Convention, NQC Spring Break Sing and Dollywood. The past three years, the Sneed family has hosted the Loretta Lynn Gospel Music Festival held in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee.



Like every family group, the Sneed family has their own distinct style. With no designated part to sing, the family members swap around to form a variation of vocal arrangements. Jeff plays the piano while Amanda adds an occasional mandolin to the mix. Along with their contributions vocally, Seth plays the bass and rhythm guitars and Jacob plays the drums for the group.

In recent years, they have been Diamond Award nominees for Mixed Group of the Year and DVD of the year. In 2013, this family was nominated for New Mixed Group of the Year for the Singing News fan awards. The Sneed family was awarded Absolutely Gospel Music's Break-Through Artist of the Year in 2014. Their live band helps set them apart, winning Band of the Year also in 2014 for Christian Voice magazine.

The Sneed family has become a favorite in Southern Gospel

The Sneed family sings approximately 100 dates a year. They have several successful businesses on the side of their musical ventures that keep each of them busy during the week, ensuring that the extra income supplements the musical endeavors. Jeff and Pam own Jeff's Country Florist

# THE NEWS FOR TODAY

## the Sneed Family



### GOD'S STILL ON THE THRONE

He's still the rock that I'm standing on. Our hope for tomorrow through whatever we face... Child of God that's the news for today.

Psalm 47:8 KJV God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.

and Gifts. Caleb and Amanda own and operate a hair salon, Cowan and Co. The Hair Studio At Downtown.

The family also hosts a local television show titled *Glory Bound Jubilee*. The show showcases the music of your favorite Southern Gospel groups along with interviews, *It Gets Heated in the Kitchen* cooking segments that are hosted by Pam and Caleb, as well as a segment titled *Telling the Story* featuring personal experiences of salvation. Seth is employed by TV 48, which airs *Glory Bound Jubilee*, working in the filming and editing departments. Jacob stays busy raising cattle.



The Sneed family has released several CD projects, as well as a DVD, over the past several years. Their 2011 project titled *A Collection Of Songs Of Legendary Naomi Sego* included the family's now feature song "Hallelujah Square". Caleb Cowan found his participation on this project to be extra special. He traveled and sang with Naomi for four



years before marrying Amanda and becoming a part of the Sneed family. The Sneed family's most recent radio release is titled "The News For Today" off of their project *The News*



*For Today*. Comedian and songwriter, Aaron Wilburn, is the writer of the song. Be listening for "The News For Today" on your favorite Southern Gospel station.

The most recent joy for the Sneed family is the arrival of little Baker McKee Cowan, born back in February. Baker was the first child for parents, Amanda and Caleb, and the first grandchild for Jeff and Pam. Baker makes regular appearances on the stage, as well as at his mom and dad's hair salon. He has quickly become the center of attention for the Sneed family everywhere that they go. His little smile is captivating to everyone he meets.





of their life,” says Amanda Cowan. They blend their Christ-centered lives, heart-felt music, and inspired songs together to create an anointed sound that is a blessing every listener. The Sneed family continues to keep their busy schedules in effort to reach more souls through their music. They are redeeming the time to make sure all can find the Redeemer.



“We travel and sing to express to others the hope that we can all have through the gift of salvation through Christ. We do our best to encourage those that we come in contact with to make sure that they know they have made Christ the Lord

# Chronicle

*Thanks DJ's for  
Playing & Charting  
our radio single*

*From the pens of  
Ricky Atkinson  
& Jeff Steele*

## “Army of One”

*RPM Comp #19*





# Day By Day

Love Letter from God

By Selena Day

Dear Child,

Do you know that you are greatly loved? Do you know that you are special? For you are My holy people, you belong to Me; I have chosen you to be My own special treasure. (Deut. 7:6) Do you know that I show your picture to everyone I meet and tell them that you look just like Me?

Do you know that I made you in My image and I love to just sit and look at you? (Gen. 1:27)

Do you know how much I love to laugh at your antics? Do you know that when I formed this world I had you in My mind of how you would play and create beautiful things in this world? (Zeph. 3:17; Jer. 1:5; Is. 45:18 Is. 45:12)

I am in love with you. So in love! Just looking at you makes My heart flutter.

Beloved child do you know that you are My favorite? Did you see the sunrise today? I made that just for you. How about the sunset? I saw your face and the joy that it would give you when I created it. Do you see the rain I sent that to wash away all the build up and to nourish the ground around you.

When I sent my Son to the earth, I did so with the full intention that you would then become My heir. (Rom. 8:17) Now beloved, all that I have belongs to you.

I have given you all the keys to the kingdom. All I have I give to you. (2 Pet. 1:3) Even in the difficulties, I knew that you could handle them. I looked at all heaven and said, "Do you see My son? My daughter? They are overcomers. They have this." (Rom. 8:37)

In the difficult times, when your tears fell they watered the fertile ground that I have given you. You are more than enough! You are more than a conqueror. You are mine! (Ps. 56:8; 1 John 4:4)

Beloved, take up your sword, I have trained you for this battle and you are ready for it. Your shield may feel heavy, but I am there to help you hold it. Victory is yours today! Not because of anything you have to do, but because of Who I am and what My Son did for you. (1 Cor. 15:57)

Bring your burdens to Me, bring your trials to Me... I have the answers and I know the plans I have for you. Trust in Me today beloved. The battle has already been won and it all turns out for your good.

*We are living in uncertain times. Life seems to be more chaotic today than ever in my lifetime. If you sit and watch the media then you can believe that all hope is lost.*

*out for your good and I just wanted to use this article to give you hope.*

*Life can be difficult and sometimes we are just looking for a lifeline. I pray that this article will be that for you today. Hang in there, God has you!*



*As I am writing this we do not know who will be our next president and on both sides people feel that if the other candidate gets into office that we as a country will be doomed.*



Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. You may contact her at [selenaday@me.com](mailto:selenaday@me.com) <http://www.queenliving.org> <http://facebook.com/queenismsby-selenaday>

*I want to encourage everyone to remember that God is on the throne and hope is not lost. Our hope is in Christ and what He did for us.*

*This is your love letter from God today. Whatever you are going through trust that the eternal creator has you and has a plan for your life. He is working all things*

## Southern Gospel NY

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We are bringing Southern Gospel Music  
Back to the Rochester, NY Area

Introducing Bob and Joyce Spamer of Spencerport, NY. They have a mission to bring Southern Gospel Music back to the Rochester, NY area and are asking that you pray God's blessings on what they are doing. It has been a real struggle they say, as there has not been anyone in the area to promote Southern Gospel for years and with God's help and your Prayers they believe this will be a success. Do you know someone in area? Tell them about SGNY and join us in prayer for Bob, Joyce and Southern Gospel NY





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# Loren Harris

Makes a Splash back on to the Southern Gospel Scene



By Craig Harris

**The former Perrys lead singer is the newest addition to the Kingdom Heirs family**



Music scene as the baritone singer for the Kingdom Heirs.

Road life wasn't something Loren Harris wanted to delve back into. However, commuting proved to be a different story. After a 10-year hiatus, the Perrys' former lead singer recently resurfaced in the Southern Gospel

"Two years ago, Joseph Habedank called me," Harris says of his former group member with Perrys. "He asked me what job would get me back on the road. I said, 'well, not back on the road, but I'd take the Kingdom Heirs' job.' After they hired me, he called me and said, 'do you remember our conversation?' Everything just fell into place for me to be here."

It wasn't something he was actively seeking. "There was a little apprehension," Harris explains. "I thought I'd never sing full time again. It was a hard decision. I really talked to my family about it."

In addition to his wife Cindy, Harris spoke with his 16-year-old son Cameron and 11-year-old daughter Kenidy. "My son remembered me being gone (with the Perrys)," Harris points out. "I said, 'Kenidy, what do you think about Dad taking this job?' She said, 'Dad, if you were going back on the road with a group that traveled all the time, I wouldn't want you to.' She said, 'with this opportunity, I think you should do it.' That's pretty good from an 11-year-old."

The Kingdom Heirs spend nine months each year performing at Dollywood, which is located in Pigeon Forge, TN. That leaves Harris approximately a 90-minute drive to *the office* from his home in Elizabethton,



Tenn.

Harris was actually one of the three finalists for the job in the spring of 2015, along with Brian Alvey and another member of the Perrys (Bryan Walker). Alvey was hired but then resigned in August.

“I tried out a year and half ago when Steve (French) left,” Harris remembers. “They had 60 try out. I wanted it then. It just wasn’t in God’s timing. I had no idea Alvey would leave in a year.

“It’s a dream job. It just happened. Arthur (Rice, the Kingdom Heirs’ lead singer) called me. Jeff (Chapman, the bass singer) called me. We’ve always had season passes (to Dollywood). I’ve always said that would be a dream job.”



Chapman and Harris are long-time friends. “Jeff and I have been friends forever,” Harris says. “I tried out with the Anchormen (when Chapman was with the group) six months before I went with the Wilburns. We have always talked about singing together. When I accepted the job, he was thrilled to death.”

Harris has been serving as an administrator at Elizabethton’s Valley Forge Free Will Baptist Church for the past 10 years. “It was (difficult leaving that position),” Harris explains. “I had such a big part in it. My ministry had grown there. I’ve got a lot of great relationships with people there. It’s my church family. I’m still going to be there. That’s one of the reasons they accepted it as well as they did.”

Harris received a vote of confidence when he announced his decision to join the Kingdom Heirs. “My senior pastor (Randy Johnson) is a very wise man,” Harris points out. “He said, ‘I think the 10 years working in the church has been good for you. It has matured you. You have a grasp on your ministry now that you didn’t have before. I think your calling is more clear. I think you’ve matured a singer, and you’ve matured a minister of song.’”

“That (church work) threw me into something I wasn’t



familiar with. I never talked on stage. When I came off the road, I did solo dates. I’ve learned to do that, have learned to talk in church. It’s made me more comfortable, talking on stage and communicating with people.”

The Kingdom Heirs have tried to make him comfortable as well. “They said, ‘man, we’re a family,’” Harris relates. “The day I took the job, Kreis (French, the group’s bass guitarist and owner) called me and said, ‘you want to come sing some with us?’ It wasn’t five minutes later, they all texted me and said, ‘welcome to the family.’ Then, it’s every day, they’re texting me. I was telling Cindy, ‘these guys actually care about each other, and they care about me.’ They’re very close ... pats on the back ... I talk to every one of them every day through group text, and Jeff always told me that

they were close.”

After leaving the Perrys, Harris performed with Ricky Atkinson and Compassion – which had a limited schedule – for eight years, and he has filled in on numerous occasions with the Perrys.



There has been a boisterous response from fans regarding his return to full-time performing. “I’ve had so many people come up and say, ‘I’ve really, truly missed you, and I’m glad you’re back,’” Harris says. “I had a following with the Perrys, but being outside of Gospel Music, you lose touch with so many people. The response has been overwhelming.”

The Kingdom Heirs will tour while Dollywood is closed, from January into March. They plan to have a table project completed by that time that will likely include some hit songs that Harris was featured on while with the Perrys.

His first week with the group was during the National Quartet Convention. “Arthur (Rice, the group’s lead singer) stood up and sang ‘Forever Changed,’ one of my favorite all-time songs and my favorite Arthur song,” Harris shares. “I’m sitting here singing baritone with the Kingdom Heirs on ‘Forever Changed.’”

“It’s so fun. I was a little apprehensive. I still am a little apprehensive. It’s not sunk in yet. It’s still too new, but as my pastor says, *I’m drinking through a fire hose.*”

Photo credits: Craig Harris

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# TOP 40

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1	Christian Davis	Just Show Up
2	Larry Ray	American Family
3	Chelly Odle	Why DIDn't I
4	Mitch Pullen	What You Leave Behind
5	Freddy Pate	Crossroads
6	Shellem Cline	Hello Daddy
7	Steve Shirey	Here in America
8	Branded	Lay it Down
9	Carter - Robertson Band	Little Yellow Seeds
10	Randy Paul	Moonshine
11	Bruce Hedrick	Gravy, Gravy
12	Red Letter Band	Sold
13	Danny Ray Harris	It's All Good
14	Craig Campbell	Crossroads
15	The Tacketts	And I Know
16	John Steed	The Cowboy Kind
17	Terry Unthank	But For The Cross
18	Rosehill	Bible and a Gun
19	Noah Hinshaw	Life's Rain
20	Mitch Pierson	Thank God I Can Still Thank God
21	JT Lewis	Shoot Straight
22	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Small Town Someone
23	Kevin Woody	Up To Something
24	Johnny Rowlette	Old Mustang

25	Crossfire Band	Gimme Back My Country
26	Miles Pike	Hard
27	Gillis Solo	God Knows My Name
28	James Gee	Where Do You Want Me To Be
29	Ryan Watkins	One More Time
30	The Wards	This is The Day of The Lord
31	Singing Epps	Heaven
32	Kali Rose	Jesus on the Jukebox
33	Chuck Hancock	All The Way
34	Gene Watson	Help Me
35	Del Way	Been There Too
36	Corey Barlow	Let Me Live
37	Tommy Brandt	Broken
38	Debbie Seagraves	Where Was God
39	Bev McCann	24 Hours a Day
40	33 Miles	Something Different

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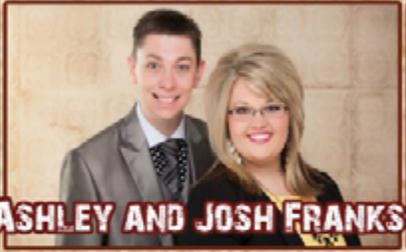
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# HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



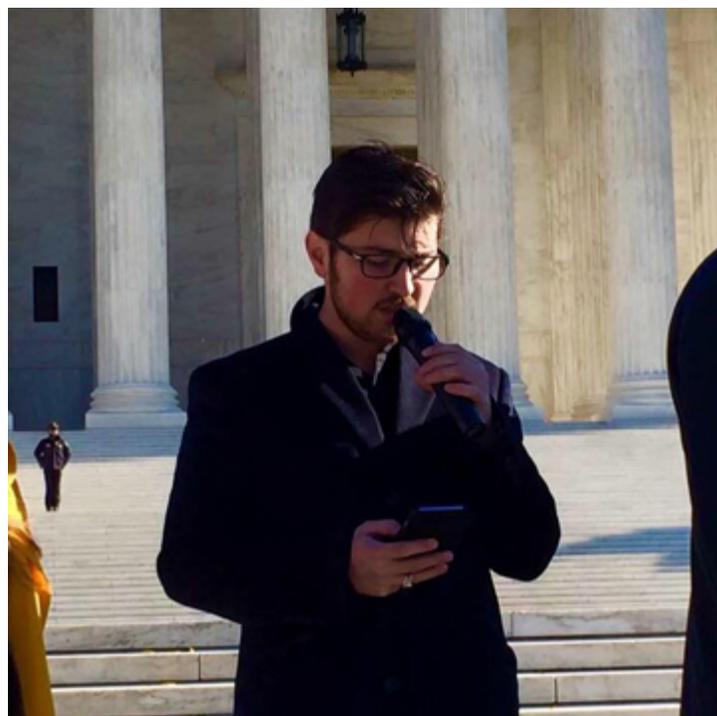
I will be short this month, give little political commentary and be a bit more informative. I think we can all agree that we are tired of election season and are all thrilled for it to be over at this point. I can truly state that we as a nation and more importantly as a church have never been more divided.

The word ‘divided’ should never be in the same sentence as Christians, but regrettably it has been more than I’d like to admit as of late. In October, we at Hope To The Hill started a prayer initiative that many of you probably saw online at some point called 30 Days Of Prayer. My heart has been so full because of so many who took part in this endeavor. Congressional members, Religious Leaders, and Christian artists all took to social media to lead in prayer for our nation and I am grateful for their unity for the sake of the Gospel. What an encouragement to have members of congress lead us in prayer!

We will be starting a new Program very soon which will promote and encourage unity in ministry on the Hill and facilitate good fellowship between different ministries. Folks, my heart’s desire is for unity within the church of Christ and especially in ministry.

So many leaders of ministries are too concerned with their agenda or supporters that they forget the whole

reason we are even in ministry; unity for the common goal of sharing the Good News of Jesus. I hope and pray that we would be more about His business than our own. Please be in prayer for this.



No matter the outcome of this election, we must trust that God knows exactly what He is doing and will do great things! I am confident in His goodness and mercy and I pray He would grant us mercy in the coming days.



We have much to pray about but don't be discouraged. The candidate you thought would save the country may or may not have been elected but the Holy God who holds this country in His hands has never had to be elected nor will He ever be impeached.

He is the First and the Last and will never, ever fail us.

I am confident and will continue sharing the Good News to those in Washington D.C. just as I have done for the last few years. I am excited for the future and for what God will do in the lives of those who serve us in Washington.

In December, we have the Live Nativity in Washington which we help sponsor every year with our sister ministry, Faith and Action. The Holy family, camels, and sheep will be roaming the streets of D.C. sharing

the story of Christ's birth. I ask that you pray for this endeavor and beyond that, come join us! We would love to have you!

It is wonderful to exercise our first amendment rights to speak freely in the public forum. Also, starting in January, I will be traveling and speaking in churches as well as singing while sharing about our ministry in Washington.

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## Sailing with Christ: A Look At **THE MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET**

By Justin Gilmore

Mark Trammell is a legendary figure in this field and has one of the most recognizable baritone voices with a clear and smooth tone. Trammell, an artist many consider one of the greatest quartet men of his time, has graced the Southern Gospel stage for over 40 years as of 2016 and shows no sign of slowing down.

Trammell has sung with many great groups including: The Senators, The Kingsmen, The Cathedrals, Greater Vision, Gold City, and now his own group, Mark Trammell Quartet. After leaving Gold City in 2002, Trammell decided to form his own group, The Mark Trammell Trio.

Trammell's son Nick has a unique perspective of the early days of the group. "I could write a book on the formation of this ministry from my perspective," Nick explains. "To keep it short, every single detail that needed to be in place, every door that needed to be opened, and every sign that needed to be given, took place with only the willingness of my father to take the step of faith away from what was comfortable, into what he felt like God was calling him to do.

"I can remember standing in our driveway the week after he left Gold City. He said look around you and

remember this moment. There was literally nothing there to start a group with. No other singers, no sound system, no mode of transportation, not even a microphone. Within three months, most of that was provided with little more than prayer and patience. I still to this day stand in the driveway and look around every once in a while to remind myself of what we have seen God orchestrate."

It was all in God's plan for the group to form. Trammell says, "When I sang with Greater Vision in the early '90's, we went on our first *Journeys of Paul* cruise with Dr. Charles Stanley in October of 1993. On the isle of Patmos, God began to deal with me about something He wanted me to do: Preach as well as sing.

He said, 'I have something special for you to do. You can do it and be at peace, or you can fight it. What do you want to do?' In order to do that, I needed to be off on Sundays to be at services and revivals. This led to my joining Gold City, who at the time, didn't sing much on the Sunday. As GC's popularity grew, so did their schedule and I found that I did not have time to preach as I knew God wanted. I needed to be able to set my own schedule. God worked everything out and here we are!" God had a plan and thus the Mark Trammell



ministry was born.

The original lineup consisted of Trammell at baritone, Joseph Smith singing lead and playing piano, and Eric Phillips, son of the great Kingsmen tenor Ernie Phillips, on tenor. The group cites many influences on their unique sound. Bass singer Randy Byrd says, "We each have different influences and some of us have some common ones. Probably the Cathedrals would be the



single biggest influence."

The trio was hugely successful and recorded several well received CDs. In 2005, Dustin Sweatman joined the group as the new lead/pianist. Sweatman blended well with group and brought an energetic lead voice as well as piano style. This lineup continued to churn out quality hit songs such as "Loving The Lamb." The group experienced another change in 2009 when original tenor Phillips departed and was replaced by Joel Wood. Wood brought a clear and sweet sounding tenor voice to the trio.

In 2010, however, the group went through a bigger transformation: bass singer Pat Barker, formerly of the Dixie Echoes, joined the group making the trio a quartet. Mark Trammell had felt God lead him back to the quartet format. Barker made a memorable impression and has since risen to prominence as one of Southern Gospel's favorite bass singers.

The new quartet was a hit! Their quartet debut CD was well received and included songs such as "I Want To Know," and "It's Almost Over." In 2012, Sweatman was replaced by Mark's son Nick Trammell. Bass singer Randy Byrd praises the young Trammell saying: "Nick Trammell has really come into his own! He has

inherited his dad's tones and is really doing great delivering the songs!"

Most recently, Blake Buffin, cousin to Matt Fouch (bass singer of Legacy Five), joined the group at the tenor position. Buffin brings a unique and resonant voice to the quartet. Nick Trammell had this to say of the newest member: "Blake Buffin has been here a little over a year now. He is the type of guy who has no clue just how good he is. I have never seen someone take their vocal training as seriously as he does, and it is paying off for him in a big way. Audiences everywhere we go



fall in love with his incredible voice, but they also fall in love with the humble, kind-hearted guy they meet after they hear him sing."

In January 2014, Trammell formed his own record label, Crimson Road Productions. The first release was *Your Walk Talks*. Also in 2014, Randy Byrd, formerly of the Blackwood Brothers, The LeFevre Quartet, and The Anchormen, joined as the new bass singer. Byrd brings a deep and rich bass to the quartet as well as his sense of humor.

"Randy Byrd joined a little over two years ago," the younger Trammell explains. "He came to the group at a time when I think we needed him and he needed us. It's funny how God works those things out. Besides being a first class bass singer, he is a strong right arm in helping

this machine function.

"People everywhere we go instantly become friends with Randy. He is the type of person who has never met a stranger, and would give you the shirt off of his back if he knew you needed it. That shirt would be clean and neatly pressed, as well."

Mark adds, "We actually grew up within 30 miles of each other and never met until we were both grandfathers! After Randy joined MTQ, we were sitting on the bus talking about the concerts we went to growing up and came to the conclusion that we had attended the same concerts in the Little Rock, Arkansas area. Even fell in love with Gospel Music the same night, same auditorium; never ran into each other. You can't make that kind of thing up! Now, we sing together every night." It is amazing how God works things out!

The MTQ's 2015 Daywind release *Rewind* was a trip down memory lane featuring many hit songs from the group's discography. Now in 2016, their first mainline record with Buffin and Byrd entitled *Full Sail* is sure to be another hit for the quartet. "We have been looking at songs for two years for this project, the title of it is *Full Sail*," says Mark Trammell.

"Picking the right songs is a process I don't rush through. We record songs that are musically fun for us to sing and the audience to hear, but more importantly, they have a message that will stay with the people after they leave one of our concerts."

The term "full sail" refers to the command given by the captain when the waters are still. There is no danger and all is calm. This is true for Christians as well. God has everything under control and can calm stormy waters of life.

"Each song leads us to the same mindset, the same concept. Whether you are nearing the end of a journey or feel that you are ready to live for Christ in a way you never have before, we pray these songs will lift you up along the way," Mark adds.

MTQ has travelled all over the country spreading the Gospel through song and therefore has had many incredible experiences. "My personal favorite experience since joining the group was just being able to be a part of the Gospel Music Hymn Sing in Conroe, TX at Mims Baptist Church. It was an experience that is honestly hard to explain. Two thousand-plus people, one of the best choirs in the country singing to the top of their lungs for two hours, and masterful leadership by Gerald



Mark is also excited to join Dr. Rodney Kelley on a tour of the Holy Land. Trammell exclaims, “I have never been to Israel and this trip will fulfill a lifelong dream of mine. I can’t wait!”

This quartet under Mark’s direction has become a fan favorite and truly takes their ministry seriously. “Our mission is to encourage the church and evangelize the lost through the medium of Gospel music and the message of Christ and Him crucified,” adds tenor Blake Buffin. Exciting things are ahead for this blessed and talented group as they continue to sail with Christ. Full Sail!

Photo credits: Craig Harris and Mark Trammell Quartet

Wolfe, made the night seem like a little bit of Heaven on Earth,” Nick Trammell recalls.

The future is looking bright for this blessed quartet. Mark Trammell explains, “Our media team is working on a series of videos that will highlight each of the songs from our new CD, *Full Sail*, to be released on our Facebook page, one per week. I am glad that we get to share the meaning behind the songs and encourage folks with the Word of God through these videos, if only just for a few seconds out of their day.”



The group is also currently recording a new Christmas project with the Whisnants and planning a joint Christmas tour for this December. Nick adds, “We have talked about some different ideas for another recording in 2017 that we may share details on at a later date. Beyond that, we are going to try to remain consistent in sharing the message of the gospel in song, and to the best of our ability, show love to the hurting, discouraged people we sing to.”





## WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

### This Place

One of my favorite cherished memories that I hold onto, of my many years of traveling, ministering, taking care of and walking alongside of the late prolific songwriter, artist and my friend Dottie Rambo, was listening to her tell me stories of how she was divinely inspired



to write certain songs. Or how she would come up with ideas for her lyrics and music.... you see Dottie was not one that liked to be put into a room and told to write something. She hated having deadlines for writ-

ing for a new project. She always wanted her heart, life and soul to be open, honest and vulnerable to where she was on her own journey.

Dottie lived what she sang and then she sang what she lived. She chose to live her songs and then share them with the world. Many days and nights of our traveling together or sitting at her house doing work during the evening, I would hear her crying out in pain from her back problems. I knew one of the only things that would help is when she would get in the anointing, so I would start asking her to tell me about her life, her journey, the fans she loved and the story behind the songs.

I had the opportunity to tape many of those conversations via an old cassette recorder that she loved to tape on while recording new song ideas. She always wanted to have a book out on the *Story Behind the Songs*. We would always end up

with tons of used Kleenex tossed aside, and tears and laughter taking us to new places. She had a story for everything or so it seemed. I loved listening to her and I loved to encourage her to tell me more.



This morning as I was out walking, I was doing a little praying and seeking God for some certain answers not only for our life but also for several friends who are in desperate need for answers. I looked around at the beautiful foliage and greenery that surrounds the lake which we live close to, and I was reminded so gently that God is all around us. Yes He is in the churches where we worship, in the concert halls we sing at, and in the grand cathedrals that were built in His honor. He

is found in all of those places, but He is right here in our hearts. That is His dwelling place. I felt Him in a fresh



way and I knew He was right there with us.

I started humming the classic Dottie chorus, “Holy Spirit Thou Art Welcome,” and all of a sudden I remembered her telling me the story of how that song came to be.

The Rambos (Buck, Dottie and Reba) had been invited to sing behind the Iron Curtain in the early ‘70’s. They were told they could sing any and all of their songs, but they could not talk about God or the blood of Jesus if they were to talk and share in between the songs. All they could do was sing the Gospel. Nothing else would be tolerated.

Their sound and style was so different and unique compared to most Gospel music at that time and of course

Dottie’s heart songs had such a mass appeal which enabled them to cross many music genre boundaries. Their fan base was large and so diversified. It consisted of people from all walks of life, from Presidents, to stars, to normal folks like you and me. Just like so many of us are still moved and touched by Dottie’s timeless lyrics today, her music touched and reached so many back then as well.

I have said over and over, the more real the songs, the more they will live on for years and years. Just think about the great hymns of faith that each of us have clung to in the darkest nights of our own battles.

The organizer for the trip wanted to take them to a local place to eat and it involved walking several blocks from where they were staying. As Dottie walked the streets of the city they were in, she found herself looking around and seeing such sadness everywhere, a deep dark heavy oppression seemed to veil the world that those people called home. She said she saw so many faces with no smiles, each person seemed to have faraway looks in their hollow eyes. No one wanted to make eye contact, there were no children playing outside. All she saw was depression of sorts. Grey clouds loomed overhead, and the bleakness of not having hope covered everything that she came in contact with.

The man leading them told her to please not take pictures, do not talk to anyone and for goodness sakes, do not talk about the Lord. Well, telling Dottie that is like telling her to go ahead and talk! She loved to talk about the Lord to anyone.

They came to a little bistro and were ushered in and sat down, got menus, pointed to what they wanted and ordered their meal. Dottie said she has asked the Lord before she walked into the place, to let her find one person, just one, that knew about the Lord so she could encourage them and love on them.

She said the minute the waitress approached her, she knew it was her. Dottie had put a little postcard that had the 23rd Psalm on one side and a picture of the Good Shepherd holding the little lost lamb, on the other side (I love that same old picture that hung in my own grandma’s house). She quietly pulled it out and placed it in her open palm so the waitress could see it when she came back to the table.

Sure enough the lady looked at it, started crying and said in her broken English, "JESUS...JESUS...I LOVE HIM!" Well, needless to say everyone at the table was scared to death and they thought for sure they would be taken to jail. I can still hear Dottie laughing, saying she knew she had heard from God and so she pushed the card into the lady's hands and they all quickly got up to leave.

As they all hurried out of the restaurant, they hit the dark streets again and she said the man leading them said to her, "He is not welcome here, you can't do that." All of a sudden she knew she had a song to share with the world. She walked with new vision and once again looked around, thoughts racing through her mind. She said, "God, You may not be welcome in any of this world or this town that we are in right now, but you are always welcome in *this place*: my heart, my life, my deepest soul."

So many times on life's journey we think that we can only find Him in the church or in a revival or at a Gos-

pel concert or by a great sermon, and yes He is in all of those places. But friends today, right now I rest assured that He is welcome in *this place*, my heart, your heart, in our lives that have so many needs, and when we earnestly seek, pray and ask Him to meet our needs He will do it in His time. I am so selfish and want it in my time, but He knows and cares and it will be in His time, always will be.

Many times we would get requests for Dottie to sing that song at church dedications, and once there she would tell that story, and you would see the people change their attitudes and hearts about Him abiding in *this place*. It helped them see how important *this place* is to all of us.

So today, as you go about your own walk, your own journey, your own life. Remember how blessed we are to have Him welcome in *this place*!

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# *The Sharps Quartet*

## **Three Generations of Music**

**By Robert York**

Going back to 1985, Joel and Annie Sharp began singing around their home in Fort Payne, AL. They would sing at benefits, homecomings and anywhere they were asked to sing. Down through the years, the group grew in popularity and over the next 10 years they were blessed to sing in some of the biggest events in the industry. Their son, Andy Sharp took his place with the group in 1985 and still sings with the group today.

Throughout the years, Andy was offered several full-time positions in music, but wanted to stay home with his family. He said, “It was always my Dad’s dream of having his own family group that traveled and sang after he had sung with numerous groups throughout his 20’s and 30’s. I would have never dreamed that almost 32 years later the group would be where it is today.”

Andy recently received the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the annual Alabama State Quartet Convention. Andy said, “The award was very unexpected and humbling. The guys knew about me winning the award almost five months before I actually received it. So the

time and effort they put into keeping such a secret was humbling. But to be presented such an award is great. I can’t take credit for what I’ve been able to do over my 31 years singing, but it proves that God can have a control in your life if you will let him.”



Andy and his wife Janice have one child Ben who is carrying on the family tradition, making The Sharps a third-generation group. Ben said, “I sang with the group around four or five [years of age]. Pops would get me and a few

of my cousins that would travel with us from time to time and he would have us all sing as loud as we could.”



Ben Sharp played drums with the group at first and obtained the nickname of The Little Drummer Boy. Currently he sings baritone for the group. He took over this position when his grandfather Joel retired. Ben stated, "It is unique to sing with my Dad. It is a great experience to be able to share the stage each and every week-end with him. There are plenty of father/son combos in Southern Gospel and I'm glad to be one of them."



Ben loves graphic designing and you might catch him home at night creating flyers or logos for their group and working with the website. Ben is a barber as well as singer, but when asked about a career in Gospel music, he stated, "If that's God's plan. Being 24 and married, I have to consider not only mine but my family's whole life ahead. But this is something I have done since my earliest memories and I love it and know what this life-

style is. And without a good support system and God, it would be very hard to do. God blessed me with a great wife that supports what we do and I'm thankful for that."

Mike Leath sings lead for the group. He and his wife Kathy live in Fort Payne, AL and have a daughter Michelle and son Michael. Mike and Andy shared their childhood together. In 2007, Joel began experi-



encing some health issue that limited his travel. He approached Mike and asked if he would travel part-time as his fill-in when he could not sing.

Mike stated, "After much prayer. God showed me that this was what I was supposed to be doing so I agreed. As time progressed and members changed, I stepped into singing more and more. In late 2011, Joel retired and I became the group's lead singer." Mike admires one of the ultimate lead singers, Glenn Payne. Mike said, "Glenn always had a joy about him and truly showed what he loved to do and who he was singing about. I had the pleasure of meeting him once and it was almost surreal. He was nothing but a true encourager with a child of God."

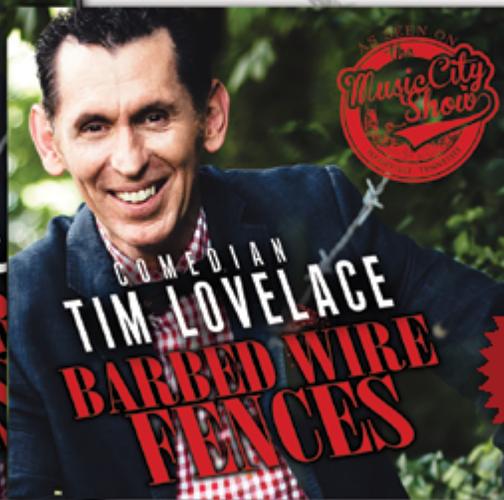
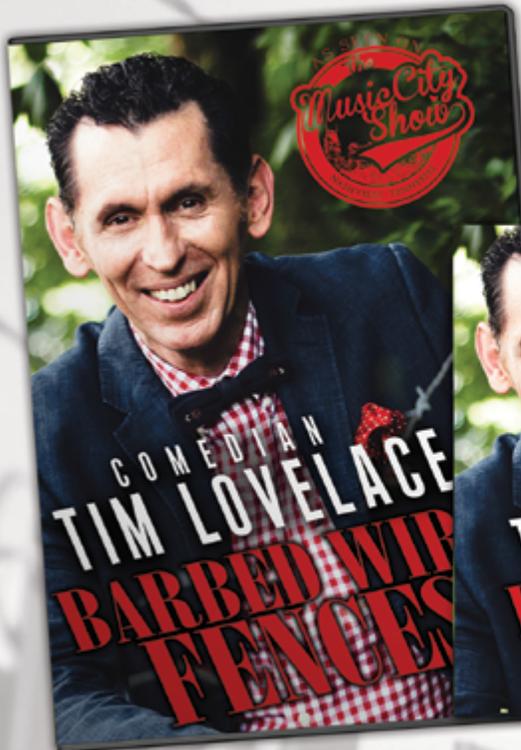
The newest member of the group is the bass singer, Tony Lewis. Tony and Andy had been friends for about 20 years and when the position opened, Andy asked Tony if he would like to audition for the spot. Tony said, "Andy had asked if I was interested in trying out for the group [in 2012], but it just wasn't God's time. But one day in March of this year my wife's phone rang and it was Andy. He explained they were in search for a bass singer and asked again if I'd like to audition and I told him I'd think about it and pray about it. Well, on that following Tuesday

night, I met the guys for my tryout and auditioned with “Thanks to Calvary,” and two and half hours later we were still singing. Needless to say the rest is history. I believe God truly brought our paths together and I’m having a great time.” Tony and his wife Susan have three children Hope, Hollie and Jordan.

Today, The Sharps Quartet continues to sing 40 to 45 weekends a year. They have become one of the most recognized groups in all Northeast Alabama. They have produced more than 15 recordings since they were formed. Some of their songs have reached the top 100 in charts in several of the song charts. Andy stated, “God gave his very best at Calvary, so we will always do our very best for him.”



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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## *Hunter Logan*



In this month's DJ Spotlight, we'd like you to meet Hunter Logan of HLE Radio. Logan has had an interesting and varied background, from his service in the Air Force to entertaining on many stages to radio sales and production. On his website, Logan says, "I still produce specialty shows, do voices, and write commercials, as well as produce them for several radio stations that I am affiliated with. Here at HLE Radio it is my desire to put the word forth through song as well as spoken (word)."

Hunter Logan has a live show every weekday from 7:00am to 9:00am. He's a Saints fan, dedicated to being a 'non-professional professional.' From humble beginnings in a back room with a borrowed server and a broken computer, HLE Radio has grown into a large facility with several staff. Logan hopes to have facilities soon to host artists who stop over during their tours.

Without further ado, from Jennings, Louisiana, welcome Hunter Logan!

**Vonda: What is your current radio position, station, and station website?**

HL: We are a 24/7 internet Christian Country Radio station with free apps dedicated to reaching the lost through Christian Country Music. [www.hleradio.com](http://www.hleradio.com)

**Vonda: At what age did you know you wanted to work in radio? Why?**

HL: I never had a desire to work in radio. I was 45 when God said, "I'm going to give you a radio station." I have been an entertainer most of my life. My last job was with Carnival Cruise Lines as an entertainer and when I got off the ship, I went to work at a local radio station as a DJ just on the weekends. It was fun enough, but I still didn't have a desire to do it. But little did I know that was God preparing

me for what I am doing now and I couldn't imagine doing anything else!

**Vonda: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?**

HL: I would love to go back to Bitburg, Germany. It was my first duty station in the Air Force and I really liked there.

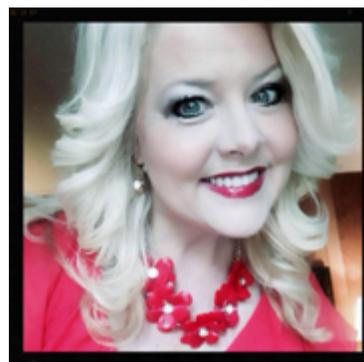
**Vonda: Tell us about your family. Wife? Kids?**

HL: I have been married for 30 years to my best friend and wife, Roilyn, and have four children: My daughter Aleisha, a set of twin boys Darrell and Dustyn, and another boy named Hunter! Me and my wife are empty nesters now unless you count the boxer and chihuahua.

**Vonda: What is your favorite restaurant?**

HL: Texas Roadhouse. Love the ribeye!

Thanks so much to Hunter Logan for being with us on the DJ Spotlight. We hope that you will tune into his online station at [www.hleradio.com](http://www.hleradio.com). Browse through the website, listen to the videos and download the apps. We are sure you will find something you enjoy. And while you are there, drop a line to Hunter Logan, the man behind HLE Radio.



**Written By  
Vonda Easley**

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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

## Trey Ivey

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

On a regular basis, I bring you a closer look into the world of some of your favorite younger artists, giving you an opportunity to get to know them a little better. Ever wonder who masterminds some of the tracks behind those favorite artists? Ever wonder how a melody is transformed from a few notes on a page to becoming the song you are jamming out to in your car? Allow me to put those wonderings to rest. As one of the best pianists around and one of the most genius producers out there, I gladly welcome Mr. Trey Ivey to the stand!

*Erin: The name "Trey Ivey" has quickly become popular in our industry. But for those who don't know your story, what is your background, and when did your love of music develop?*

Trey: My first exposure to music was in my home church in Cleveland, GA. My mom played the piano there throughout my childhood. She was the first piano player I ever heard and wanted to play just like.

*Erin: Many fans know you as the piano player for Legacy Five, but others know you are becoming one of the most well-respected producers, arrangers, and orchestrators in the business. How did you get started on this path?*

Trey: Not long after I moved to Nashville, about six years ago, I quickly found a new passion in the studio. Music could be so clean and precise there. That's where it's all created. So to answer your question, I went from literally showing up at studios just to sit in and listen and learn, to eventually getting called to play on sessions. About four years ago, I got my first production opportunity, and from that, someone would give me another opportunity, and then another, and so on. The Lord has been so good to me in allowing me to do this, and I am blessed to already be working with who I consider some of the best artists in our genre.

*Erin: In conjunction with my previous question, do you have formal training in scoring orchestrations or are you self-taught?*

Trey: As for the orchestrating I do, I have no formal training; however, Lari Goss was very good to me in showing me the ropes. I would go pick him up for lunch, and while sitting at O'Charley's, he'd read each measure I'd written intently, and give me his honest (sometimes too honest) thoughts. He was by far the best musician I've ever been around, and I learned more from him in those instances than I have from any other training I've received.

*Erin: Congratulations on finishing the first volume of your Piano Instructional Series. What all went into the recording process, and were there some fun moments in the studio you would like to share?*





Trey: Most every night, there is someone that comes to the product table and says to me, “My son/daughter/grandson/granddaughter plays the piano. What advice would you give them? Or how can they learn to do what you do?” This is where I got the idea of doing this Piano Instructional Series. What better way than to just sit down in a studio for an hour, and give an in depth piano lesson? I’ve already taped two Volumes, with Volume One just coming out. My special guest artist on Volume One is Gerald Wolfe. Volume Two will be coming out in the next year or so with Gordon Mote as the guest artist.

*Erin: Besides your award winning piano skills, are there any other instruments you play?*

Trey: Oddly enough, I took four semesters of guitar in college. Unfortunately, I don’t have the touch for it. Seriously, after all those lessons, I still can’t play!

*Erin: How are you and Lauren adjusting to the ‘mommy and daddy lifestyle’ with the recent addition of Emerson to your family?*

Trey: First off, I am so thankful that seemingly everything went perfect with the delivery for Lauren and Emerson. No health concerns for either at any point and for that, I am extremely grateful. I’ve absolutely loved watching Lauren be a mom. She is AMAZING. With all the typical “new” mom responsibilities, she’s also pulling double duty three to four days a week while I’m gone.

*Erin: Between playing for Legacy Five, your producing schedule, and being home with your girls, how do you effectively try to juggle it all?*

Trey: No question about it, the leaving is tough. It’s already tough enough leaving Lauren, but when you add the baby into the mix, obviously even tougher. But as tough as it is at times, and as much as I’d like to be holding my baby girl 24/7, I do know I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing. I really do feel like this is where God wants me to be. Not only do I feel that way, but my wife does too, and that’s the only way it works. So, I guess the short answer is I’m able to

manage because I really feel like it’s a calling, and Lauren is so supportive!

*Erin: What is the craziest thing a fan has ever said to you?*

Trey: True story, at NQC 2016, a gentleman walks up to Scott and me and says, “You guys did an outstanding job tonight.” We said, “Thank you.” He said, “You all totally redeemed yourself from last year.” He was serious. Apparently we didn’t do so hot last year.

*Erin: What scripture would you consider as your life verse? And why?*

Trey: I think like anyone else, depending on the season of life we’re all in when you ask, you might get a different answer. As of right now, I’d probably point you to John 3:16, but for a different reason than most. This verse looks so different to me now that I have a child. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son”...Okay, hold up. Stop right there. His CHILD? What an extraordinary reminder of God’s love for each of us, that He would literally sacrifice His very own Son...for me...for you...for all of us.

*Erin: Is there something quirky or wacky about yourself that no one would ever guess?*

Trey: I don’t like cheese!

*Erin: As we approach the Thanksgiving season, how would you express your thankfulness to the Lord for His faithfulness to you this year?*



Trey: I am thankful that the Lord continues to bless me way beyond what I deserve. I have a beautiful wife who is my rock, my best friend, and my number-one supporter, along with the addition of our sweet little Emerson this year, who is the most beautiful baby in the history of babies. We’re all happy, we’re all healthy, we’re surrounded by great families on both sides that we adore. In that, we literally have everything we want and need!

Closing words from the writer...

Let me ask you the same question, dear reader. How would YOU express your thankfulness to the Lord for His faithfulness to you this year? Have you given it much thought? Is His praise continually on your lips, or are grumbles and complaints spilling out first? We're all guilty of it, myself included. But this time of year should cause us to stop and say with the Psalmist.... "I will bless the Lord at all times!" Maybe life is hard right now for you, really hard. Even in the darkest times, there is still always something for which we can give Him praise. I'd like to thank Trey for working us into his busy schedule today. And a Happy Thanksgiving to you, friends!

Until next month, Scoops fans.

And that's my take on it.

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# Danny Sinacori

## A Testimony of God's Faithfulness

ByAuke Bijlsma

Danny Sinacori is one of the unsung heroes of the Gospel music industry. Danny was born in Philadelphia 75 years ago to an Italian family after his parents had immigrated from Sicily in the early 1900's. Danny's mother converted from the Catholic faith to the Pentecostal church, later to become a devoted member of the Assemblies of God.

Danny was already in love with music when he took accordion lessons at 12 for two years. Danny says this was 'the end of his formal music training'. He was already playing the piano by ear, and served as a substitute church pianist whenever the church pianist couldn't make the services. When he was 14 years old, The Couriers Quartet came to his church to sing and that was his first exposure to Southern Gospel music.

Danny says, "I will never forget them singing 'Let Me Tell You about Jesus' and 'Goodbye World Goodbye.'" Before that time he wanted to sing like Perry Como, Vic Damone and Sinatra. But after the encounter with the Couriers, he wanted to sing like Don Baldwin, baritone/ emcee for the group. Baldwin was a great influence in Danny's life, a mentor and role model. Other mentors, or inspirations Danny credits for his playing and singing, were Ben Speer, Neil Enloe, and Henry Slaughter, who taught him many licks and stylings.

Part of the church Danny attended were Paul and J.R. Damiani who had a group called The Eastman Quartet. When some other members of the Quartet left, Danny and friend Bob DiQuattro were hired. This was the beginning of Danny's Southern Gospel career. According to Danny, he was always "destined to be an anchorman with double portfolio," singing and playing at the same time. The involvement in The Eastmen Quartet however

was short-lived and Bob and Danny discussed starting their own group.

"We knew Richard Sterban and he was enrolled in college at the time, and he wanted to sing as much as we did." Danny continues, "So we met with him and then began practicing. We started the Keystone Quartet in 1962."



(Photo Credit: Danny Sinacori) The Keystone Quartet - left to right: Joe DiQuattro, Bob DiQuattro, Danny Sinacori and Richard Sterban

The group then consisted of Richard Sterban bass, Joe DiQuattro tenor, Bob DiQuattro lead, and Danny baritone/piano. Before long Richard was ready to quit college and go full time. "His parents nearly had a fit, but when they saw the passion as our parents did, they became our most avid supporters," Danny chuckles. The Couriers promoted them and they got to sing with all the leading quartets of the day. Danny did most of the arranging for the quartet and he provided their means of transportation.



(Photo Credit: Danny Sinacori) Danny and Richard Sterban

After two years, Danny left the group and turned management over to Bob DiQuattro. There were many changes of personnel through the years before Richard left and went to the Stamps, then later with the Oak Ridge Boys. David

Will (Imperials), Joe Bonsall (Oak Ridge Boys) and Nick Bruno (Stamps/Kingsmen Qt) were all part of this typical *steppingstone* quartet.

Danny went on the road with evangelist Bobby Green, then sang and played with The Mariners Quartet. With the Mariners he was a part of the Muncie bi-monthly sing with the Gaither Trio and the Golden Keys Quartet. This was the year that Bill wrote the song “He Touched Me.”



(Photo Credit: Craig Moerer) The Mariners Quartet

Danny recalls a story about singing with The Mariners at Massey Hall in Toronto with the Good-

mans. “Rusty Goodman shared in a taxi on the way to the concert that he had written a new song. It started like this: ‘If you could own all the world and its money, build castles tall enough to reach...’ It was the song we all know and love as, “Until You’ve Known The Love Of God.”



(Photo Credit: www.the-globeand-mail.com) Massey Hall-Toronto Canada

While with The Mariners, Danny learned that their manager Randall Clay had received a phone call from James Blackwood who was looking for a new pianist, and apparently thought of Danny. Randall for some reason forgot to tell Danny straight away, and when he eventually did three to four days later, James already hired another pianist. “I always wondered if I had gone to the Blackwoods and played for them, if my life would have taken a different path and I would still be in quartet work,” Danny says.

Shortly after those unfortunate chain of events, Danny went with the Olson Brothers Quartet of Seattle, Washington, that had Buddy Liles (Orrell Quartet, Florida Boys) on bass for a while. When with the The Olson Brothers Quartet, Danny remembers performing in front of 10,000 people at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. “The Blackwoods, Statesmen, Oak Ridge, Couriers, Doris Akers, Sunshine Singers (Peck Sisters), all were there, what a thrill... adrenaline soaring,” Danny reminisces.

While Danny was in the Olsons, they recorded an album in at Billy Vaughn Studio in Beverly Hills. The director of the session was Jimmy Rodgers who had a string of hits like, “Honeycomb,” “Kisses Sweeter Than Wine,” and many more. He grew up in church with the Olson Brothers tenor Jack Fields. At one of the sessions Jimmy Rodgers spoke to Danny and it was a game changer. At that particular time Danny was emotionally drained by the fierce competition in Gospel music and felt he was not meeting the expectations the other guys had of him. Rodgers said: “Danny, you have the only commercial voice in the group.” That spoke volumes to Danny.

“From that time on I knew I had to be myself, and not try to sing like anyone else but myself. It was life changing,” Danny remembers. One of Danny’s favorite quotes is: “We are not defined by our critics but instead by God and His word.” I sincerely believe that Jimmie Rodgers was used by God to encourage and strengthen Danny. Phil 4:13 says “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” It’s not by accident that this is Danny’s favorite verse from the scriptures.

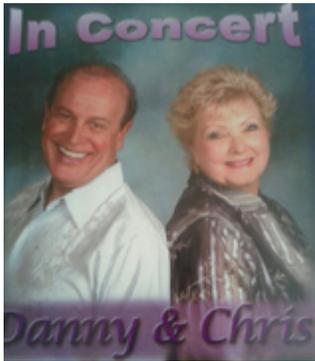
Don Baldwin of the Couriers started a group called The Viscount Trio in Harrisburg, PA. He hired Jack Fields as tenor and Danny to sing baritone and play piano. Danny was with them for almost a year and at that point left the Gospel Music circuit for good. Danny was active in

the Gospel quartet field for only six years and a lifetime of unique memories.



(Photo Credit: Danny Sinacori)  
The Viscount Trio  
1965- Paul Fields,  
Ron Hensley and  
Danny Sinacori

After he left The Viscounts he moved to Peoria, IL at the invitation of Pastor B. G. Drake to help with a radio ministry. "I married a beautiful girl from his church, and we sang together and eventually were ordained to the ministry and started out together, singing, playing and preaching until our two children came along. We ministered as a family in the summer months, recorded family albums and I continued 'til today."



(Photo Credit: www.allevvents.in) Danny Sinacori and his wife Chris

"My aspirations were always to be a composer of Gospel songs and a singer/pianist," says Danny. "I wrote my first song at age 17 when in college. I have written forty-

some songs. One for my city of Peoria, IL which won me a mayoral proclamation. The rests were all Gospel. "It's A Great Day To Serve The Lord," went around the world in the Charismatic renewal movement. My only regret is that none of my music, except for two, were handled by a major publishing company. All the rest were self-published and copyrighted'.

Danny has served as associate pastor for two Assemblies of God churches and co-pastored and founded a church in Venice, FL called Harvest Chapel with Pastor Phil Enloe, who sang with the Couriers for years, and wrote some great songs.

At 75, he and his wife Chris are still traveling nationwide, and recording both vocal and piano albums, blessed with good health and loving the journey they've been on for over half a century. That story was written down by Danny a few years ago, and published a book that should be in every Southern Gospel collectors collection. It's entitled: *My Journey....More than Music*

and it's available through Amazon and other outlets.

When asked what Danny's favorite hymn is, he answers, "I have many favorite hymns; at the top of the list is, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," because when I think back on my journey of traveling and the years of living on the road... The words of a song I wrote come to mind: 'In the years that I have served Him as my Lord, I've experienced many a problem in my life; but when I go to God in prayer, He reminds me of His care, and every trial that comes my way becomes a blessing.'" Danny concludes, "Through all the problems I have had over the years, because of God's faithfulness, I would do it all over again'.

I want to conclude with a portion of the back-liner notes of his book that reflects this dear brothers dedication like no other: "This is an autobiography about a person surviving with all the odds of adversity. But he persevered and triumphed over temptation, loneliness, and verbal abuse. Danny Sinacori's life story proves that you can still have a song in your heart when the trials of life come and still sing your way right through to victory and blessing. The moral of this story is: Don't ever lose your song!"

Visit [www.dannysinacori.com](http://www.dannysinacori.com) for music by this wonderfully talented and humble brother.

# Randall Reviews It - November 2016

by Randall Hamm

Dear Friends:

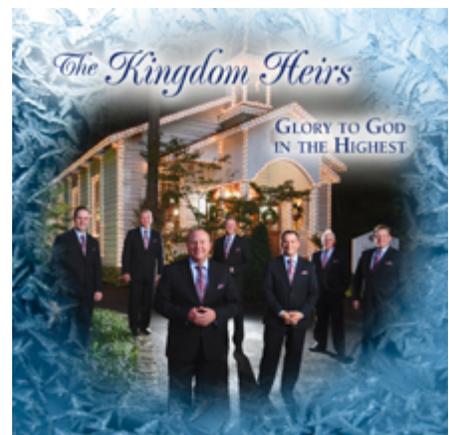
We find ourselves now in the Month of November. Cooler temperatures, sweaters, jackets and Christmas music. Whoa, stop the presses, Christmas music? Yes, Christmas music. It's just a little over a month until we celebrate the birth of our Savior one Christmas morning long ago. Here are some new releases you'll find for this Christmas season and one CD that would be perfect for a stocking stuffer.

And as always, pick up a copy of these CDs wherever you get your good Gospel music.

Randall

*Please send your latest releases for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.*

Now...let the reviews begin.



Kingdom Heirs  
*Glory To God In The Highest*  
Sonlite 2016

Produced by Arthur Rice and Jeff Collins  
Tracks Recorded by Scott Barnett at Crossroads Studios  
Arden, NC Vocal recorded by Arthur Rice at The Room  
Sevierville, TN Mixed and Mastered by: Arthur Rice, The  
Room / Sevierville, TN

Songs:

Jesus Is Born Today (It Is His Birthday) (Velton Ray Bunch ASCAP); Glory To God In The Highest (Daryl K Williams ASCAP); Mary Did You Know? (Mark Lowry-Lee R Greene ASCAP); Singing To The King (Dianne Wilkinson BMI); Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (Ralph Blane-Hugh Martin ASCAP); Christmas Cookies (Aaron G Barker BMI); Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (Fred J Coots-Haven Gillespie ASCAP); The Christmas Wish (Allison Speer-Bryan Alvey BMI); The King of Eternity (Squire E Parsons Jr. BMI); Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child (Mariah Carey-Walter Afanasieff-Loris Holland ASCAP)

The Kingdom Heirs release their fourth Christmas offering and their first since 2006's *White Christmas*. The only current members from that project are Arthur Rice and Jeff Chapman, and band members Kreis French and Dennis Murphy.

This album finds the Kingdom Heirs in fine singing form. This album also features Brian Alvey who has since left the group and has been replaced by Loren Harris. The CD kicks off with "Jesus Is Born Today" and then, "Glory To God In the Highest," both great songs and great readings by the Heirs. After two up-tempo tunes, the pace slows down for, "Mary Did You Know." Did you know it's been 25 years since the now-classic song was first brought to us?

A Diane Wilkinson tune greets us with, "Singing To The King;" this is one of my favorite songs on the CD. A Christmas standard, "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," is given the Jeff Chapman treatment. A bass lead and wow, I love this version.

A song that has been covered by George Strait and the Oaks' "Christmas Cookies," have the Kingdom Heirs giving it their special treatment. Still a fun song no matter who sings this. "Santa Claus is Coming To Town" features the Kingdom Heirs Band is given a Big Band arrangement. Love it!

A song from the pen of Allison Speer and Bryan Alvey is one of those songs that will make you reflect: "The Christmas Wish" is warm and cozy and oh-so lush. The "King Of Eternity," written by Squire Parsons, and "Jesus What A Wonderful Child," the Mariah Carey song, close out the CD.

Get a copy of this CD at <http://www.kingdomheirs.com/> online-shopping or get it where ever you get your good Gospel music.

Strongest Songs: "Christmas Cookies," "The Christmas Wish," and "Glory To God In the Highest."



Triumphant  
*He Is Christmas*  
2016 Stowtown Records

Songs: Repeat The Sounding Joy; Celebration Medley; He Is; Hallelujah; Blessed Be the Day (Of Our Saviour's Birth); Medley Of Fun; Thank God For Kids; God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; Jesus What A Wonderful Child; Mary Did You Know; Hope Has Hands; Jesus is Lord For All Time (With Silent Night)

Triumphant is a group founded in 2002 and the original vocal lineup is still together 14 years later. This album is their first Christmas project since 2007. The CD kicks off with a great uptempo number "Repeat the Sounding Joy," then a medley of your favorite Christmas hymns in a "Celebration Medley." "Hark The Herald Angels Sing," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Children Go Where I Send Thee," "Do You Hear," "Go Tell It On The Mountain," and "Joy To The World," all are sung well and is quite a celebration medley.

"He Is," is a song devoted to letting us know who Christ is and what He is in every book of the Bible. The Leonard Cohen tune "Hallelujah (Christmas Version)," is the best version I have heard of this song, and a song I will be spinning quite a bit on my program. "Blessed Be The Day (Of Our Savior's Birth)" proclaims yes, *blessed* be that day.

"Santa Claus is Coming To Town," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Feliz Navidad," "Walkin' In A Winter Wonderland," "Rockin Around The Christmas Tree" and "Jingle Bells" compose the "Fun Medley."

Triumphant puts their spin on the Oaks' classic "Thank God For Kids." Clayton gets the lead and no matter who does the song, it still gets you in the heart. Triumphant goes a cappella on the classic "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and evokes a feeling of the Cathedrals' version they did many years ago.

The next two songs "Jesus What A Wonderful Child" and "Mary Did You Know" we also found on the Kingdom Heirs latest Christmas CD we've reviewed. Triumphant also does wonderful versions of these now classics.

The standout song on the project is "Hope Has Hands," a song that was brought to us a few years back by the Hoppers and penned by Phil Cross. This is the best version I have heard of that song. Triumphant just sells it and their harmonies and the arrangement is in a league of its own. This CD is worth it for just this song.

The CD closes with a beautiful song, "Jesus is Lord For All Time." These last two songs make this CD worth the buy. Triumphant shows why they are one of the best quartets on the circuit with their tight harmonies and these last two songs really showcase them.

Overall a wonderful CD and should be in your Christmas Collection. Get your copy at [http://www.triumphantquartet.com/html/store/store\\_our\\_music.php](http://www.triumphantquartet.com/html/store/store_our_music.php) or where ever you get your good Gospel music.

Strongest Songs: "Hope Has Hands," "Jesus is Lord For All Time (with Silent Night)," and "Hallelujah."



Tribute Quartet  
*Here For You*  
Producer: Wayne Haun  
Daywind Records

Songs: Here For You (Wayne Haun - Joel Lindsey BMI); Never Forsaken (Wayne Haun - Joel Lindsey BMI); Somebody Sing Me That Song (Lee Black - Sue C. Smith BMI); When The Prodigal Comes Home (Lee Black BMI); Meeting In The Middle Of The Air (Lee Black BMI); God of The Storms (Gerald Crabb - Savana Foust ASCAP); Everybody Come see Jesus (Gina Boe - Marcia Henry - Donna King - Sue C. Smith - Dianne Wilkinson ASCAP); That's How I Know (Sonya Isaacs Yeary - Rebecca Isaacs Bowman BMI); Grace At It's Best (Gary Casto-Barbara Huffman BMI); Jesus Saves (Connie Hopper - Geron Davis BMI); Nothing Stops The Savior's Love (Daniel Crews - Dan Koch - Elaine Hoffman - John Stockton BMI)

Since 2006, Tribute Quartet has been together and never have they recorded a finer CD than their latest, *Here For You*. Original members, Gary Casto, lead, and Josh Singletary, baritone, along with newer members Riley Clark, tenor, and Anthony Davis singing bass have crafted a CD that pleases even the most finicky Southern Gospel enthusiast.

There is something for everyone on this CD and their current radio single "Never Forsaken" debuted at #57 for the December chart. Written by Wayne Haun and Joel Lindsey, this infectious song stays with you all day long. He's always with us and we are "Never Forsaken," even when alone.

The CD starts off with a great song for AM-Drive; upbeat

and a great message to start the day, "Here For You," and He is! Then follows the single "Never Forsaken" and "Somebody Sing Me That Song." Josh Singletary is featured on "Somebody," and is the highlight song of the CD. Josh goes into big band mode along with the group. Lush and beautiful, this song should be my pick for the second single. Did I mention Anthony Davis and his smooth dass on this cut?

"When The Prodigal Comes Home," is another song by Lee Black who has written a number of songs this year that you're hearing on the radio. Remember friends, there is no condemnation when you come back to the fold, ever.

"Meeting In The Middle Of The Air," is song that will have you humming along and making you remember when you first met Jesus and remembering there will never be a meeting like that one in the air! The "God of The Storms," and "Everybody Come See Jesus," are great cuts as well.

"That's How I Know," features their great bass Anthony Davis and is a hand clapper and finger snapper, and once you hear it you will be singing the chorus the rest of the day. "Grace At It's Best," "Jesus Saves," and "Nothing Stops The Savior's Love" close out the CD.

Overall this is the best CD Tribute has recorded. All group members shine through and the arrangement and production by Wayne Haun is top notch. Get your copy at <http://tributequartet.com/shop/> or get a copy where ever you get your good Gospel music

Strongest Songs : "Never Forsaken," "Somebody Sing Me That Song," and "Meeting In The Middle of The Air."

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# SAVING GRACE

## Former Inspiration Leads New Mixed Trio

By Justin McLeod



The Inspirations from Bryson City, North Carolina are one of the industry's most storied groups. Southern Gospel legends from Archie Watkins to Mike Holcomb have begun and made their careers in the group's traditional, four-part quartet style.

While not quite the College that the Dixie Melody Boys have, this group has also seen several groups spurn from its wake. Many on the group's lengthy list of alumni can be seen in other quartets and mixed groups across the country, many of which have made a sustained impact on Southern Gospel music. One of the newest in this long line is the Georgia-based Saving Grace Trio.

Led by former Inspirations baritone Melton Campbell, this mixed trio has already gained fans thanks to their tight harmonies and, despite their recent beginnings, a sound reminiscent of a group that has been around for years.

The group is made up of Campbell, who sings a lead/baritone hybrid that could be comparable to Soul'd Out Quartet's Matt Rankin; Blair Campbell, Melton's 17-year-old daughter, sings the alto part, while Terri Cook sings the soprano line.

Melton Campbell spent an off-and-on 15-year time span on the road with the Inspirations, ultimately coming off the road in 2015 in order to spend more time with his family. During his time on the road with Martin Cook's bunch, Melton helped make popular songs like the powerful ballad "I'm Not Ashamed." "[During] the 15 years that I spent with the Inspirations, I enjoyed getting to sing with my lifelong heroes," Melton shares. "... I made many friends and lifelong connections throughout the 15 years and got to see so many different places and let's not forget all the wonderful fans that I got to meet, many of which turned into great friends."

Saving Grace's inception can be credited, in short, to "a dad and a dream". When Melton left the full-time traveling schedule of the Inspirations to spend more time at home as a father, Blair gave her dad a "condition" --- that they got to sing together, and thus the idea for Saving Grace Trio was born.

"The biggest compliment for a parent is for their children to do something that they [themselves] love to do," Melton shares. "Blair has been listening to Southern Gospel music since she was a baby... her dream for many years has been to sing. When I came off the road in 2015, I was coming home to be a part of my kid's life and be around more than I [had been]... At that time,



Wilburn and Wilburn had a song out called “Shoulders.” It really ministered to me and let me know that I am right where I need to be. It’s time for me to take the back seat and be ‘shoulders’ for my daughter’s dream to come true.”

Blair, while still just the tender age of 17, has already drawn comparisons to some of the industry’s top young stars, including Lauren Talley, who she also coincidentally calls one of her own ‘inspirations’ in music. She shares, “It is such a blessing to be able to sing with my dad. It’s always been a dream of mine to be able to stand on stage and sing with him. I thank God everyday for giving me the ability to sing and to share His word [along] with people that I love.”



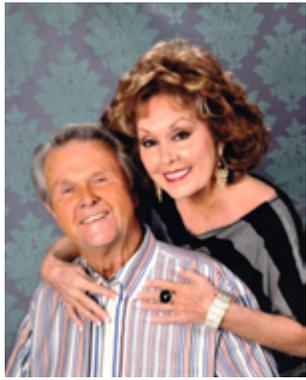
Though Melton shares that he, as a natural baritone, is singing significantly higher than during his days with the Inspirations, the group’s *really* high notes are anchored by Terri Cook, a family friend and a veteran vocalist. Terri and Melton had previously sung together, and when they needed a high-note-hitter to fill out the trio, she was the first call. “God’s timing is

always perfect!” Terri shares. “Little did I know that the trials I was going to face was God preparing me for this ministry.”



Already becoming known for their vocal abilities as well as their tight, family-like harmonies, expect to hear much more from Saving Grace Trio, including from their new CD, which was just recorded and will be released soon.

Looking forward to a great Summer and Fall of Worship



Services, Concerts, Relaxing Trips and Family Time, and of course we'll climax the year with **SGNScoops Diamond Awards Nov 1, 2016!**

We had a great Winter with friends, ministers, and promoters during our stay in Florida.

We have a full schedule of church services, concerts, and senior programs for the remainder of the year. Lil' Jan and I have also scheduled personal times with two weeks in the Smokey Mountains, a week in New York, and a week in London, England. Please check our schedule for the times and dates of a program near you. We love sharing time with our Gospel Music Friends. (DrJerryGoff.com)

Check out our Singing at Sea Cruise for 2017. Make plans to go with us. It's the best vacation you'll ever have. - Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan

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This chart was compiled from a list of reporting stations. Each month we will be adding more stations.

1	Karen Peck and New River	Calling
2	Tim Livingston	Without You
3	Wilburn and Wilburn	It's What He's Done
4	The Browders	New Song
5	The Talleys	After All This Time
6	Greater Vision	He Does
7	The Troy Burns Family	Somebody Go Get Jesus
8	The Nelons	My Father's House
9	Shellem Cline	Yes Jesus Loves Me
10	The Perrys	Did I Just Hear The Thunder
11	The Chandlers	Old Time Meeting
12	The McKameys	That's Why There's A Cross
13	Josh and Ashley Franks	In The Midst Of It All
14	The Hyssongs	It Doesn't Get Better Than This
15	The Booth Brothers	Dirt On My Hands
16	The Isaacs	This Is The Year
17	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	A Soldier Fighting To Go Home
18	Brian Free and Assurance	Somebody's Miracle
19	Landon Villines	Better Days
20	11th Hour	Can You Burn
21	The Camerons	Promises Of God
22	The Triumphant Quartet	Living In The Promised Land
23	Georgia	The Road Less Travelled
24	The Guardians	My Hope Is In The Lord
25	The Carolina Boys	For Every Goliath
26	The Singing Epps Family	Heaven
27	Rejeana Leath	Walking Miracle
28	The Bowling Family	Mourning Into Dancing
29	Faith's Journey	One More Beautiful Day
30	The Kingdom Heirs	Saving Us A Place In The Choir
31	The Hoppers	If We Ever Got A Look
32	The Broken Vessels	American Christian
33	The Mylon Hayes Family	One More Opportunity
34	The Kingsmen	Here I Stand Amazed
35	Logan Smith	My Lord Will Send A Moses
36	The Taylors	He Won't Fail You
37	The Lore Family	World Of Hurt
38	The Hyssongs	Prepare To Be Amazed
39	Chronicle	Army Of One
40	The River's Edge	I Keep Looking Up
41	The Collingsworth Family	When He Carries Me Away
42	The Mylon Hayes Family	I Choose To Stand
43	The Pruitts	God's Appointed Time
44	Back Home	One Name
45	The Whisnants	I Love You This Much
46	The Graves Family	Praise The Lord
47	The Allegiance Trio	It's Time To Sing
48	Dallas Rogers	Behind The Gates
49	The Common Bond Quartet	God Made A Way

50	The Old Time Preachers Quartet	The Old Time Way
51	Joseph Habedank	Big Enough
52	The Wards	This Is The Day Of The Lord
53	The Anchormen	I Heard About A Man
54	Greg Logins and Revival	Power In The Blood
55	The Whisnants	A Grave Mistake
56	Soul'd Out Quartet	God's Grace Is Never Ending
57	Mark Bishop	Pick Me Up And Carry Me
58	Ivan Parker	Mama's Rocking Chair
59	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Small Town Someone
60	Summit Trace	Heavy Loads
61	The Page Trio	My Light And Salvation
62	Oasis	Potter's Wheel
63	The Ball Brothers	Lead Them To Jesus
64	The Gold City Quartet	Farther Along
65	Trinity 3	God Did It
66	The Lori Jonathan Trio	Living By Faith
67	Chosen Few	Deliverance Has Come
68	Christian Davis	Just Show Up
69	The Riders	All Of Our Hope
70	The Spiritual Voices	He's Already Been There, Done That
71	The Dunaways	When My Tears Wash The Scars
72	Jordan Amburn and Adoration	I Need The Lord
73	Noah Hinshaw	Life's Rain
74	The Cupps	Heaven Is Real
75	The Parsons Redeemed	Everything's Gonna Be Alright
76	Jason Crabb	Home
77	The Soul Purpose Quartet	Ever Since That Wonderful Day
78	Canaan's Crossing	He Holds Me In His Hand
79	The Bates Family	That Day
80	Gordon Mote	Oh The Blood
81	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Somebody's Listening
82	The Griffith Family	Give His Love Away
83	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	Holy, Glory To The Lamb
84	The Chuck Wagon Gang	Pray The Power Down
85	Keith Barkley and Family Tradition	I'm So Excited
86	The Guardians	It Ain't Gonna Worry Me Long
87	The Down East Boys	Now A Witness Am I
88	The Common Bond Quartet	Do You Know Him
89	The Inspirations	Jesus Picked A Rose
90	The Rochesters	Wedding Day
91	Tribute Quartet	Never Forsaken
92	Carla and Redemption	Goody, Goody Devil
93	Amber Nelon Thompson	God Is Always Good
94	Tammy Jones Robinette	I Turned The Radio On
95	Adam Crabb	That Whosever Was Me
96	The Gibbons Family	The Bible Way
97	The Browns	Didn't It Rain
98	Shane Mathis	Old Amazing Grace
99	The Littles	Heaven's Jubilee
100	Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver	Best Friends



SGN **SCOOPS**  
MAGAZINE

**#getconnected**

# The Fabulous Florida Boys

By Charlie Griffin



## *A Legendary Quartet and Crowd Pleaser*

J.G. Whitfield served in the Air Force and afterward worked in the grocery business, but he loved Gospel music. In 1947, he formed a quartet with some friends. The Gospel Melody Quartet had their share of personnel changes over the years. But in 1952, Glen Allred joined the group singing baritone. In 1953, Les Beasley began singing the lead vocals. In 1954, the group changed their name to The Florida Boys. Derrell Stewart with his red socks joined in 1956.



Now, Whitfield remained with the Florida Boys until 1958. That same year Coy Cook began singing tenor. While Whitfield cut down on the travels and was staying home more, he continued to dabble in Gospel music, promoting concerts across the south. He later formed the Dixie Echoes in 1960, and in 1969, founded *The Singing News*. The “Ol’ Gospel Man” left a mark on Gospel music that few have ever attained since.

The foundation of the Florida Boys remained, with Beasley, Allred and Stewart. Billy Todd was the iconic bass singer from the late ‘50’s until 1972. At that time Buddy



Liles joined the quartet, remaining in the performing line up for over 26 years. Gene McDonald stayed with the quartet from 1998 to 2007 when the group disbanded.

*The Florida Boys Canaan LP*



*L to R: Les Beasley, Coy Cook, Glenn Allred, and Billy Todd*

The tenor position was one that had change for the Florida Boys. After Cook, Tommy Atwood, Laddie

Cain, Jerry Trammell (brother to Mark Trammell), Don Thomas, Mark Flaker, Terry Davis, Rick Busby, Greg Cook, Billy Hodges, Allen Cox, Harold Reed and Josh Garner rounded out the tenor list. Most of the tenors were with the group for about two or three years. Cook and Cox were there for seven years each. There were some really short term tenors too, including Greg Shockley and Johnny Cook.

As we look back at one of Gospel music's most iconic quartets, many promoters tell us the Florida Boys were "crowd pleasers!" Legendary promoter Dick Carper of Garden Spot Promotions said the Florida Boys were consistent, and provided just good Gospel music. Carper booked them for many return visits to the Hallelujah Supper Club and at other concert venues, and the Boys always worked hard to answer what Gospel music fans asked for.



*The Florida Boys on the Hallelujah Supper Club Stage, with Tim Lovelace featured on "Led Out Of Bondage."*

For sixty-plus years the Florida Boys charted hits in-

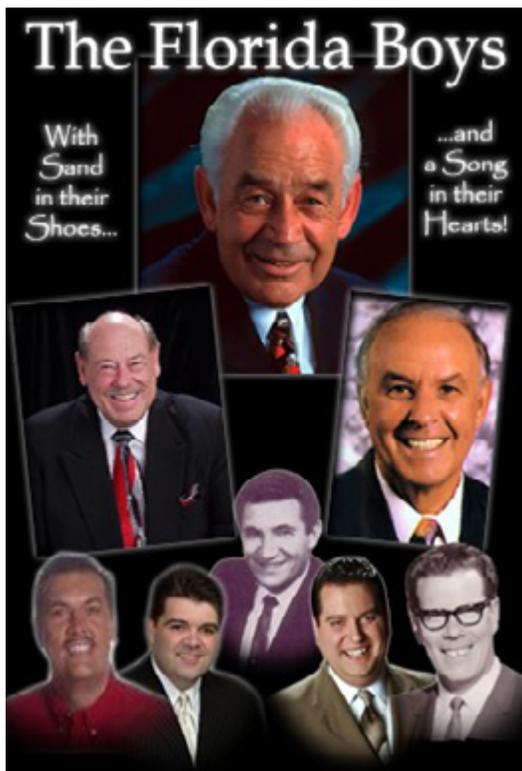
cluding: "Standing on the Solid Rock," "When He Was on the Cross- I Was on His Mind," "Lead Me to The Altar," and "I Lean on You Lord." They recorded over 100 albums and had a following unmatched in Gospel music.

The Florida Boys will always be known as the host of the timeless *Gospel Singing Jubilee* TV show. Beasley produced and emceed the show. The show originated in



1964 and was a nationally syndicated program receiving multiple Dove Awards as the Best Gospel Singing Program for many years. Today *Jubilee* YouTube clips abound with those stellar performances from yesteryear.

In June 2007, Beasley announced the Florida Boys would be retiring at the end of July. After over 50 years on the road, the Florida Boys mainstays were retiring. Beasley, Allred and Stewart truly left a void. But during the 2007 National Quartet Convention, in front of



a crowd of 10,000, the group gave a farewell appearance. It was during this appearance that Beasley announced, with the blessing from himself, Allred and Stewart, the Florida Boys would continue under the watchful eye of Charlie Waller.

Charlie Waller is a lifelong Florida Boys fan as the quartet was the first group he saw in person, and Waller has worked tirelessly to promote and preserve Southern Gospel music. He is best known for his promotion of the annual event *Grand Ol' Gospel Reunion* and his work with the Southern Gospel Music Association, where he served as director until 2013. He was inducted into the Hall Of Fame in 2009. In 2016, he was inducted into the South Carolina Music Hall of Fame.

Charlie Waller says, "Singing Gospel music and carrying on the Florida Boys tradition has fulfilled a lot of dreams. I've worked for years in promoting and laying the foundations to preserve our southern gospel music history. I am so glad that part of the preservation has been with the Florida Boys.



"When I picked up the Florida Boys mantle, Eddie Broome sang tenor, Buddie Burton carried the baritone and Chip Cooper sang bass. And I hit the lead part. We had fun and people loved the renewed Florida Boys and still do."

Since 2007, the renewed Florida Boys have carried the mantle continuing the legacy that started in 1947. Charlie Waller has directed the group while remaining



true to Southern Gospel music. Even with personnel changes, the group continues to be a favorite and crowd pleaser. Some things just don't change,



One of the hallmarks of Gospel music for over 28 years was the assembling of some of Gospel music's greatest talents at the *Grand Ole Gospel Reunion*. Under the direction of Charlie Waller the event became the greatest of reunion concerts. The Florida Boys appeared and later served as host of this event for many years. Waller tells us, "I appreciate the opportunities that people gave us over the years. But my time has come to retire. Les Beasley says it takes a smart man to know when the time comes to stay home. And I am smart."



and with the Florida Boys that is a good thing.

Currently, Waller has enlisted the talents of Joe "Todd" Armstrong singing the bass. Armstrong is often compared to the Florida Boys mainstay bass, Billy Todd. Singing baritone is Jimmy Reno and the tenor slot is filled by Nathan "Lil" Luke Parrish, a former pianist for the Blue Ridge Quartet.

One of the crowd favorites is Joshua Pope, who started piano lessons at age four. His musical influences are Jackie Marshall, Fats Waller and Ray Charles. He has been featured at the National Quartet Convention Panorama, on select Gaither Homecoming videos, Dollywood's Kids Fest 2007 and regular Dollywood park performances.



At the end of 2016 the Florida Boys tradition will end. The Florida Boys will give their last performance on December 17, 2016 at Waynesboro, MS in the Christmas in the Hollow. Waynesboro is Waller's hometown and the expectation of a full house is running rampant in southern Mississippi.

The group travelled an estimated 3.5 million miles in the 69 years of singing. Appearing over 14,000 times in those years, the Florida Boys made many friends and enhanced Gospel music like no other group. *Legendary* truly describes the group.

"Crowd Pleasers" says it best as their legacy will continue with over 100 recordings, Youtube clips, DVDs and in the scrap books of many Gospel music enthusiasts. There will be many stories told that will have the Florida Boys and Charlie Waller in them. When all is said and done, the legendary Florida Boys will stand out for years to come as Gospel innovators and true crowd pleasers on stage, TV, recordings and in their timeless legacy.



# SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND

Update 2017



By LORRAINE WALKER

The calendar may say November, but just around the corner is Southern Gospel Weekend 2017, March 23rd through 25th. Be sure to make your plans early to join us in Oxford, Alabama at the Oxford Civic Center. SGW admission is free but must be reserved. Visit [www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com](http://www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com) for more information.



The Drummond Family is a fixture at Southern Gospel Weekend and we'd like you to get better acquainted with these fine artists.

The Drummond Family is based out of Florida and has been traveling the southeast sharing God's love since April 1996; 20 amazing years. Many things have changed in those years but not the call of God. Their vision is deeper and stronger than ever before. The Family's goal is to reach as many as possible in the final days, to see the lost saved, hearts mended, broken homes restored, the sick healed, and to fulfill His calling on their lives, which is to share His message in song and word. No other music can touch and move the heart like the power of a Gospel song.

Pat Drummond is the Family's manager and is an Ordained Minister. He also sings, plays drums, and takes care of everything including keeping the bus running and getting the group where they need to be. Pat's wife, Michelle "Chelle" Drummond, plays split keys carrying the bass part, and



is also a writer, graphic designer, web master and road manager. Chelle is a great prayer warrior and much of the success of the group can be

directly attributed to her efforts both physically and spiritually. Chelle's anointed songwriting continues to touch lives. One of the latest penned by her and Pat gives great encouragement: "Hope in the Valley."

27-year-old Meagan Pledger is Pat and Chelle's daughter and is a vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, and a graphic designer, designing most of the graphics for the ministry. Their son, Bo Drummond, is a vocalist, lead and steel guitarist for the group. He works in the studio as a producer, engineer, and musician for Studio D Productions. Bo is also a songwriter and has just co-written the group's latest radio release with Cody Boyett, "I Stand."



Ron French is the newest member of the group. Ron is a vocalist, songwriter, and musician. Ron has traveled many years playing guitar and drums, and for the past few years, he's enjoyed a great solo ministry as well. Chastity Drummond handles product for the family, and is a great prayer

warrior. Fans will also see their grandchildren, Lilly, Travis, and Luke doing many things as they work with the family.

When you hear The Drummond Family in concert you will hear some of the old classics that everyone knows and loves, new original material that ministers to the soul, and words from their hearts that they hope will change the lives of the listener. Where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty (II Corinthians 3:17), and they strive to carry that spirit with them everywhere they go. Find out more at [drummondband.com](http://drummondband.com).



If you have never attended Southern Gospel Weekend, you will be able to experience the large Exhibit Hall, Daytime Showcases with Ava Kasich and

Vonda Easley of Hope's Journey, Midnight Prayer time and Saturday Breakfast. Many solo and group artists will be performing during the three-day festival, emceed by the well-known bass of the Second Half Quartet, Pat Barker. Also, Pat will be offering classes to assist Gospel music artists.

From vocal coaching to stage presence, Barker will touch on everything the artist needs to present Christ, in the SGW version of the Pat Barker University.

SGW '17 will be providing a VIP seating section again this year. For \$25, true Southern Gospel fans can purchase a pass that will assure them the best view of all the concerts for the entire event. Not only will they have the preferred seating, but also VIP pass holders will receive a special surprise at the event. Anyone interested in purchasing a VIP pass should contact Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892.

Remember, general seating tickets are free for Southern Gospel Weekend. Call Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892 for more information.

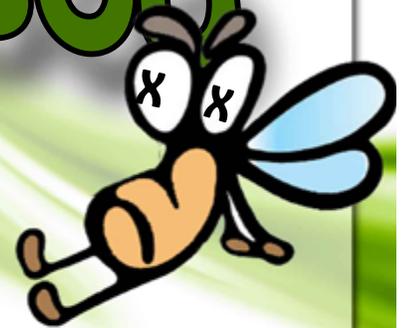


If you are an artist that would like to participate in any of these events, please contact Vonda Easley. Please contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at [hotels@sgnscoops.com](mailto:hotels@sgnscoops.com) or call her at 256-239-7716. For more information visit: [www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com](http://www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com) or [www.facebook.com/southerngospelweekend](http://www.facebook.com/southerngospelweekend).

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# Southern Gospel Promoters Association

By Edna Wright

The Southern Gospel Promoters Association was organized to help, encourage and provide information to all member Concert Promoters and work as a unified body to make a greater success of the concert arena. The organization is a working and welcome part in Southern Gospel Music, along with the many other different and effective industry associations.

The leadership of the Southern Gospel Promoters Association consists of:

Edna Wright - President  
Marcelle Slaughter - 1st Vice President  
Keith Stapler - 2nd Vice President  
Melinda Davis - Secretary  
Ruthann Stapler - Treasurer  
Paul Pitts - Membership Chairman  
James Wright - Chaplain  
Lane Reed - General Counsel

The Southern Gospel Promoters Association (SGPA) held their annual Thursday Showcase and Promoters Breakfast Showcase on Friday morning during the National Quartet Convention, at the Holiday Inn on the Parkway in Pigeon Forge, TN. Emcee for the showcase was Danny Jones, Editor in Chief, Singing News Magazine. We are very appreciative for Chapel Valley Studios for their assistance with professional sound engineers that worked with our artists.

Special guests that were in attendance included the Dominion Agency, Adoration Agency, BSA World, The Harper Agency, Rob Patz of SGNScoops Magazine, Vonda Easley of Hey Y'All Media, and Patricia Mathis of WATC TV 57, Atlanta, Georgia, and long-time retired promoter Frank Mitchell of Thomasville, GA.



Each year the agencies bring to our showcase aspiring Gospel artists that are very talented and have the desire to present the message of Jesus Christ as they travel to minister throughout the country. Some of these artists included Soul's Harbor, The Williamsons, The Wright Family and the Southern Plainsmen. A list of these Gospel artists are listed with names and contact information



on our website. Our website was designed and is now maintained by one of our own SGPA members, David Brown, Soul's Harbor Ministry. David is doing an awesome job keeping our website up to date.



During the Showcase the SGPA presented a Promoter Of The Year Trophy to a very deserving Gospel music promoter. We wish to congratulate David Hancock of David Hancock Promotions, Angleton, TX, who was presented this year's trophy. You may find a complete list of Promoters of the Year at our website.

The Holiday Inn has already reserved these dates for our Thursday Showcase - September 28 and Friday Promoters Breakfast - September 29, 2017. Please mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there. You can reach the SGPA at: P. O. Box 580, Villa Rica, GA 30180. Phone: 770-605-3336. Website: [www.sgpromoters.com](http://www.sgpromoters.com)

**Peter Christie**  
Australian Country Gospel

Thank you for voting me as the  
2016 Songwriter of the Year  
at the recent  
DIAMOND AWARDS

*Listen out for my new single 'REST'  
Hitting the airwaves in October.*

[www.facebook.com/PeterChristieMusic](http://www.facebook.com/PeterChristieMusic)

A promotional graphic for Peter Christie, an Australian Country Gospel artist. It features a photo of him smiling and holding an acoustic guitar. The text includes his name, genre, a thank-you message for being named '2016 Songwriter of the Year' at the Diamond Awards, a mention of his new single 'REST' hitting the airwaves in October, and a Facebook link.

**Bless'd**  
MINISTRIES  
[WWW.BLESSDMINISTRIES.COM](http://WWW.BLESSDMINISTRIES.COM)

**f BLESS'D MINISTRIES**  
BOOKING INFORMATION:  
SARAH (423) 361-4600 OR  
KALEB (423) 620-4650

A promotional graphic for Bless'd Ministries. It features a group photo of four people (two men and two women) smiling. The text includes the name 'Bless'd Ministries', the website 'WWW.BLESSDMINISTRIES.COM', and contact information for Sarah and Kaleb, including phone numbers and a Facebook icon.

**Keith Stapler**  
BRINGING THE  
GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE  
THROUGH SONG  
(678) 896-9688  
booking number  
[www.keithstaplerministries.com](http://www.keithstaplerministries.com)

A promotional graphic for Keith Stapler. It features a photo of him performing on stage, holding a microphone. The text includes his name in a cursive font, his mission statement 'BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE THROUGH SONG', a phone number for booking, and his website.



# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

November. The month brings Creekside, winter and Thanksgiving, as well as the official start of the Christmas season. Are you ready for all the festivities? Creekside Gospel Music Convention runs until November 3rd, so if you are reading this past that date, you have missed a wonderful time in Pigeon Forge. Be sure to watch our website and facebook page for updates on the activities, pictures, and news of next year. Congratulations to all the winners of the 2016 Diamond Awards. Pictures and more in next month's magazine.



As Thanksgiving approaches, have you paused to consider what you are thankful for? Perhaps it is health, a good job, loving family and a

caring church home. Perhaps there is something on that list you don't have. Maybe you don't have any of it. There are still things for you to be thankful for, including the fact that the Lord has given you air to breathe and life. If you are living, He has a job for you to do. Ask Him today what that is and thank Him that he has already equipped you to do what He is calling you to accomplish.

As winter approaches, we include all of our artist friends in

our prayers for safe travel. Friends like Gold City, our cover feature, who also attended Creekside on Monday night as our guest artist. Gold City has a renewed sound and vision for the year ahead. What about you? Are you thinking of your goals for the year ahead?

We so appreciate all of our wonderful artists included in this issue and trust that you have read it cover to cover. We are glad to welcome first timers like Danny Sinacori, Loren Harris and the Sharps to the SGNScoops Family. Hopefully you enjoyed catching up with Trey Ivey, the Sneed Family, the Mark Trammell Quartet and the brand new Saving Grace Trio. Did you read our history article on the Florida Boys? What about all of the wonderful articles by David Staton, Nathan Kistler, Selena Day and Dusty Wells? Did you enjoy the reviews by Randall Hamm and the DJ Spotlight on Hunter Logan?

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or artists you would like to see in these pages. Write me today at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com). Meanwhile, Christmas is on its way and I trust you are preparing your heart to receive and emit the light and love of Jesus Christ during this very special season. Wish someone a Merry Christmas today and do a little something for those who have nothing.

Be thankful, set goals, pray for others and give. It's that time of year. Let's thank the Lord together for all of His good and perfect gifts.

Happy Thanksgiving from SGNScoops.

(Photo credit: Dean Adkins)

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# #I WILL STAND

USE THE HASHTAG ON     
LISTEN FOR & REQUEST THE SONG ON RADIO  
BUY IT AT iTUNES 



[WWW.ALLEGIANCETRIO.COM](http://WWW.ALLEGIANCETRIO.COM)

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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](http://SGMRadio.com). In 2009, Rob Patz acquired [SGNScoops.com](http://SGNScoops.com), including the all- digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated 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](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony of how she was born lifeless and how Jesus raised her up to live for Him. Jennifer is a member of the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra and has performed with them at Brooklyn Tabernacle, Carnegie Hall, Central Park, and Times Square. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jennifercampbell.net/blog.htm> and a food and travel blog at <http://jennifersjourneys.net> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net> and [www.christwillreturn.org](http://www.christwillreturn.org).



Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://Queenoq.blogspot.com)



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)

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## SGN SCOOPS



Dusty Wells is a man of many talents and multiple skills, from his speaking engagements across the country, to traveling and encouraging various artists in the Christian music genres. Dusty has a passion that is evident from the moment you meet him.

Dusty is a man who remains passionate and secure in the calling and destiny upon his life. He has come to realize the importance of finding purpose and clear direction for not only his life, but also the lives of those he comes in contact with, no matter what stage of life they may be in. Growing up in a very dysfunctional home, surrounded by all types of abuse, Dusty had every excuse to be a failure in life. He grew up on welfare, having to steal his daily necessities of life at times, being surrounded by drugs, alcohol and pornography. He was raised by a mother who was married multiple times, living in a housing project on the wrong side of town. But in the midst of what seemed to be complete devastation, God had different plans of success for Dusty. At the age of 14, a precious couple took time out of their own lives to invest in Dusty...thus leading Him to the Lord. His life is a testimony of God's relentless love and deliverance, and is one of the most triumphant stories told in modern Christianity. Dusty is confident in the fact that if God can do it for him, He can do it for anyone, no matter the situation.

Dusty and his wife of 33 years have four children, and two grandbabies with one more on the way. They make their home in Nashville, Tn.



Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible.

The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing

ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



My name is Tina Wakefield and I am currently Music Minister for Amazing Grace Worship Center in Alabaster, Al. I have led worship for over 18 years as well as teach adults how to live everyday life in Victory as a Christian. I enjoy playing and singing Gospel Music whenever and

wherever I am invited. I currently have three Cd s available on my website at [www.tinawakefield.com](http://www.tinawakefield.com) and just released my first music video with Godsey & Associates called,"The Choice" available on YouTube. I write a lot of the music we sing at church and also record my original songs. My family is very ministry oriented with Pastors, Teachers, Musicians, and Singers. My heart's desire is to spread the gospel of Christ through any and all open doors that I receive.

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During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and I often went to The Joyful Noise for dinner and concerts. Every known name in Gospel Music sang there at one time or another. After I retired, we decided to start promoting concerts. Our goal was not only to promote our concerts, but also to promote any Gospel concerts in our area and attend as many as we possibly could. I came to a crossroads in December 2013 when my wife graduated to heaven, not knowing what to do. After much prayer God led me to continue promoting concerts. Have promoted around 100 concerts and can't tell you how many I attended. I still enjoy going to concerts and writing a little about the groups.



Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, and social networker. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. Along with running her own business, she is the official photographer for Abraham Productions (API). You will find her behind the lens at all API events, along with working behind the scenes on their

social media. She also travels full-time on the road with her family's gospel group, The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion and singing for Jesus is her calling. For several years, you have known her as our very own "Younger Perspective" writer. Check out her photography website [www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com](http://www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com) and her ministry website [www.stevensfamilymusic.com](http://www.stevensfamilymusic.com).



Sherry Anne Lints, a Doctor of Chiropractic, singer, speaker, actress, writer and fitness trainer, was born with a bilateral hearing and speech impairment. She appeared in the films, Clancy and The Perfect Gift and was a special guest on 100 Huntley Street, in Ontario, Canada. She is a contributing author for the book, Modern-Day Miracles and

released her second CD, Keep on Prayin', July 2012 and has opened for many of the Gaither Homecoming Artists. Additionally, Sherry Anne helps lead worship and drama at her church. For more information, visit: [www.SherryAnne.com](http://www.SherryAnne.com).



Vonda Easley 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 within the industry she also hosts a weekly radio show which keeps her in touch with many of Southern Gospel's leading executives and artists. It also allows her a fresh view of new music and the 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.



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGM in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over 10 years beginning with Phil Cross and Poet Voices and later Sharron Kay King and Jerry Bennett to name a few. She has spent the past several years promoting Southern Gospel, Inspirational Country Gospel and Bluegrass in this area in order to preserve this part of our heritage.



Hello, I'm Randall Hamm, Gospel Program Director of WFLQ French Lick Indiana, host of the Sunday Morning Gospel Show for the past 20 years on WFLQ French Lick Indiana and Singing News Top 10 Small Market DJ for the past three years. I now add something new to my resume! Record Reviewer, ok...

CD Reviewer. I'm Old School, having started in the days of LP's, 45's and Reel to Reel along with cassettes as the main form of music played. If you'd like to listen to my program, you can visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheSunday-MorningGospelShow> and listen to archived programs, plus I post various Southern Gospel news updates, uplifting music and Gospel-related items. If you're in the six-county area around French Lick Indiana, in the heart of Southern Indiana, tune in every Sunday 6:00am-12:00pm and listen to the Gospel Greats with Paul Heil, 6:00am to 8:00am and the Sunday Morning Gospel Show with Randall Hamm 8:00am to 12:00pm.

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After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

Craig's Southern Gospel interest dates back for approximately the same time span, having closely followed the industry since the later portion of the 1990s. He also performed for seven years with a local trio prior to joining the SGN Scoops staff.



David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great friend!

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.0. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre

Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

Through the years, artists like Gold City, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Kingsmen, Singing Americans, Dixie Melody Boys, Imperials, Dottie Peoples, Ball Brothers, LeFevre Quartet, Palmetto State Quartet, Priority, Trailblazers, The Greens, Ivan Parker, Brian Free and many more have recorded David's music. From 2005 to 2013, Staton was the Executive Vice President for Song Garden Music Group in Nashville, TN. In recent years, the National Quartet Convention has asked David to be a part of an industry advisory panel to help artists who need assistance and training. Not only has David made a mark as an artist, he is passing on his talent and knowledge to new artists, influencing and shaping the future of Gospel music.



Kelly Nelon Clark is the daughter of Gospel Music icon, the late Rex Nelon. As part of her father's group, The Nelons, she blazed a musical trail bringing a fresh new sound to the traditional Gospel quartet style. That sound and style influenced a generation of Gospel music performers and can be heard today in the styling of

groups like the Martins, Point of Grace, The Crabb Family and more.

As The Nelons broke new ground, the Gospel Music industry repeatedly recognized their excellence. The group won four GMA Dove awards as well as multiple awards from readers of Singing News Magazine. Kelly was named female vocalist of the year on four occasions and received favorite alto vocalist award 3 times. At one time, Kelly was the most awarded artists in the history of the Singing News Fan Awards. The music industry at large also recognized The Nelons with 3 Grammy nominations.

Today, Kelly currently performs throughout the United States, Canada and Europe with her husband and two daughters as The Nelons. The group is featured in hundreds of churches and concerts each year. The Nelons have been part of Gaither Homecoming concerts sharing their music with thousands of Gospel Music fans in sold-out arenas across the country. For more information, visit <http://www.kellynelon.com/>.

# Contributors

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Marcie Gray was born and raised in sunny California, yet always dreamed of moving to Tennessee. She had planned to move to the south as a young adult and sing with a gospel group, after being inspired to do so by her Great Uncle, Alphus LeFevre. Though it took longer than she had expected, in 2011, her dream of moving

east finally came true when her husband, Don, retired from the CHP. They packed up their two youngest daughters, three dogs and two horses and headed east. What a blessing to finally be where the tea is sweet, the Southern Gospel music is plentiful and there's a Cracker Barrel on every corner!

Spend ten minutes with Marcie and you'll learn that she is rarely lacking for something to say. Her passion for Southern Gospel music, combined with her instinct to be behind the camera, makes journalism a very enjoyable outlet for that "Type A" personality she has been affectionately labeled with by her family and friends.

Marcie is a worship leader, vocalist and songwriter. She has directed choirs of all ages and given voice lessons for many years. Her solo CD, "Carry Me Home" was released in September of 2014.

Having family in ministry has given Marcie a desire to support those who are on the road sharing the gospel through song. Visit her website at [www.graydoveministries.com](http://www.graydoveministries.com) to learn more!



Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals,

Photos, Video and News tidbits. Keep up with Lynn online at <http://lynnschronicles.com> or on facebook @ <http://facebook.com/lynns.chronicles>



Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many of

my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.

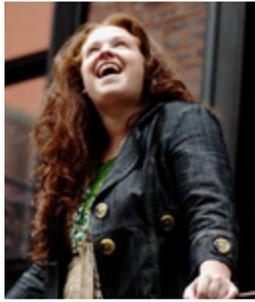


Bethany Cook is a 26-year-old from the great state of North Carolina. In her early years, Bethany grew up on the road as the daughter of an evangelist. In her teen years, the family came off the road and made their home in Burlington, NC where her father is now a pastor. Being an avid Southern Gospel fan from an early age has enabled Bethany to

meet many different artists and make many friends along the way. With a history of devotional writing for family and friends, she looks forward to sharing her writing and allowing her readers to see a little more into the lives of Southern Gospel Music artists. Bethany is a Medical Assistant for a large Cardiology Practice in North Carolina.

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Sheri began singing while traveling with her abundantly talented family, led by her father John LaFontaine, a minister for over 48 years. In 1994 with Grammy nominated singer Jeff Easter producing, she recorded her first solo project, *Takin' My Place*.

Shortly thereafter, Sheri received a call from the top promoter in south-

ern gospel, Frank Arnold and was asked to join his group, The Arnolds on the road. After several years of traveling Sheri felt the Lord leading her to focus on her solo career and songwriting. In 2004 she signed a songwriting contract with one of the industry's top recording labels, Daywind Music. Her songs have been recorded by Kim Hopper, Karen Peck, Sue Dodge, Brian Free & Assurance, Misty Freeman, Three Bridges, The Whisnants, The Browns and many more.



Paige Givens is a Christ follower, wife, mother of two boys and kindergarten teacher to 18 five-year-olds. She is a writer, reader, singer, studier, and teacher of words. Paige lives in Hayden, Alabama with her husband of 10 years, Chris Givens, and their sons Parker and Peyton.

Paige loves to blog about faith,

writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://www.paigegivens.com).

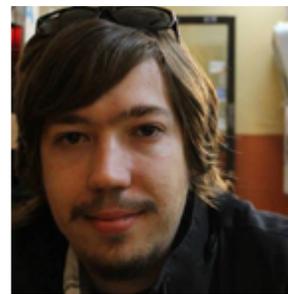


Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being crafty and spending time with

family and friends. She's been singing since the age of eight, but realizes that it's much more than just singing. "Anyone can show off their talent. I'd rather hear someone that shows that they are anointed!" For more information on Jaquita, visit [11thhourgospelgroup.com](http://11thhourgospelgroup.com)



Matt Baker resides in Lenoir, NC with his wife, Ashley, and children, Bella and Bennett. A gospel music lover, Matt spent time on the road full-time with Promise of Murfreesboro, TN, before moving into church ministry as the music minister at Ambassador Baptist Church in Hudson, NC.



Justin Gilmore, 22, 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.

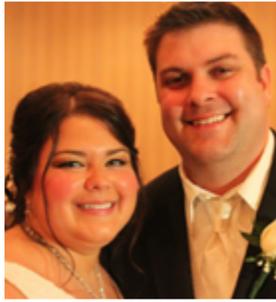


Roger Barkley Jr. is an award-winning Christian artist and musical evangelist. With multiple charting songs reaching to the top 10, his goals remain the same: to win souls for Christ, use Gospel Music of any kind to reach the world with the Good News, seeing lives changed and being an encouragement to the

saints. When asked about his ministry, Roger said, "I can remember the first time singing with my dad playing the guitar and standing beside my mom when I was four years old. I have always loved all types of music." His vision is to lead as many people to Christ through preaching, singing, sharing testimony, comedy, drama and technology as possible. Having been labeled a Christian Entertainer, he believes it is possible to minister in an entertaining way, and in over 35 years of ministry has found that he can utilize all different types of music to let people know the love of Jesus Christ. Currently he is Artist-In-Residence with his wife, Dianna, and daughter, Chelsea, at Leestown Gospel Church in Frankfort, KY, and Redemption Road Community Church in Stamping Ground, KY where he leads worship when not spreading the Gospel across America.

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Brian Fuson is from the great state of Michigan, and although he is a Northerner, he certainly knows his Gospel music. He's been promoting concerts since he was 15-years-old and has worked with a diverse group of artists. He has been blogging about Southern Gospel music for the last few years on his site called Fuson's Findings. And

most recently, Brian has started singing with his wife Crysta and her parents, The Sammons Family. All of this information and more can be found on his website, [brianfusonmusic.com](http://brianfusonmusic.com).



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model. Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have

been in the ministry for 26 years raising three daughters and homeschooling them while they traveled together as a family. During this time God taught her how crucial inter-generational ministry is for the furthering of God's kingdom. Selena travels the world speaking at conferences with the emphasis on empowering a multi-generation of women to rise up and become everything that God has called them to. Encouraging the next generation of the church to break the walls of limitations in their mind and rise to their full potential. Selena and her husband are life coaches for The World Race, which is an extreme missions trip for adults 21 through 35. They travel every two months somewhere around the world to mentor these missionaries. She and Chuck have been pastoring a home-church for 14 years where they have experienced God moving in community and seeing the body of Christ in action through each other.



Timmy Williamson is a 24-year-old singer and actor from Virginia Beach, Virginia. He graduated from Liberty University in 2014 with degrees in Worship and Theatre. Over the past several years, he has been given the privilege of singing in many churches and events as well as performing in professional theatre productions. He has been enjoyed by audiences at NQC's

Artist Showcases, Gospel Explosion at First Baptist Church of Dallas, and in the Virginia Beach Gospel Music Festival. Timmy currently lives in Lynchburg, Virginia where he is pursuing a full time career traveling and singing. He would love to come and share his music with your church or special event! For more information, please visit his website, [www.timmywilliamson.com](http://www.timmywilliamson.com).



Nathan Kistler was born on the road and was singing at the age of three years old. He has had the opportunity travel with groups like Southern Gospel's beloved trio the Nelons, and most recently for almost two years with Americas Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and 24 countries singing about the won-

derful story of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has also been a part of three crusades on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and while there, he had the privilege of singing in the Pentagon courtyard twice. Through his father's ministry in Washington, Nathan began his work on the Hill as a ministry partner with different Christian organizations like Faith and Action and more. Nathan is a missionary to Washington and continues to work there during the week while singing Gospel music on the weekends around the country and being an artist in residence at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins, West Virginia.

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## SGN SCOOPS



Auke Bijlsma- I was born in Zaandam, The Netherlands on September 21st 1966. I'm Head of Operations for a major airline. My home is in the countryside of Holland where I live with my wife Patty, and our two kids: Jake who's 16, and Lexi who is 14, and our pack of dogs. My oldest children, son Jesse 23, and daughter Sarah 21, don't live with

me; they are all grown up building their own homes and lives.

In my childhood, I went to church with my family, and I fell in love with harmony singing. I sang in choirs, a Southern Gospel Trio, and made a few television appearances with that trio here in The Netherlands. At the moment I am not active in music anymore, but you never know what comes along.

In my teens, I started to listen to 50's Rock and Roll, and of course, Elvis Presley. Through Presley I was introduced to the great Gospel Quartets. I started looking for music by The Imperials, Jordanaires, and J.D.Sumner and the Stamps at first, because these were the quartets that backed Elvis for many years. My first love is Gospel singing, particularly Southern Gospel. I love groups like The Stamps, The Imperials, The Weatherfords, The Rambos, The Hinsons, The Cathedrals and many more.

Besides being a music lover, I love vintage cars, architecture, books, movies and writing. I hold a Masters in Journalism and Communication. I will write articles about anything; music, faith and life in general. Hope you will enjoy the views of an outsider. Thank you SGNscoops for giving me this opportunity.



Fayth Lore is a young woman from southern Ohio with a love for God and people. Although she enjoys chocolate, oldies music and spending time with friends around the bonfire, her passion is ministry. In January of 2014, after pastoring for 20 years, her family decided to follow God's call into music evangelism. In September 2015, they

launched into full-time ministry. The Lore Family travels the country, spreading the Gospel through songs, sermons and seminars. While Fayth loves to sing, she also has a heart for encouraging young women in Christ. She has spoken at various youth/women's events, as well as hosted her own blog for young ladies. To see more about The Lore Family,

visit their website at [www.thelorefamilyministries.com](http://www.thelorefamilyministries.com). To learn more about Fayth's blog, visit [www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com](http://www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com).