

APRIL 2021

SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



THE MARTINS

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Table of Contents

| | |
|----|---|
| 5 | Publisher's Point |
| 8 | The Lowe Down by Jeff Lowe |
| 12 | The Martins by Lori Goss Wise |
| 17 | Lisa Daggs by Jimmy Reno |
| 21 | The Passion of Gospel Music and Ministry by Johnathan Scroggs |
| 25 | Tara Johnson by KayleighAnne E. Stanton |
| 29 | SGNScoops Gospel Music Top 100 |
| 32 | SGNScoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 10 |
| 32 | SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40 |
| 33 | SGNScoops New Releases Top 20 |
| 35 | Our Journey with Autism by Donna Journey |
| 37 | George Younce by Charlie Griffin |
| 42 | Jump for Joy by Joy Holden |
| 47 | Les Butler and Friends: Becky Matthews |
| 50 | Contributors |

Our Mission

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

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Editor- Kristen Stanton
VP of Sales & Marketing- Vonda Armstrong
Layout/Design- Staci Schwager, Pete Schwager
Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley
Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



As I opened up the notes on my phone to start writing this, in the background I heard people talking and flights being called to different locations throughout the country. I'm finishing up a trip that, in the past, I might have taken for granted.

But not this time.

I've enjoyed every minute of the last few weeks during our time in Oxford for Southern Gospel Weekend and also our time in Pigeon Forge for our brand new event Creekside Revival. If you missed Creekside Revival, you missed out on a special time! I encourage you to join us next year March 30-April 2, 2022.

The theme of Creekside Revival this year was don't give up. Don't quit. Although unplanned by us, it is still resonating in our hearts even now, weeks after the event. Night after night, we heard songs and testimonies that centered around this, all orchestrated by God who knows where we are and what we've been through. Yes, the last year has been full of struggles, and if we are all honest with each other, I'm sure at some point, we have all thought about quitting. Including me.

"So what stopped you?" a Creekside Revival participant asked after hearing that I had contemplated quitting. It caught me off guard. So what stopped me?

I paused for a moment. This was my answer: I don't think God is done with me.

So let me tell you something I learned over the last few weeks: God is not done with you yet. The circumstances may seem overwhelming. You may not have any idea of even how to begin again, but God's not done with you yet.

Those around you may be telling you to quit – but let me tell you, God's not done with you yet.

Your finances may look bleak, but let me tell you – don't quit. God's not done with you yet.

I will tell you that when I left Creekside Revival, I felt more revived than I have in a long time. As my mind began to plan other events, create other opportunities, the joy returned to my heart.

I want to encourage you today with this reminder: the best comeback stories are from people who are flat on their backs and who don't have anywhere to turn. I want to hear your comeback story. I want to hear how you didn't give up, how you didn't quit, and how God used you. If you're willing to share your story with our readers, please email us at editor@sgnscoops.com.

Now that I've talked about Creekside Revival, I want

to invite you to the event that started it all: Creekside 2021, October 24-28 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I believe that it is going to be a life-changing five days, and I want you to be there. Over the next few months we will be announcing the preachers and the artists. I want to encourage you to book your hotel room as early as possible as we feel we are going to sell out. So please call me at 425-754-1147.

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



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THE LOWE DOWN

WITH JEFF LOWE



The Inspirations
What A Wonderful Time Live
Label: Crossroads Label Group
Release Date: April 2, 2021

Songs on this project:

Reunion in Heaven/Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs
Jesus Is Coming Soon/Robert E. Winsett
When I Walk on the Streets of Gold/Hal Reeves
Living on Higher Ground/Claude B. Thornhill
Mother (Listen to the Angels)/Ila C. Knight
He Made a Way/Squire E. Parsons Jr.
When He Blessed My Soul/J. R. Baxter, Cleavant
Derricks
Home Is Sounding Sweeter/Roland Kesterson, Jew-
ell Kesterson
Shoutin' Time in Heaven/Luther G. Pressley
Jesus Is Mine/Wally Fowler, Virginia N. Cook
When I Wake Up to Sleep No More/Marion W. East-
erling

In 1964, a Chemistry teacher from Swain County High School and three of his students would meet

weekly to sing gospel songs. Who would have thought that fifty-seven years later, The Inspirations would still be singing Southern Gospel music and thrilling the hearts of fans everywhere. The Inspirations had a number of hits throughout the '70s. In January of 1970, they landed at the top of the Chart with "Jesus Is Coming Soon" which marked the beginning of their chart-topping success. In November of 1973, The Inspirations held the #1 spot for 12 months with "Touring That City." It was followed by the success of "When I Wake Up to Sleep No More" in 1974 and "Jesus Is Mine" in 1976.

I first heard The Inspirations in 1974, I was fourteen years old and it was immediate love. I couldn't get enough of their music. I listened to them constantly. I wanted to be in a quartet. I listened to Mike Holcomb, followed along with his part as best I could. In the back seat of my dad's car, I learned to be a bass singer, listening to this quartet.

For fifty-seven years The Inspirations have remained the same. Oh, they've had membership changes – all groups do and they've had their share. Their music has stayed the same throughout all these years. When Covid-19 hit last year, tenor Archie Watkins, baritone Eddie Deitz, and bass Marlin Shubert decided to take a break for the sake of their health. They brought in Isaac Moore on tenor, Roland Kesterson continues as lead, Luke Vaught on baritone/piano, and Wyatt Austin as bass. These four young men are doing a great job carrying on The Inspirations' style of Southern Gospel Music.

As I sat back and began to listen to this latest project, it was no great surprise to hear that distinctive Martin Cook style of piano and the unique vocals

all their own. When the opening track, "Reunion in Heaven" started, I got those same glory bumps I had as a young boy. Current tenor, Isaac Moore, did the song and Archie Watkins justice on the verses to this great song. Lead singer Roland Kesterson sounds so much like little Troy Burns on "Jesus Is Coming Soon" you'd swear it was Troy himself.

Wyatt Austin more than handles Mike Holcomb favorites "When I Walk on the Streets of Gold," "He Made a Way," "When He Blessed My Soul," and "When I Wake Up to Sleep No More." Other Inspirations favorites include "Living on Higher Ground," "Jesus Is Mine," "Mother (Listen to the Angels),"

"Home is Sounding Sweeter," and "Shoutin' Time in Heaven."

Track after track showcase the songs made great by The Inspirations, each performed with the same excitement and exuberance as the original Inspirations. If you're a longtime fan like I am, you will want to get this project added to your collection.

To learn more about The Inspirations, visit their website at <http://www.theinspirationsquartet.com>

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars.



THE Williamsons

www.williamsonsmusic.com



Our latest release: "Give Them Jesus", written by Gerald Crabb and Lee Black.

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The Martins

Representing the Message with Excellence

by Lori Goss Wise

It is 9:30 PM. and from the kitchen of Joyce Martin Sanders, the sweet aroma of fresh baked cinnamon rolls fills the air. Time with family is imperative and cooking is a passion. It is always a pleasure when Joyce shares her cooking skills via a Facebook Live post.

Known for impeccable harmonies, authentic stage presence and unparalleled acapella abilities, The Martins are in a class of their own. Their musical talents are endless. This multiple Dove award winning and three-time Grammy nominated sibling trio has graced stages across the nation. They have enjoyed multiple top charting successes and are honored with a plethora of accolades and awards. The group consists of Joyce Martin Sanders, Jonathan Martin and Judy Martin Hess.

Growing up in Hamburg, Arkansas, they were a tight knit family and community. Their Mom taught them how to sing and soon how to harmonize. Joyce learned harmony first and then Jonathan. Judy would sing lead, and their Mom would quietly whisper the harmony parts in their ears. Soon, they simply could hear all

three parts. Joyce began learning piano and Jonathan quickly picked up guitar.

This young trio would get so excited when the music director of their home church, Tillou Baptist Church in Bastrop, Louisiana, would ask if anyone had a song to share. Those little hands would go straight up in the air, excited to share what they had practiced all week. Those 5th Sunday Singings were always their favorites. Soon neighboring churches were inviting them to come and sing at homecomings, festivals, revivals, and community events. They loved singing, and they always said yes! Their Daddy instilled in them a strong work ethic.

As their schedule increased, they began homeschooling. When Jonathan learned to drive, their parents began staying home more and letting the three travel everywhere to share their talents. They would drive hours for these opportunities.

If the Mid South Boys were singing within a two-to-three-hour drive, they would invite The Martins to

come sing during intermission. This young trio would pop in their cassette and sing as much as time allowed. Over the next few years, they sang everywhere possible. Joyce recalls their first time singing with Jeff & Sheri Easter and The Cathedrals. It was paramount and they were elated. There was an industry buzz beginning about those “Martin Kids” and for good reason.

During an annual National Quartet Convention, The Martins mom put a cassette in the hands of Michael

Homecoming videotaping session. There was only one thing unresolved – The Martins had not been invited.

On the drive north, Michael explained that if the opportunity to audition for Bill Gaither came to fruition, it would be quick and there would be zero time for cassettes or instruments. They were now nervous about how they would audition. Michael expressed the immediate need for an acapella song. They decided on a song, and so over the next few hours, they rearranged

and literally practiced the entire 6-hour road trip. Michael pushed them out of their comfort zones, and they creatively obliged.

As they entered the studio for the evening rehearsal, Joyce, Jonathan, and Judy sat quietly in the foyer. When Gloria Gaither stepped out of the studio area, Michael English and Mark Lowry seized the moment. They asked her if she would listen to these young people sing. So, with no other place to be alone, they all stepped directly into the women’s restroom. It was here that Gloria first heard their amazing harmonies. Following the rehearsal, they all headed to the hotel and drifted off



English. He shared the music with Mark Lowry, and soon, The Martins had two iconic fans. They continued to work hard and establish more bookings.

It was 1992 when Michael English loaded up the van with these three youngsters and headed to Anderson, Indiana. He was scheduled to take part in a Gaither

to sleep.

On the morning of the actual taping, The Martins were simply watching the monitors from a small side room. They loved watching the process. Michael and Mark – and now with Gloria’s blessing – encouraged Bill to let them sing.

It was a huge moment, and they were literally scared to death – knees were shaking, ears were ringing, and the world simply stopped. They saw the faces of the Happy Goodman Family, The Hinsons, The Cathedrals, Jeff & Sheri Easter and each one of their industry icons. They recall seeing Mark Lowry smiling and Michael English almost expressionless – as if to say, “make this opportunity count!”



The Martin siblings sang their hearts out, and their acapella rendition of “He Leadeth Me” was recorded and added to the Gaither Homecoming video. Bill Gaither soon placed them on his label. With the Gaither stamp of approval, their love of singing, and an already strong fan base, The Martin name gained a whole new level of notoriety.

Their calendar filled quickly, and soon they were traveling over 240 days annually. They practically lived on their bus and were living their childhood dream. They have said on numerous occasions that “Michael English created The Martins.” He taught them to push their limits and helped them create a sound that is still infused in every song and project recorded. Michael English and Michael Sykes produced and arranged

their first record. Their wisdom and faith in these “kids from Arkansas” helped establish and promote The Martins.

At a Billy Graham rally in Nashville, they recall one of their most powerful platform moments. They remember the beautiful sounds of the choir, the singing, the preaching, and then Brother Graham speaking the words, “Would you come?” People began flooding the altars, and it was literally breathtaking. From the tip top of the stadium, lines of soul-searching individuals were making their way to Jesus! The Martin’s view from the stage was overwhelming. It made a lasting impact that they have never wanted to forget that feeling.

In 2003, the group chose to come off the road for a needed time of reflection and renewal. During this sabbatical, they each pursued individual goals. From solo music ministries to time with family to simply realizing a basic principle. They learned they did not have to stand on a stage to be effective for Jesus. They could be the hands and feet of Jesus without singing even one song.

These days Jonathan resides in West Des Moines, Iowa with his wife Dara. They are blessed with children Halea, Michael, Taylor, Olivia, Emilia and Harrison. Judy resides in Columbus, GA and is married to Jake. They are amazing parents to children - Jake, Hannah, Emma and Isaac. Joyce loves being married to Paul and they love movie and popcorn nights with Lilbourne and Mae.

Making schedules work and ensuring time with spouses has proven tough on occasion. In this industry, you basically treat Monday through Wednesday as your weekend. Family time is of the utmost importance. To this day, Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday. The family all returns to their parents’ farm in Arkansas for an entire week. They play games, watch football, tell stories, play music, sing, and EAT.

Joyce is a strong advocate of Angelman Syndrome awareness. Daughter, Mae, has the disorder and they are coordinating the ASF Walk in Nashville on May 15., 2021. If you would like to be a part of this fundraiser – please visit: www.angelman.org/walk and register to walk with Team Mae Mae or donate directly to Angelman Syndrome Foundation for community sup-

port, awareness, and a cure research. Mae is a beautiful soul. Anyone with a special needs child knows that there is nothing more exhausting and nothing more amazing. You simply learn to stay faithful and celebrate each wonderful moment. Mae is always happy and faces life fiercely. Joyce describes her as “my hero.”

During a concert you will find that they speak openly about mental health. They give the reality of depression and anxiety center stage when they perform, knowing that talking about it takes it from the shadows of denial and into the light where individuals can deal and heal. Their transparency is a welcomed trait.

After returning to the platform in 2010, their precedent-setting musical influence is as strong as ever. During their ministry, they have appeared on many grand stages and renowned platforms. The Grand Ole Opry, Sam’s Place at The Ryman, Carnegie Hall in NYC, Fox News Channel’s Fox & Friends, Celebrating America’s Musical Heritage – A Salute to Gospel Music at the White House are just a few that come to mind. Each opportunity created memories and amazing times of reminiscing. The group shared that the first time they headlined Estes Park, Judy fell backwards over a stage monitor. They laugh telling the story.

Joyce, Jonathan and Judy have all been mentors, trend-setters and influencers, especially in the lives of young and upcoming artists. They instill the importance of hard work, stage presence, authenticity, crowd communication, preparedness, good song choices, good musicians, practice, and a lot of patience. Their message is to “always represent the message with excellence.” God deserves our absolute best.

This family trio earns many frequent flyer miles and loves every moment. They are excited to see touring schedules increasing and venues reopening. Although they have scaled back the quantity of dates, the quality is rock solid. Their passion to share the love and gospel of Jesus Christ is at an all time high. They know God still has big plans, and they simply follow His directive.

Do yourself a favor – download The Martins music, visit their online store, and make plans to attend a concert soon. The buzz that began years ago is stronger than ever.

You can follow The Martins on Instagram, Facebook and/or visit their website: www.martinsonline.com

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Lisa Daggs: No Turning Back

by Jimmy Reno

Lisa Daggs was born as a third child and one that, due to complications, was expected to be born as a “blue baby” – a condition in which not enough blood circulates through the body. Her survival rate chances at the time was around 50 percent. As her due date approached, medical staff prepared blood transfusions, expecting the worst. Not only was she the first daughter for her parents, but she arrived perfectly healthy. God had His hand on her and this would carry over in her life time and again.

By the age of 3, Lisa was singing her first solo at church. A few weeks later, while riding in her parents car, she grabbed the door handle and fell out into the street. While her parents feared the worst, when they stopped and got to her, she was fine despite the tumble out of the moving car. God again had His hand on her, protecting her for a specific purpose and calling on her life.

Whenever issues would arise for her during her childhood, music was always her refuge. It gave her comfort and peace. She knew from an early age she

wanted to pursue music, so when she was older she headed to Nashville, Tennessee.

After being in Nashville, an incident found her staring down the barrel of a gun during a robbery, when suddenly, a car driving nearby crashed. The noise was loud and startled the robber. She was able to escape because of the distraction. Afterward she called her mother, who had awakened during the night with Lisa weighing on her heart. The time that her mother finished praying for her was the exact time Lisa had gotten away from the robbery. She knew it was God.

Not long afterward, and finding herself facing a potential prison sentence of 3-5 years and dealing with drug issues, Lisa went through a rehab program. “That was the end of a 10 day run for me. I hadn’t eaten or slept. I was just on a drug-high, alcohol-high for those 10 days and then that was when I got arrested,” she said.

While sitting in the jail cell, she began to reflect on things. “I asked the Lord, how did I get here? It was

a Sunday on November 11, 1989, and I was just like 'how did I get here Lord?' I'm wondering how long did I have to be there and saw other women that I thought were worse off than I was and they were bailing out. Then I heard in a still, small, gentle voice, 'compromise.' Because of your compromise, these are your consequences," she explained.

On the brink of her band being lined up for an overseas Department Of Defense tour, she found herself jailed and facing rehab or a prison sentence.



During this time, her band was taken from her. She recalled, "That was the last straw for me. I was done. I had tried to handle everything on my own, but I told the Lord my hands are in your hands. Do what you want with me. Have your way because I can't do this anymore."

That total surrender saw her life change. Doors were opened, and she had renewed opportunities to travel and sing for the Lord, sharing her brand of Christian Country music. Then the opportunity to travel with Bill and Gloria Gaither came along.

"Traveling with the Gaithers for me was a dream come true. I was on around 25 of their videos. Glo-

ria Gaither wrote my foreword in my book. She's a phenomenal writer. My favorite part was always when she would share. I would just be engulfed in whatever she was saying. She is quite the orator," she stated.

Lisa would face more difficult times as her first marriage ended. She found herself in financial hardship and losing her home. She would later on meet fellow singer songwriter Ronnie Horton and knew God placed him in her life. It was another moment of restoration for her as God restored for her everything she lost and so much more. Lisa and Ronnie now are married and continue to follow God's calling on their lives.

Her career has seen over 21 number 1 singles, numerous awards like the Inspirational Country Music Entertainer Of The Year award and in 2016, she was nominated for ICMA Living Legend Award.

When asked if she saw this type of success and the sustained longevity of her career, she stated, "No and what always amazes me is no matter where I am, people recognize me and will tell me they saw me at their church. The best one has been a young person who told me they had considered taking their own life and heard me on the radio... knew it was me because they heard me at their church and they couldn't go through with it after hearing my song."

Moments like that inspire her to continue onward with her ministry and to keep sharing her testimony and music.

Despite a difficult year in 2020 due to Covid-19 related restrictions, she is determined to continue on. Lisa says one of the things she hopes people take from her concerts is that it's never too late to change, and we are never so far that He can't reach us.

Working currently on her new project, she believes this may be her best one yet. "I have 10 songs cut and they are passionate in their message. I'm also now the owner of Serenity Records and producing as well," she said.

With a new book detailing her amazing testimony and journey to where she is now, and a new album forthcoming that she is excited about, Lisa is looking forward to the future.



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"God has been faithful to me and there's been a prophecy over me that the Lord would bless all that had been stolen from me. I had moved 4 times in 5 years as a single Mother and lost everything. Now God has restored everything back to me," she declared.

"I have the serenity prayer in almost every album I've done." Living her life by accepting things she can't change and having courage to change what she can has taken her far in the music industry. Her story is a remarkable tale of redemption and restoration. Lisa Daggs wants everyone she can reach to know it can be their story as well.

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The Passion **of Gospel Music and Ministry**

by Johnathan Scroggs



We have all most likely heard of, or have seen, the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. I want to share a story that is near and dear to my heart, *The Passion of Gospel Music and Ministry*.

I was very blessed to get to know the young man that I am writing about when I was offered the privilege of traveling and doing ministry with the gospel group, The Williamsons, back in 2009 and for a few years afterwards. The first time I heard them take the stage, I was surprisingly blown away. As many of you already know, when you have been in gospel music for any length of time, it becomes increasingly more difficult to be impressed, but I found myself wide-eyed and jaw open as a young man by the name of Darin Hebert began vibrating the walls and the very bench that I sat on with his bellowing deep notes and beautiful tones. (Side note – pronunciation of his last name Hebert sounds like “a bear”).

When I first met Darin, he was only 19 years old, and yet he had a vocal depth and tone similar to my very own hero in gospel music, George Younce, who sang bass for the legendary Cathedral Quartet. Darin Hebert comes from Oak Grove, Louisiana, where he attended The Goodwill Church of God. At the age of 17 he began traveling around Arkansas, singing gospel music as his passion continued to grow. During this same time, there was a gospel group traveling

nationally that landed at Darin’s home church in Oak Grove. The group was called Inheritance Trio which was owned by my brother, singer and songwriter Benjamin Scroggs.

When I called my brother and told him that I was writing an article about Darin Hebert and his contagious passion for gospel music, Ben immediately went into the story of the day he met Darin. Ben recalled that the first moment he met Darin he could feel the passion this young man had for God and gospel music. Ben went on to say, “I remember him bringing up a scrap book that he had put together of all of his favorite bass singers in gospel music, and he was so excited to show it to us.” That night, Inheritance Trio brought Darin on stage and had him join them in a song. Although Ben had no recollection of what song it was, Darin remembered the exact song and stated, “It was ‘When They Ring the Bells of Heaven.’”

In such a divine way that only God could do, a few months passed by and gospel singer Donnie Williamson called Ben Scroggs asking if he had any leads on potential bass singers because The Williamsons were



in need. You already know where the story goes next – Ben connected Donnie with this 17 year old young man from Louisiana who was still in high school over 450 miles away. Can you even imagine, 17 year old Darin in his last semester of high school, approaching his parents, Lynn and Susan Hebert, with the news that he had been so passionately dreaming of for years?

We can all safely say that it was not only their undeniable love for their son, but their faith and trust in God that finally gave them peace to allow Darin to begin driving over 450 miles one way each weekend so that he could live out his passion and calling to sing gospel music. Darin said that many times he would leave Louisiana on Friday morning, meet the bus, and travel with the group singing Friday night, Saturday night, then after singing Sunday morning, he would begin that long and lonely drive back home so that he would be in school on Monday morning.

I cannot write about Darin without telling of his much better half Kallie Hebert. Kallie met her husband while they were still in school. They began dating when Darin was in 11th grade while Kallie was in 9th grade. After Darin finished his senior year, he moved to the small town of Weleetka, Oklahoma, where The Williamsons were based out of and also owned a gospel music recording studio called Homestead Productions.

Kallie and Darin were engaged to be married, so she packed her things and moved on to Weleetka, Oklahoma, to complete her final year of high school as a Weleetka Outlaw just to remain close to her husband-to-be. They were married in 2008, and by 2009 Patrick

Brian Hebert arrived and changed everything for the better. In 2016 their world got better once again as little Emaleigh Sue arrived on the scene. I had to ask Darin as he spelled out his precious daughter's name, "Was that you or Kallie choosing the spelling?" His response – it was all on her.

His favorite venue to sing at was Silver Dollar City for all the obvious reasons. After being so close to Darin and The Williamsons, I didn't think that I would learn anything I didn't already know. But when speaking about his favorite groups or people to spend time with he spoke about a time when they sang with Gold City, and soon afterwards, he was invited to travel out to Gadsden, Alabama, for a few days as Tim Riley worked with him on the vocal techniques of singing bass.

Another one of gospel's greats also took an interest in helping Darin reach his full potential and that was Harrold Gilley from The Palmetto State Quartet. Harrold had driven from Big Stone Gap, Virginia – over a thousand miles – two different times just to help Darin and work with him in the studio.

I wondered if there was anyone left in the industry that could be someone for Darin to look up to and call a role model. He thought about it for a moment. My pen had been racing across the pages trying to keep up and write every important fact, so that I could try my very best to show the world of gospel music that living your passion doesn't ever have to become mundane. We can continue to spark and inspire even those who are much older than us in ministry and music. Finally my pen stopped as I awaited the role model answer. He said, "Role model? I'd say Rob Patz of SGN Scoops Magazine." As he heard my pen rapidly writing down each word he had spoken, he started giggling and said, "Nah... I was just kidding," as he followed in fun laughter. I'm guessing they are friends and he was hoping to get a reaction, so I am including it in my article.

If we all take a moment we can see all the amazing ways that God used passion to help fulfill the calling of this amazing young man who I personally claim to be one of the greatest bass singers in Southern Gospel Music of our time. You can still find Darin Hebert just outside of Weleetka, Oklahoma, where he lives with his precious wife Kallie, their son Patrick, daughter Emaleigh, and their two dogs Daisy and Lilly.



When he isn't on the road touring with The Williamsons he enjoys coaching his son's basketball team, working on their rental properties, and just being a dad. Darin's inspiration and passion for gospel music came from many different groups, but if he had to pinpoint a main inspiration it would be George Younce of The Cathedral Quartet.

I personally have known Darin for over 12 years and I jumped at the opportunity to share his inspirational story with the world. He became such a great fit with Donnie and Lisa Williamson as they are all three very precious men and women of God and would do anything for those in need. Some of my favorite memories in gospel music was during times with these genuine folks.

Darin's passion is contagious. He will be the bar that is set for future bass singers of gospel music to aspire to achieve both on stage with his musical gift as well as off stage with his kindness and heart for others. The next time you hear that The Williamsons will be in your area, make the time to go hear them in concert. I know that you will be blown away the moment you get to hear Darin Hebert rumble the rafters. Keep pursuing your passion and keep spreading God's love through song.



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Tara Johnson

Her Journey From Music to Page and Beyond

By KayleighAnne E. Stanton



"If you were to walk down a street and ask ten different families about their political opinions in 1860, you would likely get ten different answers. It's the same today. People may vote along basic two-party lines but there is much diversity and pockets of opinion within each one. The whole system is messy."

The realities of our world today have only reinforced the truth Tara Johnson, a civil war author veteran, already knows to be true. "I often hear the phrase 'history repeats itself' but I think a more accurate sentence might be 'Human nature repeats itself.'" The civil unrest and division in our society today have only made it clearer. "We are broken people in need of a mighty, redeeming God."

Thankfully, we have that mighty, redeeming God, a truth that Tara Johnson highlights in her novels. Her first novel, *Engraved on the Heart*, covered the topics of the underground railroad, while *Where Dandelion Blooms*, her sophomore novel, goes into the story

of a female joining the army. Her 2021 release, *All Through the Night*, takes on darker tones; digging deep into racism and hatred in a somewhat terrifying way-- the predecessor of the KKK.

"I had no idea this secret society was so large...or so incredibly evil," she told me. "I endured many nightmares after days of reading the horrors they inflicted on their victims."

Yet she endured the nightmares and the research to bring this terrific and much-needed novel into the world. It couldn't have come at a better time, and perhaps it was Providence that led her here. After all, her journey with words didn't start with bound pages.

Before writing, Tara Johnson shared her voice with the world through music. For years, she was with a Christian record label, sharing the gospel and Jesus' love through song. And then she was diagnosed

with gastroparesis and slowly began to lose her ability to sing for long periods of time.



"I was confused," she admitted, "I thought God had told me He would use my voice to tell others about Him."

Unable to continue, she sought refuge in writing on her blog and little by little, it gained traction and, soon, stories flooded her mind. A bit later, by the suggestion of those close to her, Johnson reluctantly found herself at the national ACFW (American Christian Fiction Writers) meeting, and that's where her life changed.

"In my very first class, my instructor taught us about each author's unique voice, the way writers string words and phrases together to tell a story. And that's when God spoke to my heart.

Tara, you can have a voice and still not have a voice.

"I've been writing ever since. I still sing when I can and speak often, but God has brought me into a beautiful season of creativity with Him. Weaving stories that touch hearts and share His truth with others is such a delightful calling."

Of course, other instrumental moments in her past played key roles in the books she pens today. When asked about her decision to write in the Civil War era, Tara responded that her love of that time period began with her yearly tradition of watching *Gone With The Wind* with her mom.

"When I was young, the drama and potential romance of the period drew me in," she said. And

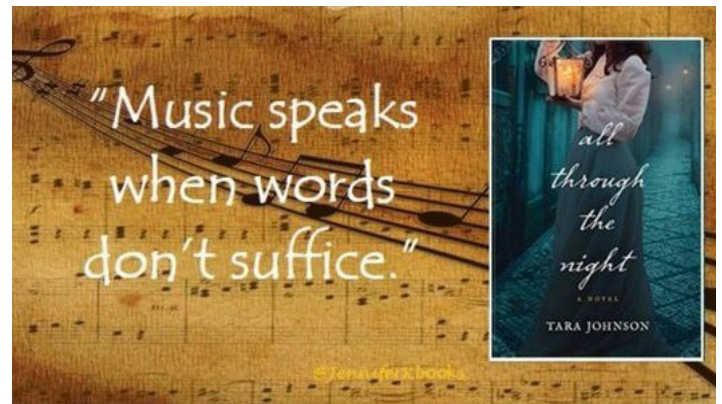
though the grandeur and sweeping drama of *Scarlet O'Hara* first introduced her to the time, *All Through the Night* is inspired by a different heroine.

"The character of Cadence Piper was inspired by real-life Civil War nurse Elida B. Rumsey... She was the first person to ever sing "Battle Hymn of the Republic." And though the real-life woman was enough to inspire a novel, something else spurred Tara Johnson on.

"As I've gotten older, I've fallen in love with the stories of heroism from brave men and women on both sides of the conflict. The Civil War was a turning point for our nation on so many levels...politically, socially, emotionally, not to mention the amazing inventions and reformations that occurred as a result. It completely changed the landscape of our society."

And in a rapidly changing landscape, it's good to have reminders that nothing lasts forever and that there is a God who holds fast through it all.

One of Johnson's favorite verses, which she has clung to this past year, is Psalms 139. "[It's] Such a beautiful reminder that no matter how I may feel, God sees me. He knows me. He will never let me go."



Because of this, it's no wonder that Tara continually reminds everyone else of that truth. Sitting still in the chaos is no easy feat, especially when you're a creative wishing to create, but Jesus provides a refuge for us to run to amidst all the unrest and uncertainty. "One of the many things I love about Jesus is that He always stepped into the chaos and put it into order, whether it was healing the demon-possessed man, speaking the storm into calm, or soothing the cries of a grieving mother by bringing her child back to life."



She book-ended that thought by admitting that, amidst the chaos, Jesus invites creatives to create with Him. What a marvelous thought. Perhaps this is why *All Through the Night* carries such prevalent and necessary themes.

"This book is written for anyone who has wondered if God sees them," she told me. "It was birthed for anyone who has wrestled with approval or people-pleasing and been left with a gnawing ache inside. This story is for anyone who longs for freedom. Its message was woven and spun from my own years of approval addiction that led me into the cold arms of depression... —there is hope and freedom in Jesus. There is nothing we can do to earn His love and nothing we can do to lose His love."

In such a modern, rocky terrain, such a thought isn't just beautiful – it almost feels too good to be true. Yet it's the truth, and though so many seem intent on turning away, Tara continues to embed the truth in her works. "Story is one of the most essential tools we have to express truth, exchange ideas and connect hearts...and often in a gentle way."

Though the truths and messages hidden in Tara Johnson's beautiful novels are gentle, her stories still pack a punch, and we can't wait for more. Currently, she is finishing up her brand new novel *A Woman of No Consequence*, and, thereafter, will be digging into a cozy mystery what she's certain will challenge her but is willing to fight for anyway, and for that we couldn't be more excited.

For more information on author Tara Johnson, please visit her website <https://tarajohnsonstories.com>.

Her books are also available for purchase on Amazon.

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THIS IS LOVE

I started singing in 1964. This year I will celebrate fifty-five years of singing Gospel Music it has been a great privilege to do so over these years. I remember writing my first song in 1973 entitled, "Tower of Strength". George Younce was a mentor and he helped me with the process while I was with The Cathedral Quartet. It was recorded by twelve other groups and was used on The Cathedral's "Town & Country" Album.

In 1974, I joined Jerry & The Singing Goffs. Jerry was one of the greatest songwriters in gospel music. He authored countless songs and was another mentor to me both in music and in business. That is when I wrote my second song entitled, "This is Love".

Jerry liked the song so much that he made it the title song of our first QCA Record Album. QCA was a label out of Cincinnati and well known at the time. It was a great honor for Jerry Goff to pick my song to title the album. It was somewhat progressive back in 1974 and the words to this song still speak to me today. It's about the greatest love that can be experienced - the wonderful, unconditional, forgiving and peace giving love of God that is what brought me to the title of "This Is Love." Go to www.HopeWorthHaving.com to hear these songs.



| POSITION | SONG TITLE | ARTIST/LABEL |
|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | WHAT LOVE | DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS |
| 2 | GOLIATH | JOSEPH HABEDANK/DAYWIND |
| 3 | PRACTICE WHAT YOU'RE PREACHING | LEFEVRE QUARTET/NEW DAY RECORDS |
| 4 | HE WILL BE GOD | WHISNANTS/UIA |
| 5 | SALVATION'S SONG | TAYLORS/STOWTOWN |
| 6 | I CALL IT HOME | TRIBUTE QUARTET/DAYWIND |
| 7 | THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT | MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET/CRIMSON ROAD |
| 8 | WE COME IN THE NAME OF JESUS | MYLON HAYES FAMILY/INDEPENDENT |
| 9 | CHILD OF THE KING | GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC |
| 10 | GLORY | STEELES/STOWTOWN |
| 11 | I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN | GOLD CITY/SONY |
| 12 | HOW GOOD DOES GRACE FEEL | BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND |
| 13 | SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE | JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC |
| 14 | I WISH I COULD TELL YOU | GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN |
| 15 | I'VE BEEN WASHED CLEAN | GREATER VISION/DAYWIND |
| 16 | WHAT WE NEED | OLD TIME PREACHER'S QUARTET/FAMILY MUSIC GRP |
| 17 | FIRST CHURCH OF MERCY | THE SOUND/NEW DAY RECORDS |
| 18 | WALK ME THROUGH | PERRYS/STOWTOWN |
| 19 | I KNOW HE IS MINE | 11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS |
| 20 | KEEP PRAYING | LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS |
| 21 | RESCUE STORY | FIELDS OF GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP |
| 22 | THIS SAME JESUS | MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS |
| 23 | LOOKS LIKE JESUS TO ME | TALLEYS/CROSSROADS |
| 24 | HE RESCUED ME | ENDLESS HIGHWAY/CROSSROADS |
| 25 | DELIVER AGAIN | FORESTERS/INDEPENDENT |
| 26 | MOVIN ON | BIBLETONES/INDEPENDENT |
| 27 | HE WALKED OUT | TRIUMPHANT QUARTET/STOWTOWN |
| 28 | NEVER CHANGING GOD | KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS |
| 29 | YOU GOTTA HAVE A SONG | JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND |
| 30 | WHAT LIVIN' IS | LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT |
| 31 | TURN TO THE CROSS | HYSSONGS/INDEPENDENT |
| 32 | HOME IS SOUNDING SWEETER | INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS |
| 33 | ALL THE WAY TO THE GATES | KRAMERS/STOWTOWN |
| 34 | LOOK AT ALL I LOST | THE OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS |
| 35 | STORM BEFORE THE CALM | HEART 2 HEART/ INDEPENDENT |
| 36 | THE WILDERNESS | ISAACS/GAITHER MUSIC |
| 37 | POTTER'S WHEEL | WISECARVERS/CROSSROADS |
| 38 | LITTLE THINGS | MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY |
| 39 | WAKE UP | ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN |
| 40 | THERE'S A MEETIN' | JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS/INDEPENDENT |
| 41 | HOPE FOR THE WORLD | JORDAN FAMILY BAND/INDEPENDENT |
| 42 | I'LL PUT ON A CROWN | FOLENIUS/INDEPENDENT |
| 43 | END OF THE STORY | GLORYWAY QUARTET/INDEPENDENT |
| 44 | NOBODY | ERWINS/STOWTOWN |
| 45 | JESUS IN THE BOAT | A'MEN QUARTET/INDEPENDENT |
| 46 | BORN AGAIN | SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS |
| 47 | TO SAVE MY LIFE | CAROLINA BOYS QUARTET/CROSSROADS |
| 48 | MY HOME | BROWDERS/DREAM BIG |
| 49 | IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY | COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN |
| 50 | GONNA KEEP LIVIN' | THREE BRIDGES/CROSSROADS |

SGN SCOOPS

HOME OF THE



| POSITION | SONG TITLE | ARTIST/LABEL |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 51 | SING JOY TO THE WORLD | SACRED HARMONY/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP |
| 52 | DON'T BE CAUGHT DEAD WITHOUT JESUS | JUSTIFIED QT/INDEPENDENT |
| 53 | WHEN YOU PRAY, PRAY FOR AMERICA | MARK209/INDEPENDENT |
| 54 | JORDAN | NELONS/DAYWIND |
| 55 | HARD TIMES | ZANE & DONNA KING/STOWTOWN |
| 56 | THIS SHIP WAS MADE TO SAIL | GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC |
| 57 | I LIKE SOUTHERN GOSPEL STYLE THE BEST | LES BUTLER/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP |
| 58 | GET ON THE WHEEL | HOPE'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT |
| 59 | WHAT GRACE CAN DO | PHILLIPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT |
| 60 | WHAT A DAY | LEGACY FIVE/DAYWIND |
| 61 | ALWAYS ENOUGH | BOWLING FAMILY/INDEPENDENT |
| 62 | HALLELUJAH, WHAT A SAVIOR | SOUL'D OUT QUARTET/CROSSROADS |
| 63 | THE BEATITUDES SONG | RIVER'S EDGE/INDEPENDENT |
| 64 | CALLING ALL PRODIGALS | KENNA TURNER WEST/CROSSROADS |
| 65 | WALKING IN THE SPIRIT | WILLIAMSON BRANCH/PINECASTLE |
| 66 | I'LL TAKE THE OLD HIGHWAY | SOUND STREET/INDEPENDENT |
| 67 | HIS NAME IS JESUS | TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS |
| 68 | COME UP CLEAN | STEVE LADD/CROSSROADS |
| 69 | SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF MY SOUL | EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT |
| 70 | MESSIAH OVERCAME | KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER/DAYWIND |
| 71 | HE STILL MOVES MOUNTAINS FOR ME | PURPOSE/CHAPEL VALLEY |
| 72 | GIVE THEM JESUS | WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP |
| 73 | YOUR SON | CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS |
| 74 | JOY TO THE WORLD | MARTINS/GAITHER MUSIC |
| 75 | THIS | POET VOICES/INDEPENDENT |
| 76 | JESUS IS LORD | BUTLER, HUGHES, & HAYES/INDEPENDENT |
| 77 | EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT | JANET PASCHAL/GAITHER MUSIC |
| 78 | I WANT TO TAKE SOMEONE WITH ME | PRIMITIVE QT/INDEPENDENT |
| 79 | ON MY KNEES | DOUG CORUM/INDEPENDENT |
| 80 | BECAUSE OF THE CROSS | GREESONS/INDEPENDENT |
| 81 | THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED | DERRICK LOUDERMILK BAND/INDEPENDENT |
| 82 | MADE RIGHT | KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER/DAYWIND |
| 83 | I'M WORKING ON A BUILDING | TROY BURNS FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY |
| 84 | THAT'LL PREACH | MERCY'S WELL/INDEPENDENT |
| 85 | LOVE WALKED IN THE ROOM | BATTLECRY/CHAPEL VALLEY |
| 86 | YOU CAN'T SAY HE DIDN'T LOVE US | MARK BISHOP/CROSSROADS |
| 87 | APART FROM YOU | SUSAN WHISNANT/UIA |
| 88 | HE HAS | JOYAIRES/INDEPENDENT |
| 89 | GOOD NEWS | WILBANKS/INDEPENDENT |
| 90 | WHY | CHOSEN/INDEPENDENT |
| 91 | I HAVE A FRIEND | JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS |
| 92 | SECOND CHANCES | PATHFINDERS/INDEPENDENT |
| 93 | I'M MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER | MARY BURKE/INDEPENDENT |
| 94 | REMEMBER HIS FAITHFULNESS | RILEY HARRISON CLARK/DAYWIND |
| 95 | JOY HAS COME | FROSTS/MANSION |
| 96 | THERE IS LOVE | CANA'S VOICE/STOWTOWN |
| 97 | WHEN THAT SEEING MAN SAW | SOUNDS OF JERICHO/SONG GARDEN |
| 98 | THE GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES | LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS |
| 99 | SOON WE WILL BE GOING HOME | 4 CALVARY QT/INDEPENDENT |
| 100 | THROUGH IT ALL | MARK DUBBELD FAMILY/SONG GARDEN |



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|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | WALKING IN THE SPIRIT | WILLIAMSON BRANCH/PINECASTLE RECORDS |
| 2 | GRIT & GRACE | BALSAM RANGE/MOUNTAIN HOME MUSIC |
| 3 | SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF MY SOUL | EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT |
| 4 | THE WILDERNESS | ISAACS/INDEPENDENT |
| 5 | I WANT TO TAKE SOMEONE WITH ME | PRIMITIVE QUARTET/MOUNTAIN HERITAGE |
| 6 | THAT HOME FAR AWAY | ZOE & CLOYD/ORGANIC RECORDS |
| 7 | I HAVE A FRIEND | JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS |
| 8 | I'M STILL HERE | TIM DAVIS/INDEPENDENT |
| 9 | IT'S NOT GOODBYE | BAMA BLU GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP |
| 10 | STACK THEM STONES | MARKSMEN QUARTET/INDEPENDENT |

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

| POSITION | SONG TITLE | ARTIST/LABEL |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE | JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC |
| 2 | GOD CAN | SHELLEM CLINE/TIRE SWING RECORDS |
| 3 | THE REST OF THE STORY | RAY WOLFORD/HMG |
| 4 | GOD LIVES | LISA DAGGS/INDEPENDENT |
| 5 | YOUR SON | CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS |
| 6 | HOMETOWN HEROES | WOODY WRIGHT/INDEPENDENT |
| 7 | COME ON BACK | PARDONED/MANSION |
| 8 | JOY | BRANDED/INDEPENDENT |
| 9 | LITTLE THINGS | MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY |
| 10 | HERE I GO AGAIN | JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY |
| 11 | HE WILL SEE ME THROUGH | DON STILES/INDEPENDENT |
| 12 | PROMISE LAND | SAM L. SMITH/INDEPENDENT |
| 13 | ON YOUR KNEES | DOUG CORUM/INDEPENDENT |
| 14 | TOUGHER THAN NAILS | BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT |
| 15 | THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSING | MITCHELL WHISNANT/INDEPENDENT |
| 16 | THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE | ELIZABETH MILLER CLARY/INDEPENDENT |
| 17 | THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED | DERRICK LOUDERMILK BANK/INDEPENDENT |
| 18 | FIND JESUS NOW | LIZZY G/INDEPENDENT |
| 19 | I HAVE A FRIEND | JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS |
| 20 | REPENTANCE STILL WORKS | APPOINTED2/INDEPENDENT |
| 21 | ROCK BOTTOM | KEVIN AND KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT |
| 22 | JESUS IN MY COUNTRY | TRISH ENGLAND/INDEPENDENT |
| 23 | KING OF GLORY | CHOSEN ROAD/SONG GARDEN |
| 24 | WHAT LIVIN' IS | LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT |
| 25 | I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU | LULU ROMAN/INDEPENDENT |
| 26 | DON'T WEEP FOR ME | AVA KASICH/INDEPENDENT |
| 27 | RIDING THROUGH THE STORMS | ROGER BARKLEY JR/INDEPENDENT |
| 28 | I CAN'T BLAME NO ONE BUT ME | COOKE BROTHERS/INDEPENDENT |
| 29 | MOM | KEN HARRELL/MANSION |
| 30 | I KNOW WHO I AM | ALAN FRIZZELL/INDEPENDENT |
| 31 | COUNTRY GOSPEL IS ROCKING COUNTRY | DAN DUNCAN/INDEPENDENT |
| 32 | COME UP CLEAN | STEVE LADD/CROSSROADS |
| 33 | WHEN YOU PRAY, PRAY FOR AMERICA | MARK209/INDEPENDENT |
| 34 | BORN AGAIN | SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS |
| 35 | I KNOW HE LIVES | TAMMY NORRIS/INDEPENDENT |
| 36 | I'LL GO THROUGH THIS VALLEY WITH YOU | BRUCE HAYNES/INDEPENDENT |
| 37 | HE GOT WHAT I DESERVED | DON STILES/INDEPENDENT |
| 38 | WHEN HE CAME DOWN | PAUL WINCHESTER/INDEPENDENT |
| 39 | I KNOW THAT WAS YOU | TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS |
| 40 | I FOUND LIFE | TONJA ROSE/MANSION |

| POSITION | SONG TITLE | ARTIST |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | START WITH WELL DONE | GREATER VISION |
| 2 | MY KING IS KNOWN FOR LOVE | CRABB FAMILY |
| 3 | WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME | 11TH HOUR |
| 4 | THE WARRIOR IS A CHILD | MELISSA BRADY |
| 5 | HEAVY | MCKAMEY LEGACY |
| 6 | RAISED ON RED | WILBURN & WILBURN |
| 7 | THE DAY I GOT SAVED | HIGH ROAD |
| 8 | TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS | FAITH'S JOURNEY |
| 9 | THAT'S WHY WE PRAY | HEART 2 HEART |
| 10 | YOU'RE HOME TO STAY | GUARDIANS |
| 11 | HEY NOW | THE MCNEILS |
| 12 | THIS IS AMAZING GRACE | OLD PATHS |
| 13 | THESE ARE THE DAYS | KINGSMEN |
| 14 | THE LIGHT | LISA DAGGS |
| 15 | CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD | SOUTHERN JOY |
| 16 | SOMEDAY | EAGLE'S WINGS |
| 17 | WHEN I PRAY | ISELL FAMILY |
| 18 | RUN TO HIM | JAY STONE SINGERS |
| 19 | SOMETHING GOING ON IN THE GRAVEYARD | VICTORIA BOWLIN |
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Our Journey With Autism

by Donna Journey

Autism---- You may have heard that word many times, but do you really know what it means and how it will affect the lives of the families it touches?

Autism Spectrum Disorder affects a person's ability to understand what they see, hear, and otherwise sense. It is a brain disorder that impacts communication, social interaction, and behavior.

No two people on the spectrum are the same. At this time there is no known cure for Autism. The estimated cost to care for a loved one over their lifetime is \$1.5 million dollars.



April is Autism Awareness month.

Our story begins in December of 1995 when we noticed that our son, Ben, had stopped talking and had started pushing us away when we would read to him or try to get him to talk to us. Instead of looking at us, it appeared that he was looking past us or straight through us. We had discussed this with Ben's doctor but were told that it could be his hearing. We went through all the hearing tests, and everything was normal. After almost a year and a half of going through

test after test and us knowing that something just was not right, we finally received the diagnosis of Autism when Ben was 2 1/2 years old. I'll never forget that day as we were told all the things that our son would probably never do and the worst thing was that he might not ever be able to communicate with us.

Yes, we had a huge pity party for a few weeks and questioned God, asking Him WHY??? Then Greg and I prayed and asked God just to take this situation and use it for His glory and help us to have the wisdom, understanding, and patience to deal with whatever was ahead. As time passed, we spent many days wondering if we were doing all we could for Ben and if we were doing the right things.

The years between 2 1/2 and 7 were very tough years. However we had noticed that when Ben heard music or saw musical instruments being played, he was fascinated! We bought him toy guitars, pianos, harmonicas and any other musical thing he was interested in. At the age of eight, we bought him his first guitar, and he began playing what almost sounded like chords. Then around age 12, a friend of ours bought Ben a "How to Play The Guitar" video and he would go in his room and go through each lesson until he had



mastered all 22 lessons. Ben had taught himself to play! He would pull up videos on YouTube and play along with his guitar. Around the same time, I had shown Ben some chords on the piano and he would play those chords and add chords that I hadn't even shown him. A dear friend of ours, Barry Scott, helped Ben with his timing and strumming on the guitar and would come once a week just to have a "jam session" with Ben. At the time, Barry was singing with a group who came to our church to sing. Barry asked if it would be ok if Ben got up and played a song with them. I'll never forget that day! He got up and played "Farther Along" on the guitar that day.

As he was playing, I heard God speak to me and say, "Donna, if he can do that with them, he can do that with you." That is how The Journeys started. Within a week we had our first appointment to sing, and within a year we had gone into the studio to record our first project. I had sung all of my life with my family, Gabriel (in college), and Heaven Sent. However, when we got the diagnosis of Autism I felt like I needed to be at home with Ben. I had been off the road for several years and missed it so much -- but God had given it back to me. When we received that diagnosis I couldn't see what a blessing was going to be in my future. I say all that to say this TRUST GOD! He takes things that we think harm us and turn them around to be a huge blessing.

For the last 11 years God has blessed us to do 5

projects, sing in over 12 states, tell our story to thousands of people, and have songs on the top 80 Singing News, Top 10 SGN Scoops, and also crossed over to Cashbox Country Charts. We have been nominated for many awards, but the best award ever is getting to share the stage with my precious boy who has overcome so many obstacles to do what he loves. I am so proud of him and what the Lord has done in his life. It is our desire to go out, share Christ, and share our story to give hope to others. Without God NOTHING is possible but with God ALL THINGS are possible! He has a plan! TRUST HIM!!

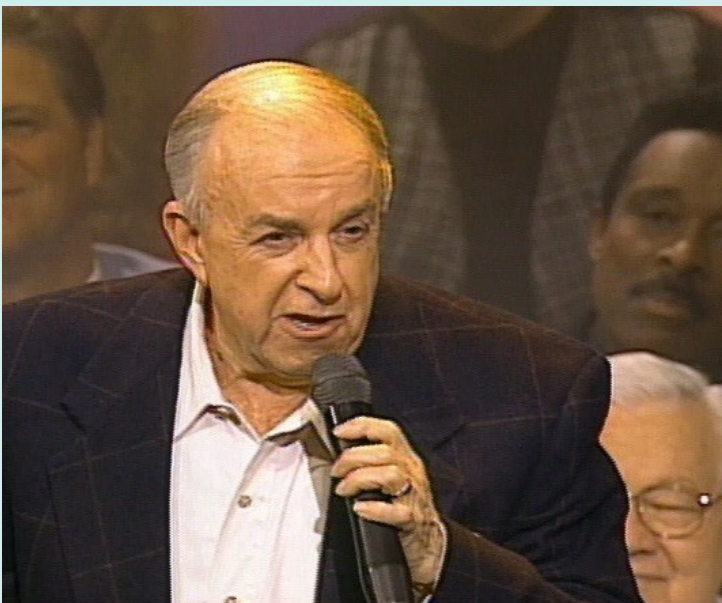


A Country Boy from Patterson, North Carolina George Younce

by Charlie Griffin

For those who have followed gospel music and for newer quartet gospel music fans, there are many talented people who become icons. Some were propelled into the forefront by sheer talent and audience demand. Others graduated in status over time as they honed and crafted their skills. Such is the case with George Younce.

Born February 22, 1930 in the small community of Patterson, North Carolina, in Caldwell County, George Younce fit the norms of the day. He was the youngest of five children: Ruby, Tom, Ray, Brudge and George.



The Younce family was typical. They worked hard by day and were in church when the doors opened. Back in the day, often family time and church were graced by music and shaped note singing. George said many times his “biggest influence” in singing came from his father.

At the ripe age of 15 he joined a local quartet in the Happy Valley community – the Spiritualaires. Ike Miller, recruited the young man to sing tenor. Younce loved it.

But nature has a way of changing things. As his voice began to change, those high notes were too high and there was the cracking and uncertainty. He stopped singing for a time. Ike kept up with him. In the Mill-

er family stories, “Ike saw something in that boy.”

As the story goes, one day while in Lenoir, Ike saw George and asked to come back to the group and try it again as they needed a singer. That night George said he learned his “voice dropped, and his natural spot was singing bass.” He continued singing bass with the quartet until he left for the army.

In radio interviews over the years, he shared how these formative years took hold in him.

It is during this time he went to the Stamps Baxter School of Music with Miller and the quartet. George said that he remembered his Dad borrowing the money so that he could go to the music school.

Younce sang with Ike, his son Herb, Stanley Wilson, and Willis Abernathy. The Spiritualaires sang at churches and other venues loving the shaped note singing. They were radio favorites on WMNC Radio in Morganton and WHKY in Hickory, North Carolina. During the radio appearances, the quartet recorded some transcribed records at the radio stations for air-play in the event they were not there in person.

Herb Miller stated, “George was one of us. We grew up together, sang together and played together. He never lost his heritage, his faith or love of gospel music. No matter where I would see him, he was the same. Always.”

In 1954 he was singing bass with the Watchmen Quartet where he met the love of his life. He married Clara in April 1955. There were stints with the Weatherford Quartet, Homeland Harmony, and the Blue Ridge Quartet. It is with the Blue Ridge Quartet and Elmo Fagg where George saw his talent and its potential.

There is even a time when George sang with the Florida Boys. Les Beasley said in an interview given during Florida Boys article research, “Yes George Younce was with us for a couple of months, but that’s about it.” (There was a big grin on his face at the time.)

His life changed dramatically in 1964 when he received a call from Rex Humbard at the Cathedral of Tomor-

row in Akron, Ohio. There he joined Glen Payne, Danny Koker and Bobby Clark forming the Cathedral Quartet. They served on staff until late 1968. The following year the quartet left the church and began touring.

In those formative years, Danny Koker was the stage emcee for the group. Upon his departure, Younce took over the stage emcee work. He kept that job until the group disbanded in 1999.

Southern gospel historian John Crenshaw says, “There were few people that could feel an audience like George Younce could. He could sense the audience better than anyone I know. He was able to call their songs and staging based on that audience rapport. He was just that good.”

As an emcee, Younce was able to adapt, cultivate and create an atmosphere of energy, worship, awe, and praise while effortlessly moving from one song to another. His brand of wit and humor was a hit with audiences nationwide. He and the “old man” Glen Payne were gospel music staples together.

When there were personnel changes, Younce closed the gap with his business partner Glen Payne. Together they were the true foundations of the quartet. Their focus on quality, harmony, classic southern quartet music built their legacy.

In the late 1970’s Bill Gaither began showcasing the Cathedral Quartet on his Praise Gatherings with the Speers and a few other southern gospel artists. It is in this stretch of time the Cathedrals enlarged their outreach. Their popularity was expanding to a different diverse audience.

George said in a WHKY-FM Gospel One Radio interview, “Bill and Gloria are our friends. They encouraged us to reach out. To sing songs that would touch people’s hearts. When Bill Gaither calls or gives us a song, we listen. We usually sang the songs too!”

There were multiple changes through the years in the Cathedral Quartet. Yet with each change, George and Glen kept on clicking. It is through their talent mentorship that created their large footprint in today’s southern gospel music.



The individual artist growth of the Cooleys (Haskell and Jolee), the Brothers (Lorne Matthews, George Amon Webster, Roy Tremble), The Talleys (Kirk, Roger and Debra), Greater Vision (Gerald Wolfe and Mark Trammell) and in later years Legacy Five (Roger Bennett and Scott Fowler), Signature Sound (Ernie Haase) and including the Mark Trammell Quartet assures the Younce and Payne legacy for years to come.

There are other tidbits of information that make George Younce special to so many. It is said he never met a stranger. Gospel One Radio manager Burt Dixon said, "George could talk to a telephone pole and get an answer."

Younce relative Reverend Jim Hamby says "Family. That's who George is to us. He was always himself. Never met a stranger and was true to his family, friends, his faith, calling and talent. There will never be another one just like him in gospel music or life."

That degree of personality is why George Younce is loved by so many even today. Each February, Gospel music, along with family and friends, celebrate his birthday. In May the hometown of Younce celebrated their favorite son with the George Younce Homecoming Gospel Sing.



Each year, the Cathedrals would appear and invite one group to join them for an evening of gospel music. During these concerts, George would readily recognize people who were supporters and were involved in gospel music. This community event is where many people received the George Younce Award.

Writers note: May 1988 George presented this award to me. The concert at Hibriten High School was packed. I will never forget him saying that night, "I give this award to a snotty nose kid who grew into a good Christian man. He loves gospel music, but he loves the Lord more." That is the highest compliment I could have ever heard. I will forever be thankful for his friendship, talent and Christian witness.

As a teenage gospel music fan, my first involvement in quartet music came with the Meetin' Time Quartet. The Younce connection was present as Mike, Mark and Marty Miller (Ike Miller's grandsons) were in the group. We sang several times including the George Younce Homecoming programs.

It was through the encouragement of George Younce to other promoters that we were booked on other con-



cert venues. With Younce's instigation, the Cathedrals recorded some of our original music. That nourishing friendship some thirty years later grew from a seed that started with Younce as a budding bass singer with the Spiritualaires Quartet and the Miller family.

The Caldwell County native never forgot where he came from or those he met along the way.

Awards were numerous but it was his homespun personality and classic singing ability that made him a crowd favorite.

Among Younce's many awards include induction into the SGMA Hall Of Fame (1998) and into GMA Hall Of Fame (1999). He is the fan voted Favorite Male Singer (1999, 2000) and is a fourteen-time recipient of the fan voted Favorite Bass Singer (1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999).

Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys says, "I think George's success was that he was just himself on and off the stage. Learning how to be the same person on

and off the stage is something that some artists never learn. George learned that early on. That has been Glen Payne and Bill Gather's success too. Being honest, truthful, and pure about who you are lasts as long as that is true. Being fake lasts until you run out of ways to cover up your hypocrisy. George was George all the time. He was a good man and friend."

It has been twenty-two years since the Cathedral Quartet said their goodbyes on stage in 1999. It has been sixteen years since George Younce said his goodbyes to family, friends and gospel music fans. But if you ever had a conversation, you would quickly know he was just a country boy from Patterson, North Carolina, that loved to sing quartet gospel music. Today, he remains an ambassador of faith and our music through his legacy of just being George Younce.

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Jump For Joy

By Joy Holden



Get to know your favorite artists! Learn what inspires and encourages them in their journey. Let's explore and celebrate these wonderful artists and share fun facts! Get Ready, Get Set, Let's go behind the scenes!

This month our featured ARTISTS are:

Rodney Griffin of Greater Vision

Amber Eppinette Saunders of 11th Hour

Tim & Missy Kinchen of Chronicle,

Jeff & Susan Whisnant of The Whisnants

Sarah Davison of HighRoad,

Richard Hyssong of The Hyssongs

Joy: Before March 2020, most artists were busy touring the country; so previously how did you deal with homesickness or being away from home? In 2021, since everyone has sheltered at home, will touring feel the opposite now or just different? Have you found ways to connect with your fans due to the pandemic?

Rodney Griffin (Greater Vision): We are extremely blessed to have supportive families back home. We couldn't maintain the schedule we have for 30 years if we didn't. We all look forward to getting back on the bus...and then we look forward to coming home to be with our families. When Covid began to affect our schedule, we each found things to do at home. Gerald kept very busy trying to keep everything afloat in the office...creating online product specials and the like, Chris wrote some songs and began construction on a home studio, Jon enjoyed walking the beautiful trails of East Tennessee with his wife and Goldendoodle and kept up the inventory in the GV product world. I wrote some songs and stayed busy on the farm.

We were very grateful to get to do some singing during 2020 after March. The dates were certainly diminished, but when we sang, whether outside or socially distanced in a big room, the people were so very appreciative and responded wonderfully. We have tried to stay connected with everyone via social media and Greater Vision's email blasts.

Missy & Tim Kinchen (Chronicle): We always love what we do but have been kind of homesick before on the longer trips. But we go get our grandson Kolsen when we are home in between trips and that

seems to help. When we were off for the pandemic and services were rescheduled, it let us know we take it for granted when we were singing more; so we were happy to go to the next service when time came for it. We also look forward to what 2021 holds. We were blessed during the pandemic to have a local church use our ministry for outdoor services some of the time. We found telephone and also Facebook and other social media sights helped with communication to our friends and Fans of gospel music.

Amber Eppinette Saunders (11th Hour): Being away from home has never been easy for anyone, even those that aren't in full time ministries. So we look at it as, we'd rather be missing home by doing our calling rather than working somewhere and not doing what we are called to do.

When the pandemic hit, we learned a lot of things. We learned that sometimes we can get so busy doing God's work, it's easy to forget God in it at times. The Lord showed us that this time at home was for us to learn how to "Be STILL and KNOW that He is GOD." It's easy to do when everything is going our way, but when faith has to be put into action, that is when it's different. I will say, God never let us down nor will He ever. We are thankful for all the provisions during our time of "still." Now that we are getting back out there, our whole perspective on things has changed, and we thank God for the blessings even in the smallest of things because you see, anything from HIM is a BIG THING!

We are so thankful for social media. That has been the best way that we've been able to keep in touch with everyone and also a way to encourage people as well.

Susan and Jeff Whisnant (The Whisnants): We usually do about 185 dates per year which puts us being away from home normally 200 days. It's a really busy schedule but we are honored every time God allows us to sing. I've told my kids from the day they were born that "home" is wherever mom and dad are. So, it's either on the bus or at our home in NC. Of course, they have now grown up so we're very thankful for Face-timing and cell phones in general

to stay in constant contact with family. It's not an easy life, but we're very thankful that Aaron, Brooks and Austin's wives understand this life we live.

This year will be different. Dates are starting to open back up but not like it was. Social Media has been a gift in that On-Line Concerts and streaming have been a blessing to so many that can't or are afraid to get out.

Sarah Davison (HighRoad): Well, all of us actually live away from our families in Nashville so being homesick is nothing new to any of us. It's hard being away from our parents and siblings so we try to FaceTime and stay in touch as best we can. Touring was great back in January and February of 2020! We actually were on a cruise in February before Covid hit! What a crazy year. We enjoyed doing a couple concerts last fall, but touring has been halted quite a bit. I think eventually it will come back but it will take some time. This year we are looking forward to doing some outdoor concerts for sure! We are planning to do a couple of Facebook live concerts this spring for sure! We miss being on the road and seeing people so very much.

Richard Hyssong (The Hyssongs): I have been travelling on the road since I was 13. Even though I started when I was very young, I never imagined myself travelling with my parents still at 37 years old. However, I really enjoy being on the road. Being on the road has become my way of life. When we are home, it is a weird feeling. I love where we live and have the greatest neighbors in the world, and the kids have super friends. However, I am so used to the road life that I almost felt uncomfortable being at home. When the virus hit and the governors started shutting down the country, the first few weeks just being at home and not going anywhere was difficult. Now my wife, she would never leave the house.

We knew we had to keep connected with those that went to our concerts, so we ramped up our social media. Like everyone else, we did a couple of online events. It was good to be able to communicate and talk to our friends. My dad started a Sunday morning devotional. It actually was supposed to be something where he wanted to encourage those that were

hurting and scared. We had no idea that it would continue and be a weekly devotional that thousands would watch. In fact, it has gotten so popular that starting February 23rd he has his own weekly 30-minute television program on the NOW network. Which, by the way, I am his producer, camera man, sound guy, etc. LOL But that is all God. The Lord guides our steps.

We immediately tried coming up with new ways to still have concerts. Many states allowed outdoor events or drive-in concerts. We bought an FM transmitter and sang in the heat, cold, rain, and the dark in Indiana. The lights in the parking lot did not turn on, so people turned their car lights on to see us. The first outdoor concert we did was in our hometown. I am not sure it was allowed, but people drove for hours to the event. They all stayed in their cars and we worshipped together. Safety is of the utmost importance. We wear masks, wash our hands constantly, and only give fist bumps. However, we still go out and tell people about Jesus. Yes, it is different, and I pray we get back to normal sooner than later, but we are out travelling again. I want to tell others no matter how hard life gets, and when it seems that financially it is impossible DO NOT give up, and DO NOT quit. The Hyssongs will keep proclaiming the gospel and will not give up!

Artist Fun Facts

1. What are your favorite sports teams?

Rodney: Gerald is a Tennessee Vols fan, Chris is a North Carolina Tarheels fan, and Jon and I are long-suffering Dallas Cowboys fans

Amber: The only one really involved in sports is Garrett (Amber's Husband). He is a BIG Ohio State fan.

Tim & Missy: New Orleans Saints and LSU

Jeff & Susan: Atlanta Braves / Carolina Panthers

Sarah: I am not a huge sports fanatic – so I usually opt to watch a good western movie! My home area is all huge chiefs fans. The World Series takes place not

too far from where I grew up so baseball is always fun to watch in the summers!

Richard: Boston Red Sox & New England Patriots

2. What is your favorite meal(s)?

Rodney: We have favorites in different states. In Indiana, it's Pizza King. In Ohio, it's Skyline Chili. In Texas, it's Whataburger. In Louisiana, it's Catfish King. Anywhere, it's Five Guys and Cheddars.

Amber: We love a lot of food. Our favorite places to eat though are any and all things Italian and Mexican.

Tim & Missy: Tim- beef stew and rice also pot roast, gravy and rice. Missy loves all the Louisiana food. She loves Mexican food and also fried catfish and coleslaw and many different desserts.

Jeff & Susan: We love Mexican, Japanese, Italian (American Too. We like it all!).

Sarah: Favorite meal. Anything my mom cooks! I love her homemade cinnamon rolls best of all! She raises a huge garden, and she cans beans, tomatoes, and makes all kinds of jelly and everything is just so good.

Richard: Mexican chimichangas (Chuys with jalapeño ranch), ham balls (it is a Pennsylvania meal).

3. What vocalists have inspired you to sing?

Rodney: Glen Payne and George Younce were great cheerleaders for our group. We have such admiration for them as men and as singers.

Amber: Our influences in gospel music have been people like the Martins, the Hinsons, the Happy Goodmans, Karen Peck and New River, and the Perrys. Plus, many more.

Tim & Missy: Hinsons, Rambos, The Hemphills, Walt Mills, Dallas Holm, Andrae Crouch. Tim's saxophone inspirations were: Boots Randolph, Ace Cannon and Kirk Whalum.

Jeff & Susan: For me, Karen Carpenter has probably been my greatest influence. Jeff would say Kenny Hinson has been his.

Sarah: My favorite singers span a wide variety of genres. When I was young, my dad had cassettes of Sheri Easter and The Martins in his old pickup truck! My favorites to listen to were, Patty Loveless, Ricky Skaggs, Kathy Mattea, and the Nitty Gritty Dirt band. I grew up playing ragtime piano and singing old cowboy songs, which is kind of a lost genre of music!

Richard: I did not have a certain singer that inspired me to sing. However, my dad would always try to take me to gospel concerts. My grandparents lived in South Carolina, and we would go to the Memorial Auditorium to the Thanksgiving all night concerts in Greenville. I enjoyed them, but the group that really got me hooked on Southern Gospel was The Anchormen. The lineup had Steve Ladd, Phillip Hughes, Jeff Chapman and John Stemburg. We saw them in concert in Pennsylvania and I bought their

cassette. I listened to that tape for years! Getting to know them better over the years and singing with them in concert with their new groups, now that has been cool!

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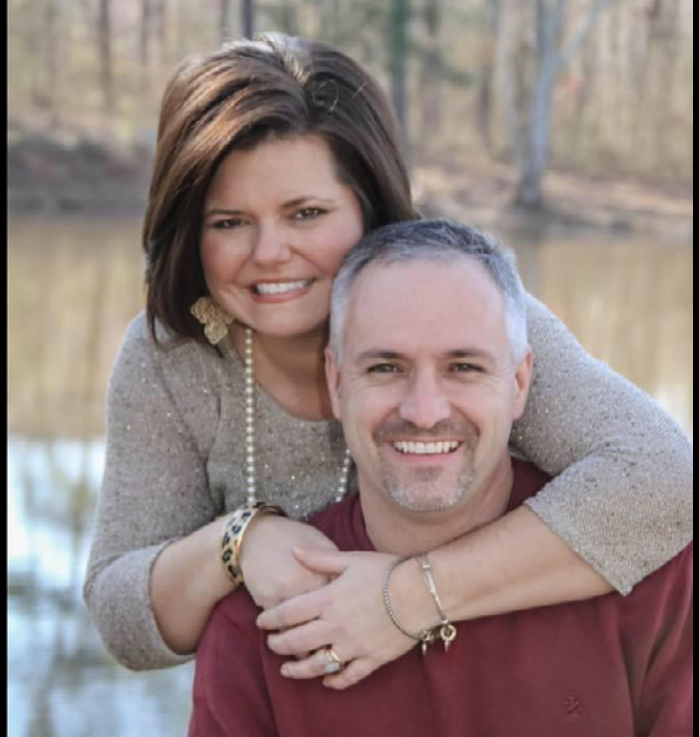
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LES BUTLER AND FRIENDS

Becky Matthews

by Les Butler



I've known the Rochesters for nearly 40 years. What a great family with just the right mix of talent and spirit. The best of all worlds. One of the unsung heroes of this great family is Becky Matthews. I would say she is the vocalist most featured in the group, and she plays a mean electric bass. It's my honor to introduce you to a sweet, Godly bundle of talent – Becky Matthews of the Rochesters.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Becky Matthews: My earliest musical memory is of me singing in my home church. I also remember going to nursing homes with my family and singing every Sunday afternoon.

LB: Growing up in a musical family, did you ever have a desire to do something else? If so, what?

BM: I had planned to become a teacher. I actually went to college and took 1 year of Elementary Education, but after that first year of college, the Lord started opening up doors for my family (the Rochesters) to sing full time. I never went back to school to get my degree, but I have homeschooled all 4 of my girls on the road.

LB: At what age did you start traveling and were you playing and singing initially?

BM: As a child, we would always sing specials at our home church and at many local revivals, but we didn't go full time on the road until I was 18.

LB: You are one of the few female bass players in Gospel music. What do you think about that?

BM: As a teenager, I had heard of other ladies playing bass guitar and thought it would be cool to learn. So after our bass player left the group, I decided to give it

a try. They haven't fired me yet??!

LB: In addition to the Rochesters, you travel with your husband and kids as well, right?

BM: Yes. About 4 years ago, the Rochesters decided to cut back on some of their week dates and do mainly Thursday -Sunday dates. Since then, the Lord has opened up many doors for Scott to do some 3 day revivals and our family (The Matthews) to sing.

LB: How do you juggle being a part of two full time music ministries, being a mom and wife?

BM: Life is very busy....there is definitely never a dull moment! I have learned to just keep my bags packed! I just wash our clothes and re-pack them!! Scott's motto is the busier the better...and believe me he lives by it! Our girls have adjusted well to life on the road; It's really all they've ever known!

LB: I doubt that you ever have any down time, but if you do, what do you like to do for leisure?

BM: When we get a few days off I just love to enjoy being home! We like playing board games with the



kids and watching movies. We also love to go for rides on our 4-wheeler and golf cart.

LB: You are a great singer. Do you recall the first song you ever sang in public?

BM: Thank you! I appreciate the compliment!! I love to sing! The first song I can remember singing in public was "Consider the Lilies." It is still one of my favorite songs!

LB: Who is your favorite singer?

BM: I have so many that I love that it's hard to pick a favorite, but I'd say my all time favorite singer would have to be Alison Krauss!!



LB: When you're not picking and singing, what are you doing?

BM: Playing catch up on house work and school work, but if I get real lucky I might go shopping!

LB: Give us a brief testimony.

BM: The Lord saved me as a little girl. I was 5 years old. I am so blessed to have been raised in a Christian home by wonderful, Godly parents. I am so thankful the Lord called our family in the ministry of singing and let us travel all around the country. My greatest blessing has been serving the Lord with my family! There's nothing I'd rather do!

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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.



Contributors

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



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

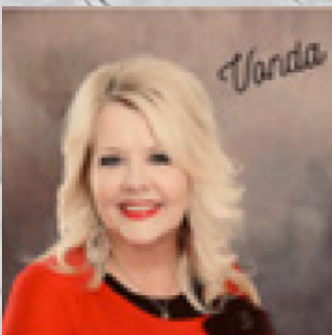
Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com

Stephanie Kelly is a public speaker and owner of



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

Vonda Armstrong is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Vonda draws on a vast knowledge of Southern Gospel Music for her expertise in the field. In addition to her many personal friendships she also hosts a weekly radio show which keeps her in touch with many of Southern Gos-



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

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

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

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

Justin Gilmore is a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share his love of this great style of music.

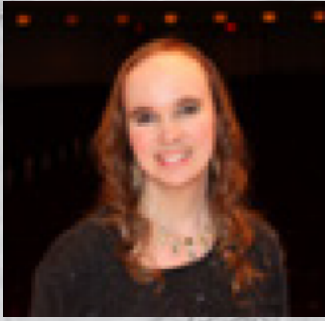


Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGN-Scoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at www.charliegriffin.net.



Contributors

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



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



Staci Schwager enjoys design work of all kinds.



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

mountains.

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



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



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



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



Contributors

Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of The Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad.



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



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



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

