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JANUARY 2019

SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



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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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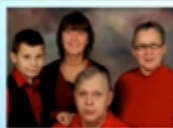
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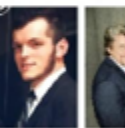
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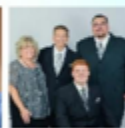
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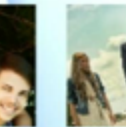
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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

Happy New Year! Starting a new season is a great time to reflect on the terrific friends I have who have walked with me for years, those I have met along the way in the last 12 months, and the new ones I look forward to getting to know in 2019.

Many of you I have met through SGNscoops Magazine, Creekside Gospel Music Convention, Christian Country Expo, Southern Gospel Weekend, or Coastal Media. Though we may have begun as work associates, you have become my friends and many of you have become my prayer partners.

Thank you all for your support and prayers over the last year. Through the good times and the bad, you have been there for me, upholding me with your prayers, words of comfort and texts of support.

I know that 2019 is going to be even better as we follow in the Lord's steps together. Thank you for your friendship.

God bless you in this brand new year.

I want to invite you to come join us at Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama, on March 21 - 23, 2019. We will enjoy three great days of gospel music in Alabama. We want you to be there and enjoy worship and fellowship with us!

Also, make plans to be a part of Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2019, Oct. 27 - 31, for five incredible nights and four great days of gospel music in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. We are going to have a terrific time and we want you to be there. Email me for details about either of these events, or how the Lord is changing your life, at rob@sgnscoops.com.

This is the Publisher's Point for January 2019.



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A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris: Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band

Photographs by Craig Harris



Recently, Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band, along with several guests, stopped in the Lipscomb University's Allen Arena, in Nashville, Tenn.
Photographs by Craig Harris.





Vonda Easley



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The Wisecarvers

A Family in Harmony



By Dixie Phillips

The Wisecarvers' faith runs so deep they can't help but sing about it. Their personal relationship with Jesus is the driving force behind everything they do. This Dove Award nominated gospel group has celebrated more than a decade of ministry. They are the first to give the Lord all the credit for their musical success.

The family can't remember a time gospel music wasn't a part of their lives—their mom, Tammy, grew up in a singing family and dad, Vince, had his own gospel group as a teenager. Their two sons, Dustin and Chase, followed in their parents' footsteps, becoming accomplished vocalists and musicians. Just when it appeared the group couldn't get any better, the Lord brought a beautiful pastor's daughter named Kaila Martin into their lives. Dustin married her and the Wisecarvers gained another talented singer.

In the beginning the family mostly sang at their home church and family reunions, but as their popularity

grew, they received numerous invitations to different churches. Those in the gospel music industry took notice. Skyland Records, a label of Crossroads Music Group, signed the Wisecarvers.

Dustin shares, "We have recorded three albums with Crossroads. The family is in agreement. We just love the whole team there and their willingness to work so hard to make our songs come to life. Jeff Collins, Scott Barnett, Van Atkins, and all the studio musicians are just super guys to work with. They so patiently listen to our ideas and the way we want the songs to feel and convey the lyrics. Then we also worked with the publishing, radio, and media with Greg Bentley and Jim Stover. They are just legendary in this business. There are too many people at Crossroads to name them all, but they each do their jobs with such professionalism and kindness."

Being signed artists opened many new ministry doors



for the group, as well as gaining national radio attention. They have been invited to perform at national stages such as Creekside Gospel Music Convention and Dollywood. As much as they love those avenues of ministry, their hearts always find their way back to churches all across America.

The family believes that God has called them to share a message of hope to hurting families. They founded and host an annual “It’s a Family Thing Smoky Mountain Weekend Getaway.” The retreat provides a place for not only families, but couples, youth groups, and friends to reconnect with each other and refocus on their relationship with Christ. This event has become a staple of their ministry.

Kaila said, “The retreat is in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, at the Steiner Bell Lodge. 2019 will be its fifth year. It is one of the most amazing experiences we’ve ever had. God has been so faithful to meet us there on that mountain each year and touch hearts and redeem lives. A large part of the focus of our ministry is on family. The devil is trying to tear families apart. If he can tear apart the family, he can tear apart the church. The dates for next year are April 5th—7th and our special guests for the Saturday evening concert will be Todd Parrott, Logan Smith, and Michael Combs. We have less than ten rooms still available. People can find out more information online at: <https://www.thewisecarvers.com/it-s-a-family-thing>.”

Fans who have heard the Wisecarvers immediately recognize that each member brings their own special talent and anointing to the stage. Chase is the lead singer and a very gifted songwriter and musician. He penned “I Need You” and “Turn Back Time,” the group’s first nationally charting singles. Both of these hit songs were life-changing for their ministry. Chase plays lead and acoustic guitar, as well as drums. He married Kasie in 2014, and they have a little boy, Bobby Jake.

Vince grew up around Greeneville, Tennessee, and started playing guitar and singing at an early age. He normally plays the acoustic guitar, but has just recently picked the lead guitar back up also. The family has really appreciated adding lead guitar into the concerts. Vince is a songwriter, too, and audiences love to hear his smooth voice perfectly convey songs he has penned.

Tammy tries to shy away from the spotlight, but is an integral part of the group. She, too, is a gifted singer and songwriter. Fans will hear a lot of her original material on the new record. Years ago, Vince recorded an album right after Tammy’s dad passed away from cancer and she wrote ten original songs for that recording.

Tammy admits, “It was one of the ways the Lord helped me cope through the loss of my dad. Years later, I was diagnosed with stage four bone cancer. Doctors told me without chemo, I only had six months to live, and 12 months with it. People began to pray and I asked



personal mountains and valleys they are walking through. Their songwriting method works. They aim for the heart and hit it. They are deeply moved as they watch their songs click with their audience night after night. Of course, the group's main focus is to see people come to the saving power of Jesus Christ. They all agree, "Nothing can ever surpass that miracle." But as songwriters, they are thrilled when they see someone connect to one of their songs.

for faith to believe for my healing. That was almost 12 years ago now. I never received one chemo treatment or had any surgery. God healed me."

Dustin sings the baritone part for the group and handles most of the emcee responsibilities. Like the rest of the family he is a songwriter and actually wrote the group's first Top 10 song, "Don't You Think You Ought to Worship Me." He plays bass guitar in concert, but his main focus is harmonica. Dustin and Kaila are the proud parents of their newborn son, Whalen Reed.

Kaila has filled the alto part for the group for almost seven years. Before that she sang with the Bradys, a group from her home state of Alabama. She is a songwriter as well and wrote "It Was Jesus," which tells the story of Tammy's healing from cancer.

People connect deeply with the group because of their authenticity. They sing songs and share testimonies about God's faithfulness through the real struggles and genuine heartaches of life. They have a sense of what the audience is walking through, and their greatest desire is to lead them to a personal experience with Jesus where they can experience His manifest presence. Because they know firsthand the Lord is the only One who can help.

Not only do the Wisecarvers sing and minister from an authentic place, but they do their best to be real and vulnerable with what they write about, which is usually

"When a songwriter shares something they've written with an audience and see them respond with tears in their eyes or their hands raised, there's just no feeling like it," says Chase. "We're also privileged to get to travel as a family which is such a huge blessing and backbone of our ministry."

They have never forgotten how their song, "Turn Back Time," touched the heart of a truck driver, while he was driving down the road with his radio on. He called them and said, "Most of the time songs don't really get to me, but I had to pull my rig over, because the words to the song touched my heart so deeply it made me weep."

"Anytime we receive a testimony that one of our songs has blessed someone or helped them through a struggle or even increased their faith, we are so humbled," says Vince. "We are just ordinary people who love an extraordinary God. We feel blessed that he would allow us to work for him and to accomplish something for his Kingdom is the greatest honor we could ever receive."

The family doesn't take their calling lightly. They admit that life on the road can be difficult. They have experienced bus breakdowns and travel issues. These struggles have tried to wear their faith down, but then they remember why they do what they do. They all agree, "Knowing our music is touching people keeps us keeping on."

Recently, something went wrong with the Wisecarvers'

bus and they didn't know how to fix the problem. Just when they were feeling overwhelmed, a woman sent them this message, "My husband, who had once been away from the Lord, was listening to your new album and just wept as the Lord blessed him while he listened." In the middle of the chaos, they got their spiritual perspective back. They knew the Lord had sent that message to encourage them and it helped them keep their focus.

The Wisecarvers are excited about their newly released album, "Silhouette." From the very beginning it seemed this project would just be different. As they began to get all of the songs together, they realized the messages were heavy—not depressing or sad—just heavy. The messages dealt with the group's own personal problems, but as they began to share those songs, they discovered their listeners were facing the same struggles.

Fans have resonated with what the lyrics say, especially Chase's song, "Best of Forever." The lyrics tell the truth of what we all deserve, which is eternal separation from Jesus Christ—the worst of forever, but what God

through his grace and mercy has given us is an eternity with him. He has provided for us the best of forever.

The group looks forward to what the Lord has in store for them. "As a ministry we want to walk through every single door the Lord opens and reach more people for him. As believers, he has given us all the precious seeds of the Gospel to sow into people's lives. We want to sow as many seeds for the kingdom as we can and trust him to bring forth a harvest of souls. Our desire is to keep writing about real life issues and the way God's faithfulness has always and will always prevail."

If you would like to know how you can have the Wisecarvers come minister at your church, please contact The Wisecarvers at 423.747.6815 or 423.735.9307. Or you are always welcome to visit their website at www.thewisecarvers.com.

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Dan Bell



By Vonda Armstrong

We are excited to spotlight Dan Bell, from Praise 96.3, East Tennessee's top Southern gospel radio station. Bell has been very a familiar voice in Knoxville radio for over 40 years.

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

Dan Bell: I'm music director and afternoon deejay on WJBZ, Praise 96.3, Knoxville, Tenn.. Our website is www.praise963.com. I actually worked here part time in 2001, and was honored to come back full time in 2016.

VA: At what age did you know you wanted to work in radio?

DB: I actually did my first radio at the age of 13, doing an hour long show on Saturday, in North Carolina, reporting school news and playing music. I had two older brothers in radio who helped me decide it's a great career, though I've done other things, (like) being an EMT, driving a charter or tour bus for 12 years, and even working at a funeral home back when I was in school.

VA: Will you share your testimony with us?

DB: You may think I look like Santa Clause, who I have portrayed for quite a few years, but Santa knows that Christmas is more about Christ than anybody else. My mom actually got her driver's license and bought a car, to make sure she took us to the Billy Graham Crusade in Charlotte, N.C., when I was 12. That's also when I was saved, though I think of Jesus saving me each day, and I need it daily.

VA: Please tell us about your family.

DB: My wife of 23 years is named Joy, and she is a joy to me and my best friend. Her son, who also named Daniel, is the closest thing I have to a kid. He's 33 and married, but not a dad yet.

VA: Please tell us about how you came to know Dolly Parton.

DB: I have worked in radio on just about any format you can think of, and because of working at a country station, I got to meet and interview Dolly Parton on the opening day of Dollywood, in 1986. Six years later, I wound up working at Dolly's radio station WDLY for ten years, including broadcasting from the park each day when it was open. I used to kid Dolly because she is older than me, but she would say, "You look a lot older."

VA: Any final thoughts?

DB: I love my job, especially meeting the people who make the greatest music in the world, gospel music, and the people who listen as well. The hardest part of my job is deciding what music to play, especially when it has the message of Jesus. Many times, I find myself praying for help in that choice.

Thanks to much to Dan Bell for agreeing



to come under the D.J. Spotlight this month. We ask our readers to be sure to listen to this Southern gospel Santa Clause every day of the year, and not just at Christmas. Happy New Year!



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2. Lord You Are Love - Sonshine Road
3. There's No Place Too Far From Grace - Tina Wakefield
4. I'd Settle For A Dirt Road - Chuck Hancock
5. Sermon On The Mount – Tommy Brandt
6. Wonderful - Lisa Daggs
7. Send The Rain - Kolt Barber
8. I Know The End Of The Story - John Penney
9. See You There - Freddie Hart
10. Coming On Strong - Cami Shrock
11. Call On Jesus - Ronnie Horton
12. Build My Mansion - Gene Watson
13. It's Written In The Scars - Dan Duncan
14. I Miss Them All – Jordan Family Band
15. Love You Like Mary - Mckay Project
16. Country As Cornbread - Shellem Cline
17. Just Because I Asked You - Gena Hamilton
18. Hide Me Behind The Cross - Tonja Rose
19. The Songs Will Never End - The Tiptons
20. It's Gonna Be A Good Day - Christian Davis
21. Thank God For Music - Tommy Brandt II

22. I Got Saved- Michael Knight
23. Hey Brother D.J. - Jimmy R. Price
24. Here To Eternity - Cindy Hughlett
25. Lord You Have - Jan Harbuck
26. Don't Let The Devil Ride - Doug Corum
27. Pictures - Jessica Horton
28. No One Compares To You Lord - Mary Fay Jackson
29. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
30. In Our Father's House - Bob Davidson
31. Sweet Whispers - Amy Richardson
32. The Old Man Is Dead - James Payne
33. Always Better - Kevin And Kim Abney
34. When Grandma Prayed - Appointed 2
35. Family Ties - Barbara Fairchild
36. Love Came Down - Peter Christie
37. Living Proof - Wyatt Nations
38. Oh, My God - Jamie Lynn Flanakin
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40. Take Her Name Off The Prayer List - Mark Lanier

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Westward Road

A journey of contagious joy



By Marcie Gray

Uncompromising joy is one characteristic that comes after an intentional decision to serve the Lord wholeheartedly with a smile, no matter the circumstances. The genuine joy that Scott, Kelli and Garrett Roberts of Westward Road share with everyone who knows them is evidence of their love for the Lord, and it's contagious.

Scott Roberts was raised in West Virginia, where his family attended a little Baptist church. He loved listening to the pianist play with her honky-tonk flair and the beautiful harmony of a group called the Reynolds Family. Scott's grandmother and sisters were talented vocalists and played several instruments. Scott started playing piano in fifth grade, singing along as he learned to play his favorite songs.

Kelli was raised in Frankfort, Ind.. Somehow, she shares this with total sincerity in her voice, "At my high school football games, they would occasionally play the Oscar Meyer wiener song instead of our fight song. The opposing teams would throw hot dogs at us. The town is serious about their hot dogs."

Kelli's family rarely missed a Sunday at the Baptist church she was raised in. At the tender age of four, she started singing solos. Kelli notes, "If all of my study material was put to music, I would have been a straight A student. I was much more interested in music than reading historical novels or

calculating algebraic equations." Kelli's mother was a singer and her grandma and sisters performed as a bluegrass group, playing guitar, mandolin and other instruments and singing harmony. Kelli played piano and trombone when she was younger, but in college, she focused more on vocals.

When asked how they met, Scott and Kelli's story got even more entertaining. It all began at Anderson University in Indiana. A young man who worked in the music lab noticed a beautiful young blonde, asked her out on a date and they fell in love at first sight. Well, not exactly. In fact, the way Scott and Kelli each tell their version of the story is hilarious.

According to Scott, Kelli and her friend had planned to go see a play, but her friend bailed on her at the last minute. Scott explains, "Kelli popped her head into the music lab where I was working and said she had an extra ticket for this play, then asked me to be her date for the evening."

Kelli quickly retorts, "That's not how it happened. We were having a friendly conversation and Scott jumped at the chance to go with me when he learned that my friend wasn't able to go." Their first actual date was at a choir concert, with Kelli's entire family in attendance. Kelli thought they were going as just friends, but after the concert, Scott kissed her. She obviously didn't mind, because 24 years and four children later, their sense of humor and adoration for one



another is as vibrant as ever.

The Roberts' oldest son, Garrett, is 21 and travels and sings with Westward Road. He plays the guitar and has a phenomenal voice. Next in line, Carson, is now 19. He used to sing with the family, but doesn't like to be in front of people, so he decided that stage life is not for him. Payton, their only girl, is 11 years old. She loves to dance and watch YouTube videos. Kade is nine and loves his Momma. Payton and Kade join the family on stage occasionally. Both are homeschooled and Garrett helps make sure their lessons are getting done.

For 20 years, Scott served as a worship pastor in both North

Carolina and Indiana. As the family began singing more frequently, Scott changed careers and drove a big rig for a trucking company to supplement their ministry income.

In the fall of 2014, Westward Road was formed and the Roberts family began taking their music wherever the Lord would lead them. The group is based in Pendleton, Ind., which has a population of less than 5,000 people, yet is home to three prisons. Scott jokes, "They let us out on week-ends to go sing."

Westward Road is a diverse mixed trio with a young and vibrant feel to their look and their sound. "We don't sound like your typical southern gospel group. Our energy is more intense and our look is a little different. Our CD covers, website and graphics are geared to appeal to a younger generation," shares Scott.

Both Scott and Kelli were raised in godly homes. Scott spent a lot of time with his grandparents and vividly recalls hearing them pray out loud, on their knees. Likewise, Kelli was saved as a young child and was baptized with her sister when she was seven years old. Her mother read her Bible every night and taught Sunday School at their church. That rich, godly heritage has prepared them to be used by the Lord now.

One of the most memorable moments in their ministry was



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at a concert where there was a woman noticeably in tears. Afterward, the church gathered around her and prayed. Kelli recalls, “She came to talk with us afterward and shared that she had been contemplating suicide. Her father and husband were both abusive and she walked in that night feeling totally hopeless and not wanting to live anymore. God used the music and testimonies we shared to restore her hope and change her mind.

“What an incredible lesson to all of us that we never know what someone might be going through. Even though the challenges of ministry can be daunting, being gone weekends and missing family functions, experiences like that night remind us why we do what God has sent us to do. We gave up a regular paycheck to take the hope of Christ out to the world, and we have never regretted it,” Kelli concludes.

Scott shares, “I was a very shy young man growing up. One of the things I love most now is making people laugh. I love moments where we feel the unity in the auditorium or church and we know that we are all just praising the Lord together.”

“(We love) just meeting the people, and finding ways to become real with them and draw them in. There’s a sweet trust as they share what God has done in their lives and we love to hear the testimonies of the people we are so blessed to meet along the way,” says Kelli.

“Scotty Inman confirmed something so true about the music business,” says Scott. “You can’t rely on other people for your success. You have to promote yourself, work hard, pound the pavement yourself to grow your ministry.”

It takes the whole family to make Westward Road successful. Scott is the driver and lead singer. Kelli handles the finances, keeps Scott up to speed on upcoming dates and sings soprano. Garrett sings baritone and handles video production, graphic design and some of the social media.

Scott, Kelli and Garrett close by sharing, “We thank you, SGNScoops magazine, for sharing the ministry of Westward Road with your readers. We are so thankful that God allows us to serve him and carry the gospel message through our music as we travel. To those reading, please visit our website to see when we’ll be in your area. We would love to meet you personally and pray with you.”

Westward Road is a Chapel Valley recording artist. Their latest album, “Jesus Can,” was released in August, and their single is the title track, “Jesus Can.” Their brand-new music video is on their website at: www.westwardroad.com, and their Facebook page at facebook.com/westwardroad/.

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Cherie Brennan: You Are Loved

By Justin Gilmore

Music is a way for people to connect not only to each other, but to God. Gospel music is especially powerful in this way. God speaks through the great artists we love and certainly speaks through the music of Cherie Brennan.

Brennan, who hails from Jacksonville, Florida, uses music to tell her incredible story of how God worked in her life. In 2003, Brennan had an experience that changed her life. She now makes it her mission to spread His Word to any who will listen.

Brennan's unique style and tender alto are captivating. She blends gospel, country, and pop to deliver the Good News. God has blessed her with an incredible voice that is gaining some notoriety as of late. Brennan stepped onto the national stage rather recently.

"Back in 2012, I saw an ad in Power Source Magazine, which was a Christian Country publication, advertising

a lot of the current Christian Country artists promoted by HMG Nashville," recalls Brennan. "That's where I met my current manager, Darlene Fowler, who started promoting my music to Christian radio. I worked with HMG for four years, always doing well on the Charts and finally in 2015, I was blessed with my first No. 1 on the charts for a song called 'Precious One,' a telling of the story of the Prodigal Son. When that company changed hands in 2016, Darlene started her own label and management company, MC1 Nashville, and I went with her."

Music has been a big part of her life since she was young. "Golly, I have had such a diverse background musically," Brennan admits. "My parents were classical purists, my mom being an opera singer and my dad was a violinist. I grew up singing with the radio in the car, pop, R&B and some country. I've always loved to sing harmony, so I'd be singing some harmony part with Aretha Franklin, Barbra Streisand, Patsy Cline, Ann

Murray, Billy Joel, so many artists from all different genres.

“As I listened to more country and country gospel music, I felt like I had come home. My writing and singing just naturally evolved. I love listening to Reba McEntire, the Oak Ridge Boys, the Gatlin Brothers, Vince Gill, Amy Grant, the Gaithers and the Isaacs to name a few.”

The country gospel influences are apparent in her latest single as well as her previous album. “I have just been doing singles for the past five years since my last album, so I think I am due. Along with my own music, I have been writing and co-producing songs for my son, Nick Brennan, an amazing new country artist, for the past year or so, and we just released his debut album, Nick Brennan, December 4, 2018. After a break for the holidays, I hope to be back in the studio working on new music for my next CD.”



CHERIE BRENNAN

One of those singles had a profound effect on her and listeners alike. Brennan explains, “My current single, ‘Here I Am,’ is especially dear to my heart. One morning, I was feeling completely overwhelmed by an avalanche of problems and just felt lost and afraid. As I sat at my desk praying, I opened my Bible to one of my favorite passages, Isaiah 10: 41. It starts out by saying, ‘Fear thou not for I am with thee,’ and I prayed for God

to speak to me, to help me feel His love and protecting care.

“As I continued to pray, the words and music to ‘Here I Am’ just poured out. It’s message of God’s eternal presence and tender love comforted me and healed me, right then and there. And my great hope is that it will have the same effect on those who listen to it. Nothing is too hard for God.... nothing.” This message of hope is why Brennan sings.

Hope is found in Christ and his Word. The singer’s lyrics are firmly based in scripture.

“I love the stories of the Bible and many of my songs relate these Bible stories, like ‘Precious One,’ which talks about the prodigal son, or ‘Show me the Chariots,’ which is the story of Elisha and the King of Syria,” explains Brennan.

“I had a huge life-changing experience in 2003 in which I was totally healed both mentally and physically by God from a life-threatening illness and a total disconnect from music of any kind,” she continues. “I came out of that experience just wanting to sing, play and write for God. My gratitude is unending for God’s goodness and power, and that’s where all of my music comes from.”

In her years of ministry, Brennan has had lots of adventures all over the country. She exclaims, “My most memorable experience singing country gospel music is hands down performing at the Ralph Stanley Tribute at the Opry last October. It was the most thrilling night of my life to be on that stage where so many great artists had performed. I sang ‘White Dove,’ written by Carter Stanley, and felt so much love. Everyone that performed that night was singing for God, and it was electric. The audience loved it, and it was such an outpouring of love for one of the great legends and man of God, Dr. Ralph Stanley.

“The thing I hope audiences will take away from my music and my concerts is the knowledge that God loves them. By sharing some of my personal experiences and stories where I found comfort and healing through prayer, I hope that people will understand that that same power of God is available to them as well, not just to some special few.

“Nothing touches my heart more than when someone

tells me that they have received comfort and blessings from listening to a song. To know that these messages from God have blessed someone else like they did me is so rewarding," confesses Brennan.

This singer has answered God's call and it is her desire to bring souls to him. She proclaims, "My mission statement is basically that I love God so much and just want to share that love with everybody. I often start my concerts by telling my audience that these songs that they're hearing are actually messages from God to me when I was in the pit and needed help, and that my joy is to share these messages with others...in the hope that they will comfort someone else like they did me. I am so aware of the fact that God has given me these songs to share, and unlike other songs in my life, I never get tired of singing them or performing them because the message is always so inspiring to me."

Cherie Brennan is anticipating great things with God in the future. She states, "I am so excited to be going back into the studio in January to write some new songs and hopefully release a new album some time in 2019. I also will be releasing a new single just after the new year. I also look forward to touring later on in the year and will keep everybody posted."

This lovely vocalist has been through some great times and some terrible hardships, but she is still standing in Christ. No matter what trials you face, God is in control. His love for us is unending. He died so that we might live with him forever. You are loved.



We would like to thank all Dj's for taking time on us and allowing our music to reach places that we may not be able to go and sing. We look forward to the future and we are excited to see what God has in store.

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Top 20

2019 January SGNscoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 20

1. The Church Bell - The Little Roy And Lizzy Show
2. That's Grace - The Primitive Quartet
3. Don't Look Back - The Rochesters
4. By The Marks In His Hands - Doyle Lawson And Quicksilver
5. If He Hung The Moon - Eagle's Wings
6. When the Storm Is In My Path - Heaven's Mountain Band
7. Super Water - The King James Boys
8. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
9. Sings Like Those - The Chigger Hill Boys And Terri
10. If God Doesn't Bless America - Williamson Branch
11. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson And Quicksilver
12. Hide Me Behind The Cross - Tonja Rose
13. I've Been Redeemed - The Grascals
14. Broken Things - Avery Road
15. Now I'm Here - The Stevens Family Tradition
16. Walking a Straight Path - The Baker Family
17. Why Should I Worry - Canaan's Crossing
18. Be Like Job - Tim Davis
19. He Took Your Place - The Grascals
20. At The Cross - The Family Sowell



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Les Butler and Friends:

Ben Rochester

By Les Butler

The first time I met the Rochesters, they pulled into St. Cloud, Fla., to sing at my dad's church. This would have been around 1985 or so. As a matter of fact, the feature artist this month wasn't part of the family band when I first saw the Rochesters. The next time I saw them I remember thinking, "I loved them the first time I saw them but, boy, have they improved." The person that put them on the top of their game was none other than our featured artist for this month, Ben Rochester.

Ben's first memory was going to church, something he's done a lot of over the years. The instruments he picked up first were the harmonica and banjo. As a side note, of all the instruments he plays, those are the hardest to master. Ben, unlike most musicians, started out with the most difficult instruments first. And when the "instrument train" started going down the track, there was no stopping him. Today he plays, guitar, bass, dobro, banjo, mandolin, harmonica and fiddle. He's also been known to pick and blow his nose pretty well (his words; not mine.)

He probably plays these instruments so well because he has learned from the masters. When asked about his mentors, Ben states, "Guitar: Ron Block, bass: Edgar Meyer, dobro: Jerry Douglas, banjo: Ron Block, mandolin: Adam Steffey, harmonica: the late, Terry McMullan, and fiddle: Stuart Duncan."

He did narrow his favorite instrument down for me a bit. Ben says, "I usually say the dobro is my favorite, but if all I could have on a desert island was one instrument, I'd have to say guitar, because it's more versatile."

And his choice between playing live or in the studio? Ben tells us, "Although I really enjoy playing in the studio, I would have to say I enjoy playing live the most." His favorite singer? Ricky Skaggs.

Other favorites? Ben notes, "My favorite song to play is "Freight Train." I don't know why. I just like playing it. My favorite song to sing is, "My Father's Eyes,"



written by Gary Duty.” Speaking of songs, he wrote one of the best songs the Rochesters sing, “In God’s Hands.” Powerful!

The Rochesters, as we’ve known them for decades, is going through a change. Ben, tell us about the changes. “Well, there has been a lot going on with our families the last couple years,” the talented player notes. “For about 20 years, we have traveled about 280 days a year. We’ve pretty much lived on the road. About two years ago we made the decision to cut back on our bookings.

“Daddy, (84 years old,) and Momma, (80 years old,) still travel with us full time and we saw the need to slow down for their sakes. We still have about 150 bookings a year, but it’s an easier schedule. The Matthews family is staying busy with revival meetings on the days that the Rochesters aren’t on the road. As for me, I stay pretty busy doing studio work.”

When asked about what he does when he’s not picking and singing, Ben laughs, “I’m thinking about picking and singing! Spending time with my wife and kids, hunting, fishing, a little woodworking.

And, I always like to end with testimonies. Ben, I’m sure you have one.

Ben relates, “I was five years old and one day, while at my mawmaw’s house, I remember really being bothered about whether I was going to heaven when I died. I

told her that I really wanted to be saved. She said well, ‘Won’t you wait till your Mama gets home?’ I could hardly wait, but I did. I remember kneeling by Mama’s bed and she took a Bible and led me to Christ. Oh happy day, when my sins were washed away!”

Ben Rochester could play in any country or bluegrass band in the world, or even play on million selling albums. I’m thankful that he chose his family and the Lord’s music. And, we are better off for it!



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Endless Highway

By Robert York

For decades, family groups have been a staple in gospel music. Fans have always loved generational and sibling harmony. Early family groups included the Chuck Wagon Gang, Speer Family, LeFevre Trio, Happy Goodmans, and so many more.

In 1971, Perry and Nell Wimberly formed the group known as the Joylanders. March 20th of that year, they performed in Dyer, Tenn.. The group included various family members and family members have remained part of their ministry throughout the years. Though members have changed, Perry and Nell continue to perform with the group.

Perry notes, "My wife and I have ministered for 46 years under the name the Joylanders. God and His Word are unchanging, but the times and culture do change with progress."

In August 2017, they underwent a name change and became known as Endless Highway. They arrived at the name from the Bible in the book of Exodus. In addition to the name change, they signed a recording contract

with Skyland Records, a division of Crossroads Entertainment and Marketing. Skyland records was created by Crossroads to seek out new talent that has the future to become a household name.

"Nell and I will continue to travel and sing along with the group as long as our health allows, but the focus will shift to the second and third generation," says Perry.

From the beginning they released numerous projects, but their first release under their current label is "East to West." The current radio single from that CD is "This is The Grace I Know."

Jason Griggs, son-in-law to Nell and Perry, notes, "We've had this CD for about five months now and it's time to begin planning for the next release. It usually takes about nine months or so from the time we begin listening to songs and then receive the finish product. So yes, it's time."

Jason's wife, Vanessa, is the second generation of the

group. She admits, “Singing and playing music has been a part of my family for generations.” As with every member of the group, Vanessa picks up the fiddle and other instruments during their sets on stage. Growing up, the Rambos and Lesters were groups this vocalist enjoyed and these influences are reflected in her performance.



She continues, “I’ve had several highlights through the years but really in this chapter of my life, being with my family doing what we do on stage.”

Vanessa and Jason Griggs have known each other all of their lives. They became friends when his family moved near to the Wimberlys. The two played music all the time together. Then, one day it was like a switch flipped. The couple realized there was more to their relationship than friendship.



“We were engaged six months,” says Jason. “We both realized that we had found God’s partner for our lives.”



Jason had previously played with his grandparents back in the 1960’s and 70’s, in a group called the Song Masters. He began by playing the drums and then transitioned to the acoustic guitar. An interesting note of trivia about Jason is that he was the ring bearer in Roger and Debbie Talley’s wedding. He notes that one of the best things about traveling was the audience’s reaction to seeing three generations singing on stage.

The Griggs’ son and daughter, Jay and Allison, make up the third generation of Endless Highway. When Jay be-

A promotional graphic for 'The Bristows'. It features a group photo of five people (three women and two men) standing in a field. Overlaid text reads: 'The Bristows', 'Listen for our new single: Heaven Sent', 'Booking: Suseann Bristow 678-231-9270', 'Facebook: The Bristows', 'email: srbatty@bellsouth.net', and 'www.thebristowsministry.com'.



gan to talk, he began singing with the group. He plays upright bass and drums.

Allison also started singing on stage at an early age, now playing the mandolin as well. She has also sings at women's banquets and outdoor events, as well as in church.

This 17-year old songstress has wonderful aspirations. "I would like to sing at the Ryman in Nashville or the

Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York."

Endless Highway from Trenton, Tenn., sings a variety of music, blending in Southern gospel, Bluegrass, A cappella, Acoustic and occasional seasonal music. They recently appeared at Dollywood and are scheduled to sing on main stage at The National Quartet Convention September. The group performs around 125 dates a year.

If you would like to catch Endless Highway in person, with their incredible family harmony and instrumentation, check their website www.endlesshighway.org

Greg Sullivan
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Song to be released in October is
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*to testify the gospel of
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Randall Reviews It - January 2019

by Randall Hamm

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the new year and may it be a good year for you musically, as I bring you reviews of some great music that you may want to seek out for your collection. With the new year here, welcome to 2019 and the first "Randall Reviews It" column of the year.

And as always... If you enjoy the reviews, pick up this music, or download it, wherever you get good gospel music.

Please send your latest releases for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, Ind., 47432. Now, let the reviews begin.



New Speer Family
"A Singing Heritage"
Producer: Brian Speer
Label: Independent

Songs: "Heaven's Jubilee" (George Speer); "Sunset Is Coming" (Traditional); "I Feel It In My Soul" (George Speer); "I'm Building A Bridge" (Lee Roy Abernathy); "He Is Mine And I Am His" (George Speer); "The Old Gospel Ship" (Traditional); "My Home Sweet Home" (M.D. McWhorter - W.D. Paris); "Won't We Be Happy" (J.R. Baxter - Denver Crumpler - V.O. Stamps); "The Hallelujah Chorus" (Traditional); "Sweeter Each Day" (George Speer); "The King Is Coming" (William J Gaither); "I Never Shall Forget The Day" (George Speer)

Twenty years after the Speer Family retired, Brock Speer's son has put together a group to continue on the Speer family heritage. Brian Speer (baritone) along with his wife, Allison (soprano/lead), Ben Waites (tenor/lead) and Mike Allen (bass), have put together a group that revives the sound and music of Brian's grandfather, George "Dad" Speer and Brian's father, Brock.

Around the year 2000 or so, Marc Speer, Ben Speer's son, launched "New Speer Revival" to continue the legacy, along with Karen Apple of the Speers, but that group was around for only a short while. This particular revival - I hope - will be around for a long while.

This recording contains 12 songs in all that the original Speers did and five written by Dad Speer. The album begins with a snippet of Brock introducing "Heaven's Jubilee," which then slips into the new group doing their version. Brian takes the lead and this group does the song justice and more.

"Sunset is Coming," is a pure joy to hear and has always been one of my Speer favorites. Allison sounds eerily like Mom Speer on this version, and it brought a chill hearing Allison sound so much like her.

This album features one of the last songs written by Dad Speer: "He Is Mine And I Am His." A number of groups have cut this over the years including The Trio, composed of Kirk Talley, Ivan Parker, and Anthony Burger, who did

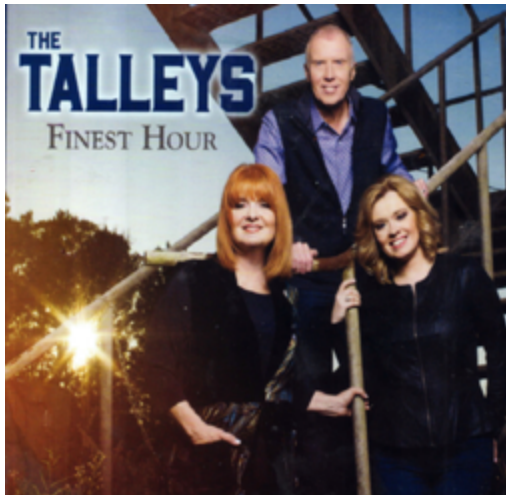
the song on their debut album in 2000. Allison is featured and knocks the song out of the park. It is one of the most powerful songs that Dad Speer wrote and the group does it justice and more.

Other highlights are “Sweeter Each Day,” “The Old Gospel Ship,” “Home Sweet Home,” and no Speer album would be complete without doing “The King is Coming.” The song was first done by the Bill Gaither Trio and Doug Oldham in 1970. The Speers recorded their first version in 1971 and the song has pretty much become associated with them.

Overall, Brian has put together a group that does justice to the legacy of the Speers. A great first effort and hope they will continue to honor the legacy.

Visit the New Speer Family on Facebook at facebook.com/NewSpeerFamily/ and get a copy of “A Singing Heritage” at newspeerfamily.com/store.html.

Favorite Songs: “He Is Mine And I Am His,” “The Old Gospel Ship,” “Sunset Is Coming”



The Talleys

“Finest Hour”

Producer: Roger Talley/Lauren Talley

Label: Horizon

Songs: “Look Up” (Lee Black - Aaron Wilburn); “Jeremiah 29:11 (You Have Plans)” (Lee Black - Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West); “When The Answer Is No” (Bernadette Negus - Melanie Watson); “Joy” (Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West - Tony Wood); “We Are Witnesses” (Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West - Tony Wood); “Grab Your Umbrella” (Kristi Fitzwater - Eddie Harrison - Bev Herrema - Dixie Phillips); “Death Was Arrested” (Ryan Baltzgliier - Adam Kersh - Brandon Koker - Paul Smith); “That’s What The Teacher Taught” (Lee Black - Rick Shelton - Sue C. Smith); “Get Me There” (Lee Black - Jason Cox); “Home At Last”

(Rebecca J. Peck - Dianne Wilkinson); “He Restoreth My Soul” (Lee Black - Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West); “Begin Again God” (Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West)

It’s hard to believe this is the 25th album of the Talleys with daughter Lauren, the first recording happening in 1996. Roger and Debra retired in 1993 from the Talleys so they could spend more time at home to raise daughter Lauren, and Roger’s brother Kirk began a solo career. So much for retirement. Roger kept getting calls to produce artists, and he and Debra were asked to put on a concert in their hometown of Morristown, and by 1996, they were back on the road. Twenty-two years later, the Talleys are still going strong and deliver “Finest Hour,” 12 songs from some of the best writers in the industry.

The first single, “Look Up,” was a Top 20 song with Roger doing the lead. “Look up toward the eastern sky, our redemption draweth nigh.” “Looking for hope? Don’t look around, look up.”

The latest single is a fun song: “Grab Your Umbrella.” Catch those blessings falling down! Also make sure to visit the Talleys on Facebook and see the video for this song; it is pure joy.

Speaking of joy...my favorite song is “Joy.” Lauren, along with Kenna Turner West and Tony Wood, have crafted a song that does what the song title says.

A possible single release should be “We Are Witnesses,” a song created in the style of “He’s Alive.”

Overall, the Talleys, after 25 albums, have not lost a step in their musical selections or style. “Finest Hour,” continues to deliver that unique Talley sound, straddling CCM and Southern Gospel.

Visit the Talleys at facebook.com/TheTalleys/ and get a copy of “Finest Hour” at officialtalleystore.com/.

Favorite Songs: “Joy,” “We Are Witnesses,” “Grab Your Umbrella”

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Bob Sellers: His leap of faith leads to inner peace

By John Herndon

Bob Sellers is at peace.

He was living a life many would consider a dream and secure in his position as lead singer for one of gospel music's popular quartets. But something was just not right in Bob's heart.

"I was there almost seven years," he says of his stint with the Kingsmen. "I wouldn't trade anything for the opportunity.

"But that was the first time I had traveled full time. I was not used to being gone from home that much. I lived in Alabama and sang with the Kingsmen in Asheville, (N.C.), so you were talking almost another full day of traveling time back and forth from Asheville to Tuscaloosa. I was gone 230, 240, 250 days a year and I was just not used to that."

The weekly 800-mile round trips just to go on the road for a while took their toll. So, in June, Sellers gave up a position many singers would cherish, for that which is most dear to his heart.

"I have a wife at home and three kids," Sellers said, a few moments before singing at Mt. Freedom Baptist Church in Junction City, Kentucky. "My oldest daughter is in college (at the University of West Alabama) on a basketball scholarship. I wanted to stay home and be more

involved in that."

But there were also realities of life staring at Sellers, a former banker. "It wasn't about anything else except wanting to be home," he says of his decision. "I said, 'God, something has got to pay the bills.'"

It was leap of faith. It has turned into a huge splash.

The plan was simple: Go solo and sing when he wanted. Trust God to provide the rest.

"I gave Ray (Reese, Kingsmen manager) about six weeks notice," Sellers remembers. "I started looking for solo dates then. Not a week has gone by that we have not been blessed."

Even though Bob had known down deep for some time that leaving the Kingsmen would be his move, the meeting with Reese was bittersweet. "I hated to do it because I love Ray so much," Sellers says. "But I also knew there were many young guys out there chomping at the bit who would replace me in a heartbeat."

What couldn't be replaced was Sellers' passion for his wife, Kansas, and children, Corley, Ellie and Will.

Even though Bob was torn by being away from home, he never lost the passion for sharing the gospel through



song. He'd sung in the Capstone Quartet, a regional group, for eight years before joining the Kingsmen. His solo career has taken him across the southeast, from Kentucky to Florida to Texas and points in between.

A Bob Sellers solo concert is a mix of old Kingsmen hits, gospel classics and hymns. At Mt. Freedom, he took requests and if he could find an accompaniment on his phone, he would sing it. He even borrowed another phone for one song.

"I sing slow, I sing fast," he laughed. "I don't have anything pushing me one way or the other. That is one thing I love about what I am doing. I have the freedom to go where I want to, do what I want to and sing what I want to. I sing old hymns from 'How Beautiful Heaven Must Be,' to 'Mansion over the Hilltop,' to recent radio hit covers. (I sing songs which) someone else may have sung, to songs I was featured on with the Kingsmen. It's whatever the Lord puts on my heart.

"I sing a lot of songs I have never recorded because I haven't had the opportunity. Some nights, people come by and say, 'I want to buy that song' and I have to say, 'I'm sorry, I don't have it.'"

Sellers does offer some CDs of compilations of songs he recorded over time.

And he's at peace knowing that God supplies. He's actively working on filling his calendar for 2019. There is no flat fee, and he says, "I don't have any clue what I am going to leave with. God provides. He does."

And God showed his blessings the day after Sellers announced he would be leaving the Kingsmen. Les Butler called to see if Bob would be interested in singing for the Old Time Preachers Quartet.

Bob recalls, "He said, 'I'm not trying to pressure you or anything else, but we are looking for a lead singer in 2019. We only do about 50 or 60 dates a year and I am not talking to anybody else. You can take a week. You take a month. You take however long you want to decide. We have our current lead singer until the end of this year. Crazy enough, I spoke your name to my wife last night, without any idea that you were leaving the Kingsmen. I told her if he ever leaves the Kingsmen, I am going to call him.'"

Bob and his family prayed and talked about it for weeks. "There was no reason for me to say, 'No,'" he says.

"Those are great guys. Mike Holcomb (who was with the Inspirations for 42 years) is one of the best bass singers ever. He's singing as well now as he ever has. Les is a great guy. They are great preachers and great men of God. Tim Owens sings tenor and does a great job.

"I'm tickled to death to be part of those guys. I will only be on the road about 60 days a year, so I can focus on the solo ministry."





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And giving up the dream job has turned into even more.

"I had a peace that surpasses all understanding," Sellers remembers. "One day I was painting. I was up in a corner and I was tired. The line wasn't as straight as it needed to be. But I realized if I looked a little bit ahead of the paint brush, the line where I had been would be a little straighter. God spoke to me in that way. He said, 'You have got to quit worrying about where you are or where you have been. If you truly want to be home more, you are going to have to let me take you.

"God straightened it all out for me."

In concert photographs by John Herndon. See also kentuckysings.com/2018/11/07/bob-sellers-leap-of-faith-has-given-inner-peace/

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Where Did The Southern Gospel Bug Come From?

By Charlie Griffin

Southern gospel music is one of the more popular forms of Christian music. Many times it is associated with country music, but that is not necessarily true. But one thing is for certain: When you are bitten by the Southern gospel bug, you have it for life.

From the roots of church singing came many forms of gospel music. Those chants and hymns of old, established the tone and rhythm that still influences generations today. The church songs of the 1600's and 1700's were chant, derived from the bible and poems. These songs took on different melodies and delivery when the masses began to sing or hum them in the fields, at the kitchen stove or on Sunday morning at the local church house.



As people immigrated to the colonies, those same songs were influenced once again by the colony natives. Those natives influenced the tunes greatly as they held their worship and culture close to their hearts when they relocated to the Americas or other lands.

Today, we call many songs "spirituals," and attribute them to the music genre of Black Gospel music. While the evolution of church hymns adopted spirituals into their collection of songs sung by worshippers of all cultures, ethnicities and ages, in church gatherings during the 1800's and early 1900's, the melody and message was contagious.



In 1910, it is documented that James D. Vaughan established a quartet to sell his songs books for the James D. Vaughan Music Company. Southern gospel or quartet singing was promoted by traveling singing school teachers, quartets, and shaped note

music publishing companies, such as the A. J. Showalter Company (1879), James D. Vaughan Music Company and the Stamps-Baxter Music and Printing Company, to sell their song books.

Over time, Southern gospel came to be an eclectic musical form with groups singing a mix of traditional hymns, acapella (singing with no instruments) songs, country, bluegrass, spirituals, and unique convention songs. Because it grew out of the musical traditions sung by white musicians from the American south, the name Southern gospel was used to differentiate it from Black Gospel.

Historians indicate that quartet style of the music existed for at least 35 years prior 1910. Traditionalists tell us that Southern gospel music was invented in the

1870's by circuit preacher Everett Beverly. Further proof of this time element is that Charles Tillman, who popularized "The Old Time Religion," and penned "Life's Railway to Heaven," lived from 1861 to 1943. Some of his material can be found in the publishing work and "normal schools" or singing schools of Aldine S. Kieffer and Ephraim Ruebush.



In the mid 1900's, quartets became more popular with radio stations using them for commercials and for entertainment singing on radio programs sponsored by companies advertising their products. There was no boundary of the type of products: Black Draught Cough syrup, Martha White flour, music companies, soft drinks and others filled the airwaves with the quartet sound.

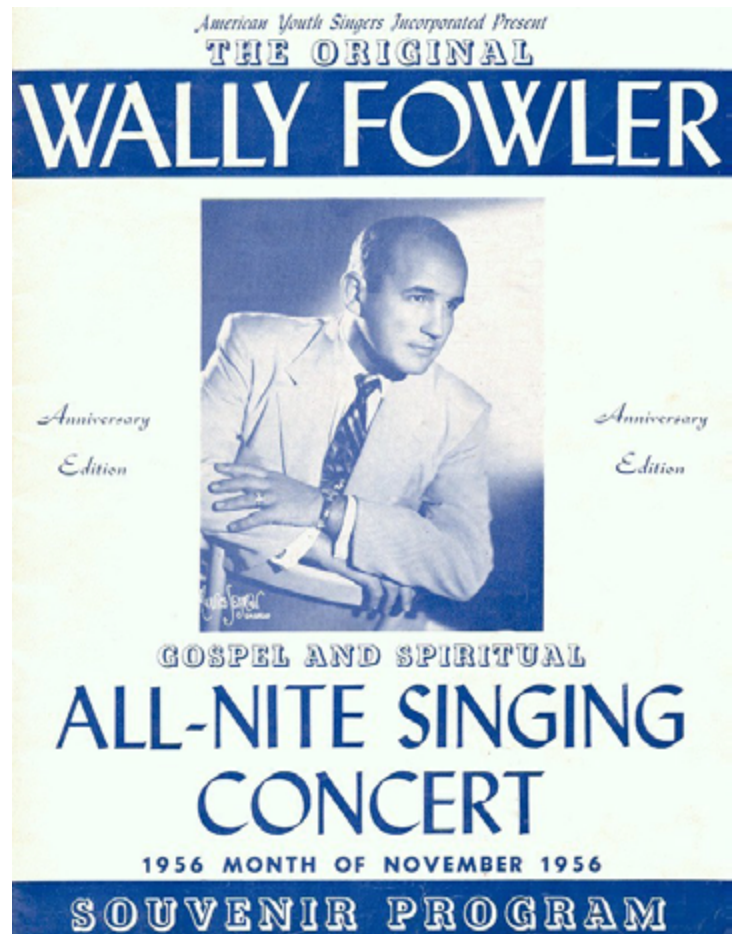
Some artists became hosts of their own radio programs which allowed them to sing in auditoriums and churches in the radio coverage area. As concerts grew in popularity within the radio market, Southern gospel music blossomed even more when TV stations hired quartets to provide entertainment and voice overs for commercials.

Southern gospel groups continued to perform in auditoriums and churches as Wally Fowler introduced the all night gospel sings. In the late 1950's and 60's, coliseums and football fields were Southern gospel music largest stages, drawing thousands.

The music evolved from a basic piano with the addition of bass guitar and eventually drums. The LeFevres were one of the first family groups to evolve from a trio to a quartet. In some cases, they were considered a small ensemble. They also were one of the most versatile groups as they sang with multiple instruments. Today many live bands are replaced by background soundtracks.

Television shows such as Jubilee, the Gospel Singing Caravan, Singing Time in Dixie, Bob Poole's Favorites, Norm Livingston Gospel Show, Huff Cook Gospel Show, and Gospel Songs with Earl Carney, along with countless others increased the popularity of Southern gospel music. Country music programs including the Arthur Smith Show and Carolina Calling TV Show were CBS TV network syndicated coast to coast shows which also featured gospel songs and artists. The Porter Waggoner Show featured gospel music and highlighted sacred gospel songs. In later years, Hee Haw would highlight gospel music with their own quartet and with sacred songs. The TODAY show is noted for having the Cathedral Quartet on their morning news magazine multiple times.

Groups such as the Blackwood Brothers, Dixie Echoes, Cathedrals, Florida Boys, Harvesters, Inspirations, Im-





perials, Kingsmen, Blue Ridge, Oak Ridge Boys, Stamps, Prophets, Statesmen, Trav'lers and Plainsmen Quartet (to name a few) were considered the mainstays of this music for many years. To many, Southern gospel was all about the male quartets, yet there were some mixed quartets that enjoyed popularity, including the Speers, Weatherfords, Lesters, LeFevres, Chuck Wagon Gang, Happy Goodmans and select others.



In the 1960's and 70's, there was truly an awakening as mixed groups began to pop up overnight. The Rambos, Lewis Family, Bill Gaither Trio, Hinsons, Sego Brothers and Naomi, Hoppers, Singing Cookes, and Jerry and the Singing Goffs began to receive recognition.

In the 1980's and 90's, the same evolution of new artists took off with the Talleys, Poet Voices, Gold City, Singing Americans, Heaven Bound, Paynes, Perrys, Perry Sisters, McKameys, Martins, Kingdom Heirs, Crabb Family, Karen Peck and New River, Issacs, Greater Vi-

sion and others making their mark.

With the retirement of the Cathedrals came new groups that were and are fully carrying on the traditions with the Legacy Five Quartet and Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. Add the Mark Trammell Quartet into that mix and you can say their heritage is rich and full.

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, there are new artists that continue to come along that carry the torch, including the Guardians, Old Paths, Carolina Boys Quartet, Williamsons, LeFevre Quartet, Triumphant Quartet, Brian Free and Assurance, Mylon Hayes Family, Collingsworth Family, and others.

Soloists and duets are now dotting the music landscape with chart songs, consistent radio play, and concerts in auditoriums and churches. Their message and delivery compliments the groups and provides a rich intimate concert worship experience.

Now this writer would be remiss to not recognize the most underrated branch of gospel music: The Weekend Warrior. There have been, and will always be, countless soloists, church, local and regional singing groups, working hard all week at other jobs and then traveling the roads on Friday until Sunday, singing for the love of the music and the message. We can never take away their contributions to the growth of Southern gospel.



It is the weekend warrior's dreams, original songs, passion, and dedication that fuels this music. They are the farm system for the "big boys" to draw from when they



need a singer, musician or song. They support the music, message and artists, as they understand the desire and the drive of the full-time singer. There is a saying among Southern

gospel music lovers. "Once you are bitten by the South-



ern gospel music bug, you have it for life. You can never get enough of the music."



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

1. Run The Race - The Hyssongs
2. Faithful - The Whisnants
3. Meeting In The Middle Of The Air - The Tribute Quartet
4. Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Mile - The Williamsons
5. I Know I'll Be There - Karen Peck And New River
6. Love, Love, Love - Gordon Mote
7. Never Changes - The Steeles
8. Watch And See - The Erwins
9. Rolled Back Stone - Greater Vision
10. Longing For Home - Ernie Haase And Signature Sound
11. Grab Your Umbrella - The Talleys
12. Treasures In Heaven - The Mark Trammell Quartet
13. Running - The Martins
14. Anything Less - The Taylors
15. Heaven Just Got Sweeter For You - The Kingdom Heirs
16. I'm Gonna Wish I Had Worried Less - Mark Bishop
17. You Chose To Be My Friend - Jason Crabb
18. Jesus, Messiah - The Gaither Vocal Band
19. God Fights On My Side - The Guardians
20. By And By - The Hoppers
21. It Carried Him - The Perrys
22. Lost - The Jim Brady Trio
23. Mercy And Love - The Collingsworth Family
24. Mount Testimony - The Lore Family
25. Silhouette - The Wisecarvers
26. Jailbreak - Joseph Habedank
27. Good News Never Gets Old - Three Bridges

28. On The Sea of Life - Jeff And Sheri Easter
29. Peace Is On The Way - The Old Paths
30. One Of These Mornings - Avenue
31. Let My Light So Shine - Zane And Donna King
32. Freedom Don't Come Easy - Debra Perry And Jaidyn's Call
33. Yes He Did, Yes He Does, Yes He Will - Master's Voice
34. Joy On The Journey - The Mylon Hayes Family
35. That's Grace - The Primitive Quartet
36. Revival - The LeFevre Quartet
37. We Believe - The Troy Burns Family
38. He Set Me Free - Sunday Drive
39. Least I Can Do - The Ball Brothers
40. Testimony Time - The Down East Boys
41. The Old Gospel Ship - Chronicle
42. He Is The Only One - Dixie Echoes
43. The News Is Out - Georgia
44. If He Hung The Moon - Eagle's Wings
45. I Can't Hardly Wait - Curtis Hyler And Jubilation
46. Part of Me - Covered By Love
47. Give Your Smile Away - The Wilbanks
48. Let Me Take You To The Cross - Ivan Parker
49. You Can Get There From Here - MARK209
50. All My Hope - Gold City
51. Pray For Power - Pauline Patterson
52. Love - HighRoad



53. In Jesus' Name - Michael Combs
54. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
55. Just Before The Dawn - Answered Prayer
56. Don't Look Back - The Rochesters
57. I Want To Praise Him - 11th Hour
58. The Return - The Soul'd Out Quartet
59. He Is Able - The Sound
60. Runnin' - Sharon Stewart And Out of Ashes
61. For My Good - Hope's Call
62. Blood of Jesus - The Carolina Boys
63. All That Heaven Holds - The Bates Family
64. Did I Please God Today - Mike Upright
65. Put It All On Calvary's Hill - Poet Voices
66. Coming On Strong - Cami Shrock
67. Pictures - Jessica Horton
68. The Calm At The Center of My Storm - River's Edge
69. The Stone is Rolled Away - TaRanda
70. We're Gonna Rise - The Littles
71. Testify - Cheri Taylor
72. I Went Down - The Spoken 4 Quartet
73. Little Is Much - Michael English
74. All My Hope - The Dodrill Family
75. That's What Happened At The Cross - Exodus
76. Power In The Blood/Are You Washed in The Blood - The Blackwood Brothers Quartet
77. Thou Knowest - The Arenos
78. Before You Change The World - Lindsey Graham
79. By The Marks In His Hands - Doyle Lawson And Quicksilver
80. How Can I Doubt That - The Hinson Family
81. I Get Down - Charley Lucas
82. Decided To Believe - Day Three
83. Amazing Grace - Jeremiah's Call
84. Long Gone - Victoria Bowlin
85. Everywhere I Go - The Heath Brothers

86. The Fight - Battle Cry
87. Let's Meet By The River - The Bakers
88. By The Touch of Your Hand - Messiah's Call
89. Yours, Amen - The Isaacs
90. When Jesus Comes In The Clouds - The Anchormen
91. Faithful to the End - Mercy Fell
92. Where Is The Valley - Ricky Atkinson And Compassion
93. I Know Him - The Inspirations
94. What Kind of a Man - Surrendered
95. Broken Things - Avery Road
96. God Told Me to Walk a Little Farther - The Porter Family
97. Choose Happy - Tim Lovelace
98. That's Grace - The Primitive Quartet
99. It's Gonna Be A Great Day - Jason Cooper
100. The Thing About a Valley - Steve Ladd

Southern Gospel NY

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We are bringing Southern Gospel Music
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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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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Happy New Year! As we head into the month of January, I hope that you had a lovely Christmas season and were able to reunite with family, friends and loved ones. For those that had an empty chair this year, our hearts grieve with you. For those that added an extra space, we rejoice. You never know what is ahead for the next 12 months, but one thing is for sure: God does.

God knew what he was doing when he gave the Wisecarvers their talent and the desire to use their gifts for him. What a great example of the many family groups that have begun to really shine in the last few years. If you haven't had a chance to hear them, you need to seek them out and listen to their music. We were thrilled that Dixie Phillips had time to chat with this family and to share their story. Congratulations to the Wisecarvers for being our first cover story for 2019!

You will find the thread of family throughout this magazine, as I'm sure you have noted by now. Westward Road, Endless Highway, the Rochesters, and even Charlie Griffin's feature - an abbreviated version of the history of Southern gospel music - emphasizes the role that family harmony plays in all genres, but especially in gospel music. For many of us are not blood relatives as such, but we are family because we believe in the saving power of the blood of Jesus Christ. One of our lessons while we are here is to learn to love each other. I pray that this year, I will find ways to show love, caring and appreciation for fellow believers. Will you join me?

As we turn the page to a new month, new year, new calendar, many people make goals and lists of how they will grow or improve in the upcoming weeks. I'd rather pray that the Lord will help me draw closer to him. But I also have to admit that I have a sinking feeling when people

mention resolutions. When I look at some of years gone by, I know that those resolutions have also gone by the wayside. Some have been shelved and others have just stalled. Do you ever feel that way?

May I encourage you, as I am trying to encourage myself now, to find your hope, peace and joy in the Lord? He tells us that if we believe that he is our source of strength, then he will be what we need to hit that resume button on goals or plans to use everything he has given to us to be able to mature into the person that can serve him with excellence. Whether that means you become healthier in body, mind or spirit, or whether you expand your knowledge of the Lord and his word, or whatever he has given you to do this year - you can do it. The Lord will enable you to do what he has asked you to do. Find out what that is. Let's grow together in 2019.





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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all- digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television 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.



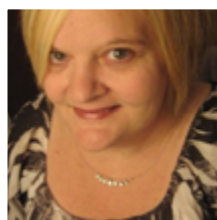
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



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.



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!



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.

Contributors

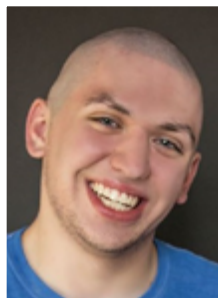
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Dusty Wells is a man of many talents and multiple skills, from his speaking engagements across the country, to traveling and encouraging various artists in the Christian music genres. Dusty has a passion that is evident from the moment you meet him.

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.



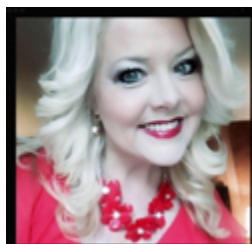
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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.



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.

Contributors

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Robert York- 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 and her ministry website www.stevensfamilymusic.com.



Cheryl Smith describes herself as a "passionate disciple and follower of Jesus Christ." She says: "I am married to the sweetest, most patient man for over 30 years...Mama to one miracle son God sent to us after 12.5 years of infertility...Homeschool Teacher who learns way more than I ever teach. I love to spend time with my husband

and son in the mountains, sing and play Bluegrass music, and write. I am so thankful for your visit and hope you will visit my blogs: homespundevotions.com/ and biblicalminimalism.com/ It is my goal to encourage you in your walk with Jesus and to inspire you to let go of this world for the

sake of a higher call. It is His call that I hope you hear. So compelling, so intense, so far above anything this world has to offer. It is the call His disciples heard as they went about a normal, ordinary day, fishing. It is a call they could not refuse. A call that caused them to drop everything they had and walk away from life as they knew it, without a backward glance. Can you hear it? Are you listening?"



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/TheSundayMorningGospelShow> 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.



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.

Contributors

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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.O. 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 Greenes, 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/>.



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.

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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 intergenerational 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.



Derek Simonis began singing gospel music at an early age, around the piano with his sister,s at home and in church. His mother, an accomplished pianist and music teacher, was his inspiration to sing. Derek was saved at an early age due to the influence of godly, praying parents and a faithful Sunday School teacher.

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas.

Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed."

His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is

to give his all in the service of the Lord.



John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years old and

eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps.

John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

He loves listening to gospel music or playing one of his guitars.

John lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Stephanie, and 17-year-old daughter. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.



Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGNscoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at www.CharlieGriffin.net.

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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.



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. To learn more about Fayth's blog, visit www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com.



Jimmy Reno is from Birmingham, Alabama. He began singing in church at four years of age. Jimmy has sung with various groups over the years, until singing professionally for Mark209 and the Florida Boys. Jimmy is married with three children.



Angela Parker is a life-long singer and sings with her mother's group, Mercy Rain. She resides in Lexington, S.C. She's been happily married to her husband Jack for nearly 4 years. He's supported every decision Angela has made without fail. Jack travels with Mercy Rain whenever he can and helps out where possible. He supports Mercy Rain continuously. Since Angela has recently been diagnosed with Lupus, Jack has done everything he can to take care of her.

Angela actively advocates for Autism Awareness. She feels education for all involved is the key to their success. She worked with Autistic children providing ABA Therapy up until her current illness forced her to have to quit.

She speaks out against Domestic Violence having been a victim of abuse for many years herself. Her constant battle today is healing from the mental scars that are left over after the physical and verbal abuse. Her personal testimony will help others see how God can deliver from abuse and help to heal the abused person.

Angela is very excited about writing for SGNscoops and loves all of the SGNscoops family. She loves the Lord with all her heart and has been blessed with awesome talent and love for others. You will be blessed by her talent and great spirit!

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Sarah Murray sings soprano for the Southern Gospel group Bless'd. The group is from Greenville, Tennessee and has been together for over five years. Sarah was born and raised in Jonesborough, Tennessee, but now resides in Greeneville with her husband, Chase. She has a

bachelor's degree in K-6 Education and a Master's degree in Human Resources Development. Her daytime job is being the Human Resources Director for a small company in Greeneville, Tennessee. Her passion outside of singing, writing, and crafting, is simply God's people. "I love the Lord and truly believe my mission in life is to reach his people, and that's both on and off the stage, behind my desk, and in my community. I just want people to see Jesus in me! I'm so honored to be a part of Bless'd and love our tight knit family group." For more information on Sarah, visit blessdministries.com



Kaleb Powell can be found in the small town of Greeneville, Tennessee. He sings baritone for the Southern Gospel group, Bless'd Ministries. Alongside Southern Gospel Music, Kaleb's passion is playing the piano. He started playing at the young age of 13 and for the majority, is self-taught. His style of piano

playing is inspired by artists such as Kim Collingsworth, Jeff Stice, and Gerald Wolfe. He has been singing and playing for Bless'd Ministries for the last six years.

Kaleb is currently the owner and operator of AKM of Tennessee, Inc., which is an organization that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. His life has been surrounded by taking care of others and for living out his passion through music ministry.

"I feel honored that God chose to give me the talent He did in playing the piano. I feel that if I can use this to serve Him more, I will perfect my talent to be used as only a vessel for Him. Being a part of Bless'd and traveling with our group is a lifelong dream of mine that I am forever grateful God saw fit to put together. On and off the stage, I want my talent to be only used for Him and to be a part of seeing souls saved." For more information on Kaleb Powell, visit blessdministries.com.



During his 40 plus year career, Bill has developed expertise in commercial banking, retail banking, sales and marketing, media, and financial consulting. After years of being bi-vocational, he was able to merge his professional expertise and his passion for ministry. Since 2010, Bill has been

helping churches and ministries with areas of operation. This includes financing (construction, permanent financing, re-financing). In addition, many organizations need help understanding how to market their ministries and how important it is to promote their ministries properly through media and social networking.

Over the past 40 years, Bill has become an accomplished gospel singer, having performed on 32 albums and produced over 200 albums for other performers. His extensive professional credits include singing with renowned gospel music groups including The Cathedrals, The Goffs, The Senators, and The Rhythm Masters, which performed four songs that reached No. 1 in the gospel music charts. In addition, Bill has received nominations for three Dove Awards and a Gospel Music News Award. He is also known for writing and performing the Gold Record winning song, "No Greater Love." Bill also performed in events led by Jerry Falwell, Pat Robinson, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Dr. Paul Conn, and most recently, he performed with Governor Mike Huckabee.

Bill studied finance at the University of Cincinnati and vocal performance at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. He also attended seminary at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and he holds a Doctor of Divinity Degree at Heritage Baptist University in Indianapolis. Currently Bill serves on the Board of Trustees for Davis College in Binghamton, N. Y.

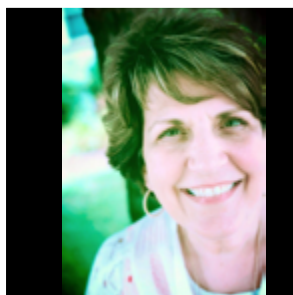
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Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world of music that surrounds us. She believes

when words fail us, music speaks.



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by The Talleys, Gordon Mote, The Williamsons, Doug Anderson, Susan Whisnant, The Erwins, Jay Stone Singers, Master Promise, Three Bridges, Endless Highway, 3 Heath Brothers, Fortress, and many other gospel artists.

Dixie is also an Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.



Amy Duncan Oxenrider, the daughter of Grant and Shelia Duncan, is married to Jason Oxenrider and they have three sons, Brady, Weston, and Rylan. Amy works as a psychometrist for the Mississippi Department of Education. She also writes for Pure Gospel Magazine and

is now a member of SGN Scoops.

A former member of the Riders, Amy continues to minister through singing and speaking engagements. She is excited to see what her future holds and longs to uplift the name of Jesus Christ wherever the doors may open.



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

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.