

SGN

JULY 2019

SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



CARMAN

Leaving a Legacy



ALSO FEATURING

The Kingsmen, The Chordsmen & Derek Simonis

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OUR MISSION

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



John 8:36

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

I think we hear more about freedom during the month of July because of the Fourth of July, and I believe it also makes us think more about freedom. There are many in our world who want us to be free from everything. Unfortunately, there is a cost for freedom.

Clearly, the cost of freedom in our country includes those men and women who sacrificed their lives in service for our country, no matter what the war or conflict, or even during peacetime; those that chose to protect us and our freedom and lost their lives, are one cost of our freedom.

I truly believe as Christians we live in freedom, but this freedom has a cost, too.

To live free from sin means we have to sacrifice things that in the world we would see as appealing. I'm sure each and every one of us have struggled daily with things of this world that have appealed to us, but we realized that the bondage that comes with the sin takes away our freedom. It takes away the simple joy that we can have and the freedom that we can experience in our lives if we submit to what God has for us.

Now, is it going to be easy, or is it going to always be fine? No, but if we want to live in the dimension of freedom that I think every one of us craves as Christians, it means we have to live within the boundaries the Bible sets up for us. There's always a roadmap, there's always decisions to make, and there's no such thing as freedom without a cost.

Let me encourage you today. You may be in a place in your life where you've chosen things that have

now put you in a state of bondage. You've chosen things that now control you instead of you controlling them. I encourage you today to return to Christ. He is willing to break those chains and give you the opportunity to live free. Freedom has a cost. I think the cost is worth it.

Hey everybody, I want you to join me for Creekside 2019, on Oct. 27 - 31, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. This year, it's not just one event but two, as we add Christian Country at the Creek, Oct. 30 and 31. If you need a hotel room, this year we are excited to have two options for our attendees. Please give me a call at 360 933 0741 or email events@sgnscoops.com.

I truly believe this year is going to be a year of freedom at Creekside, and I want you to come and experience that in person. We are excited to have added Bill Bailey and Josh Franks as preachers on Monday and Tuesday. Come experience what God has for you during a great week in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

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Meet the Pastor

Jamey Ragle

By Bill Dykes

Jamey Ragle's love for Southern gospel music was cultivated at a very early age.

Ragle recalls, "I remember going to the Taft Auditorium in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, to all of the gospel sings. Sonny Simmons would bring in all of our favorite groups. I remember standing in front of our RCA black and white television in the living room of my childhood home watching the *Gospel Singing Jubilee*. I would take a cardboard tube from the toilet paper roll and use it as my microphone. I would sing along with the Speer Family, Oak Ridge Boys, and the Happy Goodman Family."

Jamey Ragle was born on a cold September day in 1957 in Cincinnati, Ohio to James and Elizabeth Ragle. "There was never a time when I had to ask where we were going on Sundays. It was church all day. We even had church on Sunday nights, imagine that."

In 1973, Ragle joined the Crownsmen, a beloved regional quartet, and in 1976, he joined the Dixie Melody Boys as their tenor singer.

Ragle remembers, "Those were truly the best of times.

I loved singing quartet music, but God kept stirring my heart to preach the gospel. I knew it would mean a true walk of faith, but it's what I had to do to walk in his perfect will. We are all only one choice away from a different life. For over 40 years now, I have been in full time Christian ministry. I have been privileged to witness thousands of men and women come to faith in Christ. I don't want to look back at my life and realize I had only served myself, and meet my Lord empty handed."

Someone once described Jamey as a quirky mixture of Billy Graham, Dr. Phil, and Larry the Cable Guy. Known for his hilarious sense of humor and comedic style of delivery, he is a most sought after speaker. Ragle is a master communicator who always delivers a message of hope and redemption.

Jamey will be the first to say, "I have not lived every day of my life at the foot of the cross. I know what it's like to experience dark nights of the soul, but I'm also happy to report that God is a God of grace, forgiveness, redemption and restoration. A moment of failure does not deserve a monument. When it comes to your life and your past, don't minimize it, don't maximize it,



but don't advertise it. You have been redeemed, you have been set free; the sin debt against you has been canceled, you are a child of the most high God. I know what it's like to be deafened by the silence of my friends, but what a friend we have in Jesus."

Jamey continues to speak as he always has, from the small rural congregation

to the stadium "Reach the Planet crusades. His 'Laugh out Loud Christmas Comedy Tour' is a must-see event. I am amazed how people can come to a comedy event and the next moment be (touched) by the power of the Holy Spirit as they are (overwhelmed) by a powerful message of hope that Ragle delivers. Jamey often speaks in various corporate and community events, while never missing an opportunity to share the hope that is found in Jesus Christ. Jamey says "I love to gut 'em while they're grinnin'."

I asked Jamey to share a few life take-aways and here they are...

1. You are only one choice away from a different life.
2. Eternity is a long time to be wrong.
3. God has never saved you if he hasn't changed you.
4. Unless you let God heal the hurt in your life, then you'll bleed on the people who didn't cut you.
5. A need seen is an assignment given.

Jamey continues to speak about 125 days each year. I encourage you to invite him to your church, school, or even Tupperware party. You'll not be disappointed.

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Carman: Leaving a Legacy

By Jennifer Campbell

Carman. This name is synonymous with the world of Christian music. From drawing the largest crowd ever recorded for a solo Christian event to making his mark in movies, his unique musical style has literally taken him all over the world. Carman Domenico Licciardello has received numerous accolades, but his greatest goal is not to win awards, but to win souls for Christ.

Music was an important part of Carman's life even in his early years. When he was only five years old, he began learning to play the drums. Ten years later, he learned to play the guitar; then he began singing when he was 16 years old. Although his musical background was certainly a positive aspect of his childhood, Carman's adolescence was not one filled with perfect harmony. His hostile behavior eventually sent him to the Bordentown Military Institute for two years.

Soon, Carman's life was back on track and he studied acting at the Abbey Playhouse in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was playing the club circuit from Atlantic City to Philadelphia, even though he was still a juvenile. Lucrative offers were coming his way, and he was in the midst of trying to figure out the next step on his journey when he found out that God had an entirely different plan.

One night, Carman heard Andraé Crouch in concert. It was at this concert that Carman realized that God was taking him on a detour, which would change the course of his life forever.

The singer credits Crouch with having the greatest influence on his life.

"His music lead me to the Lord and gave me a life-long standard to follow," says Carman.



Even though his musical journey may not have started in gospel music, Carman quickly made it his goal to surround himself with some of the best gospel music artists in the business.

“When I first got saved in 1976, I became the lead guitarist in a Southern gospel group, Reba and the Son-Lighters. I was pitching songs to Elvis through his bodyguard, Ed Parker, and we always met up at Southern gospel concerts in the mid-70’s, so I got a chance to see all the greats,” Carman shares.

Instead of playing the club circuit, Carman released his first solo LP, “God’s Not Finished With Me,” in 1980. Just two years later, he released his “Some-O-Dat” LP, and in 1983, “Sunday’s on the Way,” a live album that topped the Contemporary Christian Music charts. Just a few years later, he was named the first Favorite Male Vocalist of the Year for the Charisma Magazine Reader’s Choice Awards. Later, he was named Billboard Magazine’s Contemporary Christian Artist of the Year.

Carman has had a large number of chart-topping hits through the years, including “This Blood,” “Lazarus Come Forth,” and “Revival in the Land.” One of his most iconic songs is “The Champion,” which stayed on the Billboard charts for a record-breaking 168 weeks.

When asked how some of his most popular songs came to be, Carman says, “The simple story is that I wrote them from pieces of sermons I heard along the way. I never studied music, but I did study acting at the Abby Playhouse in Philadelphia, so my skill set was in theater. These songs are simply theatrical imagery set to pop music.”

Carman has had tremendous success with pairing music with components of theatre. He is the co-founder of the Parable Christian Film Festival, and he has spearheaded many movie and film projects, such as his nationwide release, *Carman: The Champion*, which he not only starred in, but also wrote.

“Anything you do to visualize your music helps bring it more to life,” Carman states. “I’ve done thirty music videos and three films, but it all gets back to the music.”

When you consider Carman’s musical career, his list of achievements is extensive, from Grammy nominations to Dove Awards. He was even the first Christian music artist to earn a place in the “Parade of Champions” at the Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

The dramatist has appeared on the Bobby Jones Gospel Hour, TBN, and even his own primetime special in 1999, titled, *Halloween: 3:16*, which reportedly resulted in over 70,000 first-time decisions for Christ. From Mardi Gras in New Orleans to Madison Square



Garden in New York, Carman has appeared on many prominent stages, both sacred and secular.

This gentleman had sold over ten million albums, has 15 platinum and gold albums, and experienced

unprecedented success in the music industry. He is blessed to have a supportive family who understands the importance of sharing the gospel, even after being in full-time ministry for over three decades.

"Because I've been doing this full time since 1981, my family and friends know I'm a traveling man by nature," Carman says. "We just work around events like holidays and birthdays from years of experience."

On the road, Carman travels with several well-known individuals in the Southern gospel music industry. His team consists of manager Matt Felts, former vocalist for the Dixie Melody Boys, the Lesters, and Perfect Heart; product specialist Joseph Reed, who has been involved with Southern gospel radio for 30 years; and Mike Garner, former bus driver for the Nelons for the last 15 years.

Carman is excited about his new music single titled,



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“The Flag,” which will be released in honor of the 4th of July. He invited a special all-star gospel quartet to back him up on this song, including Ernie Haase, Joseph Habedank, Pat Barker, and Matt Felts.

Additionally, he is currently working on a rock opera. Carman says, “I took 16 of my songs and put them in order to map out the life of Christ. I call it Christ the Champion, so it’s like a rock and roll passion play.”



Carman’s musical repertoire may include song titles like “Addicted to Jesus” and “Sunday School Rock,” but his favorite songs are the classic hymns of the church.

“Truthfully, I love singing hymns more than anything,” says Carman. “When I’m on stage, those minister me more than any song I have written.”

Carman’s latest project, “Legacy,” is a compilation of 20 songs, covering 30 years of ministry. One of the songs on this album is a medley featuring “How

Great Thou Art” and “Great Is Our God.”

Carman shares, “I was singing ‘How Great Thou Art’ one day to myself in the car. My habit is to sing a well-known song, shut it off, and keep singing a new part. When I sang the melody to ‘Great Is Our God,’ it felt right. I sang it to myself for a year, and then decided to put it on a record.”

Although he has had many experiences that most people can only dream about, Carman has stayed grounded, realizing the purpose for ministry. His ministry has raised close to 10,000 sponsorships for needy children through Child Fund. He also has two non-profit organizations, Carman Ministries and Carman World Outreach.

Carman is currently traveling across the United States on his Legacy Tour. He shares what an evening on tour will include: “The songs I know they are going to want to hear, but mostly a night of ministry, fun, praise, laughs, and life-changing moments. That’s what people expect from me and I take it seriously, wanting to deliver it consistently night after night. Come to a concert and let’s connect face to face. Seeing the people that I minister to and hearing their stories means the most to me. I love the meet and greet more than the music.”

Aside from his musical tours and his many world outreaches, he confesses, “The thing that means the most to me is when I’m singing at a church and the pastor tells me he was led to the Lord at one of my concerts years ago. That’s the biggest compliment.”

Having been through a recent battle with cancer, Carman has grown stronger in his faith. Now he encourages others with these words of wisdom, reminding everyone that we should never waste any time: “You never know when the Lord will call you home and you want to show up with lots of souls; definitely wouldn’t want to show up in Heaven empty handed.”

He strives to live by Hebrews 12:14 (KJV), which says, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Ever since he committed his life to Christ, Carman has continually endeavored to live a peaceful life, shining forth the light of Jesus Christ in all he does. He also under-

stands the importance of telling others about salvation through Jesus Christ, just as the Great Commission calls us to do.

"I would love to be able to set a standard for soul winning through Christian music," says Carman. "We often only think about evangelists as soul winners, the greatest of all time being Billy Graham. But how often have we ever had the discussion, 'Who is the greatest soul winner in Christian Music?' It's a goal we should all be challenged by and aspire to. It will only mean more souls in Heaven, and that's a great goal."

From the United States to South Africa and many places in between, he continues to travel around the world, with the primary goal of being a witness to others with the hope that they will come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Carman does not sing to promote himself, but to share the Gospel. Through every word spoken and every note sung, Carman is leaving a lasting legacy.

For more information on Carman's Legacy Tour, visit www.CarmanOnTour.com.

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Glen Miller



By Vonda Armstrong



This month the D.J. Spotlight is shining once again in Meridian, Mississippi, and it's shining on D.J. Glen Miller from WMER 93.1FM and 1390 AM. We got to know more about Glen, and invite you to get to know him too.

Vonda Armstrong: Tell us about the station, where it's located and how we can listen.

Glen Miller: Our station is located in Meridian, Mississippi. We're a 24 hour station playing Southern gospel music. We are at 93.1 FM and 1390 AM.

VA: How did you get your start in radio? Also, tell us about the first time you went on the air.

GM: My start in radio was an interesting experience. I cut class my senior year in high school from Clarke Academy in Pachuta, Mississippi. My best friend was doing afternoons and taught me the controls. The guy who was supposed to show up didn't, and the owner came by and basically turned to me and asked if I wanted a job. I jumped at the chance. The next afternoon I came in, sat down at the console and played records. For two and a half hours I never said a word. I





was terrified, but by the grace of God I made it.

VA: If you had to play one group all day long, who would it be and why?

GM: Wow, only one group? You are going to really put me on the spot, but here we go. It would have to be Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. With Ernie having been with the Cathedrals for those many years, Signature Sound has that old time quartet sound with a modern sound of today. I think they would definitely be my choice and yes, I could listen to them all day.

VA: If someone is interested in working as a D.J., what advice would you give them?

GM: For someone wanting to get into radio, I would tell them to run, and to run just as fast as you can away from it...just joking. Once it gets in your blood, you can't run. Really, a lot of colleges offer great broadcasting classes. Also, with technology the way it is now and everything computer driven, if you have some skills in that area and a good voice you can get started. The main thing is desire, I believe you must have a desire.

VA: If you could interview anyone in the past or present of Southern gospel music, who would it be and why?

GM: Being brought up in Southern gospel at an early



age, my favorite would have to be Glen Payne. Glen was such an inspiration and a great mentor to so many people in our field. He and George Younce were so instrumental in taking Southern to the next level. I'm sure Glen is making sure everyone in (heaven) is singing their parts correctly. So if I only had one interview, I'd pick Glen to talk to. I know without a doubt I would have plenty of questions for him.

VA: Thank you Glen for sharing with our readers this month. It has been a pleasure talking with you.



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Kingsmen

deliver shout of victory with new members, new CD



By John Herndon

When the lineup changes, there will always be questions about how things will turn out for any group. When those changes hit a legendary gospel quartet, the questions can multiply; but for the Kingsmen, there was no need to worry when two singers left within weeks of each other last summer.

“It’s happened to all of us in the business,” the group’s iconic bass singer, Ray Dean Reese, says with a smile.

As they are proving night after night in 2019, the Kingsmen are doing just fine, just as they have been since 1956. Actually, they’re doing more than just fine as they continue to pack people in for concerts and challenge listeners with a mix of some of their classic hits and new songs off their latest CD, “Victory Shout.”

Reese, who first hit the Kingsmen’s low notes in 1967, says it is all about what the group brings night after night. “People are thirsting for the message,” he says. “(Like with the Kingsmen) we’ve been singing for so many years. I feel like we (have) set a standard down through the years of live recordings and different songs. It’s like going to hear a preacher, in a sense. They have

heard him before and what he’s presenting. What we present is encouraging to them. They enjoy it. It’s a message, so therefore they continue.” What they are hearing is a new twist to the familiar Kingsmen sound and message.

Last June, lead Bob Sellers left the group to pursue a solo career from his home in Alabama. In July, baritone Randy Crawford retired due to health considerations. Losing longtime members could have created a void, but the Kingsmen are still going strong.

The newest guys are Chris Bryant, who took Sellers’ spot onstage and is new to singing full time, and Alan Kendall, who has traveled in the past before pursuing other interests. “We were longtime fans of this music coming into it,” Kendall says. “We have a passion for this kind of music.”

Kendall, 36, says the opportunity has been more than he could have imagined. “I got my feet wet a few years ago singing with another group, but I got married and spent some time singing part time. To be able to come back really is a dream come true. It has been wonder-



ful!”

The Georgia native grew up a fan of the Statesmen, Oak Ridge Boys, Cathedrals and Singing Americans and now stands next to Reese, sharing the message through song with a Hall of Famer every time the Kingsmen sing.

“The thing about this music is it tells stories,” Kendall says. “It tells stories probably better than any other form of Christian music out there. We still have people in their fifties hearing Southern gospel for the first time. We are seeing people who first saw the Kingsmen in the ‘70s or ‘80s and were kids then. They are coming now and bringing their kids to hear us.”

Kendall, who had been singing solo when the Kingsmen came calling, brought the house down with a stirring rendition of “Battle Cry” when we saw them at Christiansburg Baptist Church, near Bagdad, Ky.

Bryant, two years younger than Kendall, had been working in paint sales while singing part time with The Bibletones in Mississippi. “I had been doing that for 18 or 19 years when God opened this door,” Bryant says. Reese remembers how Bryant came aboard. “We already knew of Alan but didn’t know Chris Bryant,” Reese says. “Some guys in other groups told him we were looking for a lead singer and they thought he could qualify for us.” Bryant submitted some tapes and the group found some YouTube videos of his work. Bryant met with the Kingsmen while they were touring in Alabama and soon after, he was offered the job.



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“It’s just a good fit for me,” Bryant says. “They are good guys and I grew up a fan of the Kingsmen, since they are one of the classic quartets. But it was a big move for me.” Bryant’s powerful lead is on display in many of the group’s classics such as “Wish You Were Here.”

The new guys agree that the old message is what keeps the Kingsmen at the top of Southern gospel after 63 years. “I think one thing that has kept them relevant through the years is great songs,” Bryant says. “You have to have great songs, and the Kingsmen have a list of fantastic songs they have introduced to gospel music. Songs like ‘Look for Me at Jesus’ Feet’ and ‘Wish You Were Here,’ to some of the newer songs.”

And the Kingsmen have been pioneers in the industry. “The Kingsmen really set themselves apart from other

groups back in the ‘70s with their song choices, their style of singing and their stage presentation,” Kendall says. “They were never afraid to take a stand on certain things. Their ‘Big and Live’ album is an example. The recording had the shouts from the crowd. The record company wanted to take that off. They said, if you take it off, take us off. That was a pivotal moment really, that album. People got to listen to a live worship experience.”



That cutting edge attitude lives on in a group that features three singers -- Bryant, Kendall and tenor Chris Jenkins -- who were not born until at least 10 years after the release of “Big and Live.”

“Back in the ‘60s and ‘70s you can see the evolution of the Kingsmen,” says Jenkins, who is 32 and in his

The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of

A row of five album covers. From left to right: 1. Chuck Day, album 'eleven', featuring a man in a cowboy hat. 2. The Reed Brothers, album 'HOLDING ON', featuring four men in suits. 3. Marcia Hudson, album 'Songs of Hope', featuring a woman in a red dress sitting on a chair. 4. Greg Day, album 'Gifts', featuring a man in a suit. 5. Epp Mevin Walls, featuring a man in a blue shirt.

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second stint with the group. “They took on that certain Kingsmen sound. Then in the ‘80s and ‘90s they kept that going. They started doing things out of the box that most quartets wouldn’t have been doing at the time.

“We don’t sit back and rest on our laurels. We have been there 63 years and are still trying to make great music, great music that people will like and music that will be relevant. It’s music that people will hear and will be life changing.”



Jenkins is featured on “Victory Shout,” the title cut of the latest CD, a song that was added just before going into the studio. The CD, which is the quartet’s first with Bryant and Kendall, had been in the works for about a year. Among the cuts are “Running to Win,” featuring Kendall and “That’s Where You’ll Find Me,” a ballad that tells of meeting at Jesus’ throne and features Bryant.



The CD also contains a Kingsmen classic, “The Prodigal Son,” written by Larry Gatlin and originally recorded by the group in 1991. “We wanted a song to really feature Ray,” Jenkins says. “We found several on this album but we wanted something to really feature him.

Our record executive kind of pulled that out of the hat.

“We had picked out the songs, then two more songs came in. ‘Victory Shout’ was one of those. I thought it would sound great with a choir behind it. Then one day Brandon (Reese, Ray’s son and the group’s sound engineer and road manager) and I were sitting at the front of the bus and I said, ‘I’m pretty sure that’s a radio hit.’ It’s an anthem-type song. Something about the song just jumps out at you.”

The latest single reminds Christians that God is still in control, regardless of life’s circumstances.

The Kingsmen learned that, again, in the past year, just as they have repeatedly learned since 1956. “Victory Shout” expresses those lessons.

“It’s a lot of encouragement,” Bryant says. “It talks about the different trials we have been through, trying times we don’t know exactly what’s going on or why God’s doing what he’s doing, but we have to trust him. The CD as a whole has that kind of feel from start to finish. It’s an uplifting CD.”

Ray Dean Reese plans to keep singing

Ray Dean Reese’s Hall of Fame career with The Kingsmen began in 1967 and he doesn’t see it coming to an end any time soon. “It’s a great heritage and I am thankful to be part of it,” he says of his work with the Kingsmen.

Reese turned 80 in May. “That’s just 40 twice over,” he grins.

How long will he continue singing?

“As long as I can!” he says with a big smile. “My momma lived to be 99 years old. I expect to be singing at 98.”

A photograph of four men in suits standing in a church aisle. The men are positioned in the center of the frame, flanked by wooden pews. The church has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams and a circular stained-glass window at the far end. The title 'THE GUARDIANS' is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the upper middle of the image, with 'SINCE 1988' in smaller text below it.

THE GUARDIANS

SINCE 1988

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

1. Even Me – The Triumphant Quartet
2. All My Hope – Gold City
3. Revival – The LeFevre Quartet
4. You're Not In This Alone – The Browders
5. Everything He Forgot – Brian Free and Assurance
6. We Are All God's Children – The Gaither Vocal Band
7. His Grave Wrote The Song – Greater Vision
8. Joy On The Journey – The Mylon Hayes Family
9. Choose Life – The Hyssongs
10. Just Across The River – The Steeles
11. Everybody Come See Jesus – The Tribute Quartet
12. The Father Knew – Susan Whisnant
13. Death Was Arrested – The Talleys
14. The Ground Is Level At Calvary – The Whisnants
15. Lord Knows – The Old Paths
16. I Pray Every Day – The Taylors
17. Finish Well, Finish Strong, Finish Empty – Mark Bishop
18. Be Saved – The Mark Trammell Quartet
19. Victory Shout – The Kingsmen
20. So Good To Me – The McKameys
21. Like I'm On The Shore – The Erwins
22. His Cross Is Empty Now – The Lore Family
23. The River – Karen Peck and New River
24. He's Here For Me – The Williamsons
25. The Sweetest Story Told – The Wilbanks
26. It Carried Him – The Perrys

27. Testimony Time – The Down East Boys
28. Shame On Me – Joseph Habedank
29. You're Not The Only One – Tim Livingston
30. I'm Not Afraid To Go – New Ground
31. That's Right Where He'll Be – The Inspirations
32. Glory To Glory – Riley Harrison Clark
33. Love All Day Long – The Nelons
34. Give It To You – Cana's Voice
35. Live The Gospel – Three Bridges
36. I Love You – Joseph Habedank
37. Send An Angel By My Way – The Freemans
38. Faith Like That – The Dunaways
39. You Chose To Be My Friend – Jason Crabb
40. Thank You For The Roses – Paul James Sound
41. Shouting In The Middle Of My Storm – The Jordan Family Band
42. I'd Like To Meet The Preacher – 11th Hour
43. Heal The Wound – The Martins
44. Every Word Of God Is True – Chronicle
45. God Of Every Moment – Zane and Donna King
46. In The Fire – The Dodsons
47. The Lovely Name Of Jesus – The Kingdom Heirs
48. Composer Of My Life – Tim Lovelace
49. Freedom Band – The Joneses
50. A Bible And A Belt – Les Butler and Friends
51. Triumphantly – Bros.4



52. Blood Of Jesus – The Carolina Boys Quartet
53. When We Have To Face The Fire – The Dysart Family
54. Let My Life Be A Light – Balsam Range
55. Let Your Light So Shine – Mark209
56. Who Is On The Lord's Side – The Mark Dubbeld Family
57. Live For Today – Cami Shrock
58. More Blessed Than Burdened – The Frosts
59. Another One Like Him – The Master's Voice
60. He'll Make A Way – Hazel Parker Stanley
61. Pictures – Jessica Horton
62. Dining With The King – The Fields Of Grace
63. Leave My Trouble Behind – The Pathfinders
64. I'll Be So Happy There – Mercy's Well
65. Take A Stand – Justified
66. Roll On Jordan – The Common Bond Quartet
67. It Happened That Day – The Hinson Family
68. Love Is Gonna Win – The Sharps
69. Back To God – The Real Truth Revival
70. Believe Me He Can – Blood Bought
71. I Am Just A Pilgrim – The Appalachian Road Show
72. Jesus, You're Always There – The Primitive Quartet
73. A World To Believe In – The Bilderbacks
74. Following In Their Footsteps – The GloryWay Quartet
75. The Last Man Standing – Reign Down
76. It's A Highway To Heaven – Endless Highway
77. It's Good To Be Alive – The Dodrill Family
78. Royal Banquet – Living Faith
79. I'm Holding On – Greg Loggins and Revival
80. Gone – Summit Trace
81. Call On God – Tonja Rose
82. You're Looking More Like Your Father – The Journeys
83. I'll Meet You At The Gate – The 3rd Row Boys
84. What Happened At The Cross, Stays At The Cross – The Keystone State Quartet

85. There Is A Healer – Adam Crabb
86. Heavenly Ride – Souls Harbor
87. Wherever You Are – Melissa Evans
88. Oh What A Day – Surrendered
89. Mercy On Me – Foretold
90. Day One – Jason Crabb
91. Hallelujah Meeting – Charlie Sexton and Homecoming
92. I'll Take Jesus – ReJeana Leeth and New Grace
93. There's One Man – Mitchell Whisnant
94. Three Story House – Don Stiles
95. I Need You That Way – Exodus
96. Bloodline – Christian Cross Roads
97. Stand Together As One – Melissa Smith
98. It's Only A Test – 2nd Chance Ministries
99. Too Much Jesus In Me – Linda Lanier
100. Cain's Blood – The Steel City Revival

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Across the Sea:

Johnathan Welsh

sings Gospel in the U.K.



By Lorraine Walker

This Southern gospel singer is not from the south. He sings an incredibly low, smooth bass, yet he is not in a quartet. He doesn't have an American accent or zip code, but he has a sweet nature, very strong faith, and reads a KJV bible. He climbs rocky faces, uses words like "fab" and "baltic." Meet Johnathan Welsh from Northern Ireland, United Kingdom.

Welsh is based just south of Belfast and has been singing the gospel for almost two decades. Northern Ireland has a thriving gospel music community, with accomplished vocalists who not only sing in Ireland, England, and surrounding areas, but also travel to the U.S. for concerts. Walsh has made the trip a few times and shares some great memories.

"Back in 1998, when I was with Zionaires, the N.Q.C. Board heard an album we'd done and invited us to sing at N.Q.C. in Louisville, Kent.," says Welsh. "A man called Maurice Templeton brought us over and it was a great experience. I met and talked with George Younce who gave

me advice on bass singing. We sang on the main rotating stage on the Saturday night in front of a huge audience...I was nervous. We also did showcases and sang on a steam boat on the Ohio River, with the Anchormen and Karen Peck and New River."

It is possible that this Irishman has seen more of the home of Southern gospel than many who are based there.

"I joined Simple Faith which ended in July 2018 and I sang with them since 2011, and from 2011 we travelled about two times per year to tour in the U.S.A.," explains Welsh. "(We) mainly sang in all the southern states and as far north as Missouri. Georgia was the main state. I last sang in Georgia in November 2018, when I recorded my current solo album in Covington, Georgia."

In the last few years, several bass singers have carved out excellent solo careers, but it is still unusual in the gospel music industry. Welsh's beautiful low tones on his latest recording make the listener want to enjoy his songs all

day.

“I went solo from January 2019, having sung with groups, so it’s a slow but sure restart for me,” admits Welsh. “(I) am currently doing about four churches per month. This is usually in Northern Ireland but I have gigs coming up in England. Usually, (I) only travel between 20 to 60 miles, as Northern Ireland is wee.”

Welsh’s new album, “Victory in the Lord,” was reviewed by Randall Hamm in SGNscoops Magazine, March 2019. Hamm referred to Welsh as “Tim Riley with an Irish accent.” His cover songs range from “Beulah Land” to “Long Black Train” to “If You Knew Him.” This isn’t his first time to record in the US.

“Simple Faith initially made contact with a group who we sang with in Scotland. That group is called the Old Paths and they invited us over to record back in 2012,” Welsh recalls. “A friend introduced me to a studio called Tunedesigner, based in Covington, Georgia, and they did a great job for me. In the past, I have also recorded with Crossroads, based in Arden, N.C.”

Tunedesigner is owned by John Johnson, who also produced the album along with Welsh. Johnson enjoyed working with the singer.

“Johnathan is one of the most interesting people I’ve ever worked with,” says Johnson. “It’s so cool that someone from Northern Ireland loves Southern gospel as much as he does. He kept us all entertained with a million stories told only the way he can tell them, using the Queen’s English, of course. His bass voice is absolutely amazing, but the most important part for me is how he sang all of these songs straight from his heart.”



Musicians appearing on the record were Daniel Addison, George Sandler, as well as Rhett and John Johnson. Although all of the songs were favorites of Welsh’s, he admits that one cut is particularly special to him.

“I think the song I like best is a Twila Paris song called “How Beautiful,” says Welsh. “It’s sometimes difficult for me to sing this song as I can get emotional singing (it). It just says how beautiful the Lord Jesus Christ is and the tune is gorgeous. But I like them all. ‘One Scarred Hand’ is also lovely to sing.”

The reason Welsh sings “straight from his heart” is that he had a heart-changing experience with the subject of his songs, Jesus Christ.

“I got saved on 21st Feb., 1986,” begins Welsh. “I was living in England and met a young 20-year-old girl at a party. She told me about Jesus and I got saved when she read from the bible in Isaiah 53.



“Prior to meeting this girl I was a bit lost in drugs and alcohol. I was a hedonist and was promiscuous to say the least. My testimony is long, so won’t get into it here, but when I got saved, the following day everything changed,” exclaims Welsh.

What happened to the little missionary he met at the party?

“That girl went back to Ireland from England,” says Welsh. “But I pursued her and we married the same year,



in Sept. 1986. We have been married nearly 33 years now with two grown up children.”

Welsh continues,”Jesus Christ is my all. He put a song in my heart and I now sing and testify for his glory. I make mistakes but the difference now is I can come to him for forgiveness and mercy. He is amazing.”

Interestingly, the bible passage that his wife had read to him on the night his life changed forever, is still the passage he loves the most.

“My favourite chapter is found in Isaiah 53, from verses 2 - 7, with my favourite verses being 5 and 6. These verses are important to me because it was through these verses in chapter 53 of Isaiah that I got saved. The prophet Isaiah spoke these words some 800 years before the event of the crucifixion and spoke about it in exquisite detail. Wow!” exclaims Welsh.

This man of God hopes to return to America soon.

“I would love to come back to sing in the U.S.A.,” says Welsh. “I tried to organise a tour in Georgia for this summer, but only managed to secure about four or five churches and I would need about eight to come such a long way. I suppose the best way would be to have an agent in the USA who could organise a wee tour, but I’m not sure how to go about getting an agent. Anyone can book me by going to my Facebook page at either Johnathan Welsh or rufus64. My cell is 07400396276 or

my address is 16, Gulf Lane, Hillsborough, BT266EL, Co.Down, Northern Ireland, U.K. If anyone wants a cd I can mail it to them and have done so already to a few people in the U.S.A.”

Johnathan Welsh may be from across the sea but his faith is anchored in the one who calmed the sea. Jesus Christ is the same in the U.S. as he is in the U.K. and Welsh just wants to tell this to the world.

“The best thing anyone said to me after coming off the platform after singing was that my singing is ‘anointed,’” admits Welsh. “Without the anointing, I feel I’m just a ‘clanging cymbal,’ as scripture states. I covet the anointing at all times for my singing and hope and pray that people would be edified and even saved when I sing for the King.”

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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

2019 July SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40

1. God's Got This - Kelly Kenning
2. Pretty - Jamie Lynn Flanakin
3. Too Nice - Isaac Cole
4. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
5. Victory Song - Cori and Kelly
6. Hands Of A Working Man - Christian Davis
7. Sermon On The Mount - Tommy Brandt
8. I Got Saved - Michael Knight
9. Getting My Jesus On - Andrew Marshall
10. Rockin' Of The Cradle - Arkin Terrell
11. Near You - Michael Lee (With Rhonda Vincent)
12. No Place Too Far From Grace - Tina Wakefield
13. Pictures - Jessica Horton
14. That's How Jesus - Rex Robards
15. Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick
16. Higher Than A Steeple - Brent Harrison
17. God, Oral Roberts, And Billy Graham - Carol Barham
18. There's Still Time For A Miracle - Joy Roberts
19. Well Run Dry - Leslie Satcher
20. I Am - Robert Stowell

21. In The Fire - The Dodsons
22. What Love Is - Bobby Chitwood
23. Worth It - Brad Henley
24. Grateful - Chris Golden
25. Mama Said - Kolt Barber
26. Praise Looks Good On You - Kevin and Kim Abney
27. Sky Full Of Angels - Kali Rose
28. 'Till The Rivers All Run Dry - Gene Reasoner
29. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
30. Down Side Up - Lisa Daggs
31. What A Friend - Greg McDougal
32. Three Story House - Don Stiles
33. Believe Me He Can - BloodBought
34. Steve Bridgeman - Push Back
35. Heavenly Shores - Mary James
36. Too Much Jesus In Me - Linda Lanier
37. Something Pentecostal - Sandy Jarvis
38. I Gotta Be Goin' Now - The Scott Brown Band
39. American Christian - Bonita Eileen
40. Everytime - Mary Burke

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Les Butler and Friends:



Brad Stevens of the Stevens Family Tradition

By Les Butler

Over the past couple of years, I've been blessed to get to know, pick, sing and minister with a new group in Bluegrass gospel music called the Stevens Family Tradition (SFT). They are talented, they are anointed and they are driven for the cause of Christ. I'd like to introduce you to one of their founding members, Brad Stevens. He is a great singer, a fine musician and an anointed preacher.



Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Brad Stevens: I've often said I cut my teeth on church pews and guitars; that being said, music has been a part of my life since a very early age. I remember standing in front of a church in my home town at the age of

five, playing my guitar and singing a whole song. No doubt even before that I was joining in on the picking and singing at my nanny Shirley Stevens and Papaw Jess Stevens' house.

Butler: Who is your top instrumental mentor? Vocal mentor? Preaching mentor?

Stevens: For instrument mentors I would have to look no farther than my immediate family: my dad, Donald Stevens, my late papaw, Jess Stevens, and my brother, Donnie Stevens. My cradle was surrounded by their playing and singing.

Vocal mentors could be a long list of folks for sure, but one of the most influential ones would have to be a gentleman, who is my cousin, Danny Stevens. I grew up listening to him sing in church and I found myself trying to sing like him for years when I was a kid. My preaching mentor is my pastor of nearly 22 years, who is also my father-in-law, Joey Burns. He has faithfully served the same church, which he started, for 31 years. He has taught me so much from delivering the



word of God effectively to how to love people unconditionally.

Butler: Why is the word, “Tradition,” included in your group name?

Stevens: As you may have already noticed, music has been part of my brother’s and my life since birth. We certainly have inherited a love for music from our papaw and dad. We’re the third generation of our immediate family that has maintained a love for music...I’d say that’s tradition.

Butler: Tell us the history of SFT and introduce us to those who are in the group today.

Stevens: Stevens Family Tradition (SFT) started around four years ago as an album project. It had been over 15 years since I had been part of any music other than at church. Before I started preaching, my brother and I were part of a bluegrass band and made some of the fondest memories of our life doing so. After the long absence of that organized band music in my life, I really felt it was time to rekindle that with my brother, so we got together a group of friends to record an album. Next thing you know, after some conversations with our producer, Steve Gulley, who influenced us greatly to write songs, something we had never really done, the Lord began to give us lyrics, and the rest is history. The band started with myself, my brother Donnie Stevens, our long-time friend Frank Farley on guitar, and Jim

Harp on the bass. These are the original band members and are still with us today. Frank’s son, Trey, played resonator guitar with us for about a year until life took him in a different direction; we enjoyed having him. We have had several different banjo players throughout the process but filling that position now is a local friend Tommy Couch. Our good friend, Gil Benson, sits in with us from time to time on the fiddle as well.

Butler: What’s your biggest or most special musical moment?

Stevens: The Lord has blessed us to be able to play for a diverse group of people throughout our ministry so far; from Dollywood to congregations in churches



throughout several states both large and small. We have been blessed to have our music on the radio and even on the charts, which is still a little hard to fathom. But if there's ever a moment that is special, it's when we've got to see those in need of the Savior lose grip of that pew and walk the aisle to the altar and pray through to salvation. That's why we do it.



Butler: Tell us about your family. Are any of them musical?

Stevens: I have been married to my wife Candon for 21 years. We have been blessed with three kids; Peyton, 19, Hannah, 16, and Hope who is seven. Candon plays piano and has been the worship leader in our church for many years. Our middle daughter, Hannah, has recently begun to follow in her mommy and daddy's footsteps, singing in church as well. As for little Hope, she's like her daddy; she's been a song bird since she could talk. All this music and singing hasn't caught up with our son Peyton yet, but one day I believe it will.

Butler: Tell us about the music festivals you are involved with in your hometown of Manchester, Kentucky.

Stevens: My brother Donnie and I have recently been involved with a festival here in our home town called

Saltworks Appalachian Homecoming Festival. We had a very small part in it before, and were blessed to have the folks ask us to take care of booking the bands. We did our best to provide them the best bluegrass music in America today.

We also felt the urgency and believe the Lord has led us to organize and promote a gospel event in our community as well. We went before the Manchester Tourism Commission with our vision and they were kind enough to give us the financial boost we needed to make sure this vision becomes reality. With their help and other sponsors as well, what will be known as the 1st Annual Shaping Clay Jubilee will happen on October 4 - 5, 2019, right here at the Pioneer Village in Manchester. Appearing at the event will be Heaven's Mountain Band, the Shepherds, Steve Gulley and Friends, Stevens Family Tradition, the Old Time Preachers Quartet, Jeff and Sheri Easter, the Hoppers, and the Isaacs. We are pleased to be able to offer this event for free to all who would like to attend.

Butler: Please give us a brief testimony.

Stevens: First let me say, I'm thankful to be saved. I remember the day when the Lord changed everything about my life. Since that day, life has certainly dealt me and my family some uncertain days. On December 23, 2010, I had a massive stroke in my brain stem. God gave us a miracle and I survived; however, there were many days over the next four months when I didn't know if I would live or die. But through it all, God was with us and gave us the grace and strength we needed to endure. This experience has played a huge part of who myself and my family are today. I still deal with some issues from the stroke today, but I don't regret it happened because as a result of this experience, my family has grown closer, our dependency on the Lord has grown stronger, and many sermons and songs have come into being influenced by this first-hand experience. I'm very thankful for life and the opportunity to minister the truth of the gospel through preaching and music. I don't deserve to be where I am today, and give God all the glory for being not only my Savior, but the Author and the Finisher of my faith!



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Kingsmen Quartet



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Diplomats Quartet.



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2x2 Quartet

Friday 19th 6:00 PM



The Freemans



The McKameys



Wilma Smith

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Chatta Valley

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Bluegrass

Top 20

2019 July SGNscoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 20

1. Who But God - Eagle's Wings
2. Most Requested Prayer - Heaven's Mountain Band
3. Let My Life Be A Light - Balsam Range
4. I Am Just A Pilgrim - The Appalachian Road Show
5. Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet
6. Glory Bound Train - Carolina Blue
7. I See God - Marty Raybon
8. Acres Of Diamonds - Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers
9. Call On God - Tonja Rose
10. In A Whirlwind - Little Roy and Lizzy Show
11. Letting Go - Southern Raised
12. I Start Each Day With The Lord - Britton Family and Friends
13. A Brighter Day - The Primitive Quartet
14. All My Tears - Jaelee Roberts

15. Now I'm Here - The Stevens Family Tradition
16. Are You Ready To Go - Sally Berry
17. Thinkin' Outside The Box - Dave Adkins
18. Songs Like Those - The Chigger Hill Boys and Terri
19. Little White Church By The Way - The Rumfelt Family
20. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver



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Coastal Media Events

By Lorraine Walker

Coastal Media and Rob Patz are preparing to bring the Creekside experience to music fans everywhere, with a goal of 12 gospel music conventions in 12 states over two years.

“We are in the planning stages already for several events,” Patz explains, “and my team is working hard to bring high quality events to these states.”

Here are a few of the upcoming 2020 events that are in the works:

Coastal Media will begin the year at the **Southern Gospel Weekend**, March 2020, in Oxford, Alabama (call 360-933-0741 or 256-310-7892 for tickets.)

Next on the calendar will be Mississippi, at the **Gospel Music Expo** in Tupelo, on April 23 - 25, 2020. Some of the artists appearing include John Penney, New Ground, Southern Image, M.C. Dr. Buck Morton, and Masters Quartet, Day 3, Jessica Horton, and others.



Gospel Music Weekend—Michigan is coming to Ann Arbor June 4 - 6, 2020. GMW Michigan will feature some fantastic artists from the Great Lakes Region, such as Gloryway, Justified Quartet, Cami Shrock, as well as some of the Creekside family of artists including the Dodrill Family, Livin Forgivin, Matchless Grace and Kristen Stanton.

Other states in these initial event plans include: Indiana, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky. More information will be posted as it becomes available.

Patz believes that the strength of gospel music lies at the grassroots level—the local church, the communities, the regional ministries who are on the frontlines everyday. “We need to strengthen the frontlines. I believe that if we want to grow as an industry, we need to grow the support at the regional level first,” Patz



explains.

Artists in the states mentioned, or those in the area who would like to become a part of the concerts, please contact Rob Patz at 360-920-4057.

Other upcoming events are highlighted below:

Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend 2019

Coastal Media works with McKay Project and Vonda Armstrong to present Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend on Sept. 6 - 7, 2019, in the City Auditorium of Vernon. Artists include Amy Richardson, Gloryland, the Bibletones, Jessica Horton, Day Three, Hope's Journey, and more. For more information, please call 662-889-2829, 256-310-7892, or 360-920-4057.

Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2019

Creekside Gospel Music Convention returns to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in five months. Hundreds of people travel every year to the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, for the entire five nights and four days of music, laughter and family, Oct. 27 - 31, 2019. The Creekside Gospel Music Convention offers Bluegrass, Country and Southern gospel afternoon music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer. Some of



the great artists already announced for this year are the Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, Sue Dodge, the Browders, and so many more.

The last Sunday of October sees the start of Creekside as the Kickoff Concert in the evening presents the Chordsmen and the Pine Ridge Boys. The Pine Ridge Boys are joining with Classic Records and Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today to record Creekside Live! Join them for all the fun on Oct. 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mill Creek Conference Center, 2674 Florence Dr. Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

The Pine Ridge Boys are bringing a bus tour to Creekside through Annabelle's Adventures. Larry Stewart's wife, Anne, of Annabelle's Adventures, is hosting the trip from Oct. 27 - 30; to include the live concert taping, the 2019 Diamond Awards, VIP Seating at Creekside concerts, hotel accommodation and more. For more information, please email anne@pineridgeboys.com or phone 864-473-8535.

On Monday, Oct. 29, the load-in begins for the groups, as well as the first daily showcase. The evening concert hosts the Life Achievement award for one special music industry leader. Tuesday night is the prestigious 2019 Diamond Award presentations. Concerts occur day and night, as well as special preaching, continuing through Thursday night.

Creekside Bluegrass

Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. is pleased to welcome special host Les Butler in the presentation of Creekside Bluegrass, Oct. 28 - 31, 2019. The Smoky Mountain Convention Center will set



the stage for the instrumental excellence and mountain harmonies of the King James Boys, Chigger Hill Boys and Terri, Golden Valley Crusaders, Bama Blu-Grace, Williamson Branch, Stevens Family Tradition, Family Sowell, and Walking By Faith.



The Creekside Bluegrass showcase, Bluegrass Gospel Extravaganza, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Les Butler will also be hosting a nightly Bluegrass Gospel Showcase on the main stage, featuring some of the excellent Bluegrass groups performing at the Extravaganza on Wednesday.

Fans who are excited about the Bluegrass showcases, should call 360-933-0741 and mention "Bluegrass Gospel" for special accommodation discounts.

Christian Country at the Creek

The inaugural Christian Country at the Creek, will be

held on October 30 and 31, 2019, at the Mill Creek Conference Center, 2674 Florence Dr., in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Some of the artists appearing at this event include Sara Lewis, Jessica Horton, Bonita Eileen, Appointed2, Pardoned, Phoebe White, and more.

"We are excited to begin this new event running alongside Creekside," says Patz. "Come hear more than 30 Christian Country artists during two music-packed days of concerts. This is one of the greatest musical styles today. Don't miss it!"



For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the 2019 Diamond Awards ceremony, the Kick-Off Concert, Christian Country at the Creek, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741. Make your plans today to attend Creekside Gospel Music Convention, taking place Oct. 27 - Oct. 31, 2019, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information or to book your hotel, contact rob@sgnscoops.com or call 360- 933-0741.



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LIVE FOR TODAY



Experience the Chordsmen Quartet for the First Time, Again

By Charlie Griffin
and
Lorraine Walker

The 1970's was a decade full of great family harmony in gospel music. The Goodmans, Hemphills, Hopper Brothers and Connie, Speer Family, Rambos, and many more, traveled the highways and brought audiences to their feet with their tight, soaring southern harmonies.

Into this era, three Jennings brothers - Thomas, Gary, and Keith, drew from their innate sibling musical compatibility and formed the Chordsmen Quartet. The group travelled the southeast sharing the gospel music story for 15 years.

In 2013, brothers Jerry and Harold Jennings, sons of original member Thomas, revived the family quartet along with Stephen Williams and Randy Leslie. The men stage gospel music with excitement, passion, purpose, and confidence, sharing the same mission and message, and turning heads in gospel music.

Williams commented on his initiation into the Jennings' family heritage.

"I was asked to fill in for a New Year's Eve concert and the funny thing was, we practiced for about a month and it sounded bad," says Williams. "The harmony just wasn't there. But the moment we stepped on stage, we knew God was in it and guiding us. The sound and harmony at least to me was awesome. It was like we had been singing together forever."

Although they love to sing the classic quartet songs, the group's current album has some great tunes, such as "Last Man Standing," "A Cross Became My Saving Grace," and, "Saved Is All You Have To Be." With all the great songwriters in gospel music, it is often difficult to narrow down the search for the right tunes.

However, Williams doesn't think so. "It's easy; if we



don't feel the Spirit as we sing it, we won't sing it. My favorite song on the new CD is 'Standing in the Presence of the King,' because one day, if I live for God, I will stand in his presence and see him face to face."

Williams is a retired Executive Chef who is enjoying his surrender to this call to service with men he counts as great friends. He mentions a favorite attribute of each. "Harold Jennings, (his) sense of humor; Jerry Jennings, his love for the lord; Randy Leslie, his meekness and his spirit. Something most people wouldn't know is they would give you the shirt off their back if you needed it. They would help you in any way possible."

This genuine love for others is mentioned often about the Chordsmen, who have been honored to sing with some great singers and have made some great friends in many areas. Their shared kinship of gospel music, ministry and message holds true in any performance, church or concert venue.

The recognition of the groups' talent and mission has been rewarded by their family, friends and peers. Association fan awards and performance invitations to some of gospel music's prestigious events add to the heritage of this devoted gospel quartet. One of the latest nods to the Chordsmen talent is their place in the Top 5 of the 2019 Diamond Award for the Sunrise Quartet of the Year.

Gospel music veteran Jerry Jennings shares, "We are experiencing something special with the Chordsmen. The four of us love to be on that bus singing. We love spending time with our families. We love being around friends

that come to our concerts. We are blessed and don't take it lightly. Good things are happening for us and we are more excited than ever. We are loving our journey."

"Our main purpose and vision is for us to reach as many souls as we can, to introduce them to the Savior if they don't know him," says Williams. "What I like is that we listen and follow the Spirit, not an outline. If God says stop in the middle of a service and give an invitation then that's what we will do."

The year 2019 marks a time of renewed vigor for the Chordsmen Quartet. The group is now the cornerstone artist for Classic Artists Music Group, "Chime Records" label. Their first Chime record will be a live DVD-CD recording captured at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The October 27 concert will be at the Mill with the Pine Ridge Boys and will begin the five-day Creekside event.

With Wise Choice Promotions handling audio interactions, the Chordsmen Quartet released a new 2019 summer radio song, "Far From A Song." This catchy toe tapper has a positive message and is performed in the classic Chordsmen tradition. As a result, the group is gaining an even greater audience, which is something the men have been praying about.

"We want to minister to as many people as possible and spread the word of the Lord through song," says Williams. "Presently, we sing in about four to five states: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee. Over the next five years, we would like to extend our reach to the east coast. We pray for God to increase our territory and open more doors for us to minister in."

As this article was being submitted, the Chordsmen were involved in a bus wreck in the Hendersonville, N.C., on June 7, 2019. The quartet was on their way to Big Stone Gap, Virginia, to sing for an outdoor music festival, when a drunk driver rear ended their bus causing a delay in their travels. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Family members rushed to provide two vehicles for the group while Pine Ridge Boys (PRB) owner/ manager Larry Stewart delivered a U-Haul trailer for the Quartet to continue to their scheduled concerts. Coincidentally, the PRB were involved in a bus wreck on May 18 on the way to one of their concerts, and had immediate experience in handling a challenge such as this.



Events like this can refine the commitment of a singer; the choice of leaving the road or deciding to stay the course tends to be reaffirmed after such difficulties. As Williams says, this is more than just a fleeting hobby to the men.

“We don’t do this for just something to do on the week-ends. We all have a calling on our lives to spread the

gospel of Jesus Christ through song. It’s a ministry, not a job,” he states.

Williams explains where their resolve comes from to keep singing, week after week. It comes from his favorite scripture verse. “Philippians 4:13 (says) ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,’” says Williams. “He will give you the strength to get on the bus and minister week after week even when you don’t feel like it. He makes it easy. God is our refuge and strength.”

Even though unfortunate things happen, the future is shining bright for the Chordsmen Quartet. Just four men sharing a common mission and vision, sharing gospel music, who through faith are never “Far From A Song.”

For more information on the Chordsmen Quartet please visit: theChordsmenQuartet.com and also Classic Artists Music Group at ClassicArtistsRecordsllc.net and Wise Choice Promotions at WiseChoicePromotions.com.

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Randall Reviews It - July 2019

by Randall Hamm

Friends:

July, July, July! Yes, it's July, and just around the corner in two months is the National Quartet Convention. Didn't we just do that? Oh my, life goes so quick anymore. This month, what could be the last album the McKameys record, "The Crown," is out and I have the privilege of reviewing it. If you had the chance to read last month's SGN Scoops, we featured the New Speer Family on the cover, and here is a review of their latest CD, "A Singing Heritage." So without further adieu,

Let the reviews begin....

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.

Randall



The McKameys
"The Crown"

Producer: Roger Fortner and Jeff Collins
Label: Horizon 2019

Songs: "We All Need A Savior" (Sheryl Farris BMI); "You Must Be Born Again" (Rebecca J. Peck - John M Robinson BMI); "Cleanse Me" (Edwin Orr - John McNeill PD); "Go Back and Pray" (Traditional); "The Holy Spirit Prayed" (Tina Sadler BMI); "Heavy" (Sue C. Smith - Chase McDaniel - Brent Ellison BMI); "Don't Forget" (Sheryl Farris BMI); "The Crown" (Sheryl Farris BMI); "God Is Good" (Sue C Smith - Tony Wood - Joseph Habedank BMI); "From Dust To Glory" (Sheryl Farris BMI)

The McKameys' fifty-fourth project, and maybe the last project the group will record as they are today, is entitled "The Crown." They will retire from the road

and performing live concerts in November of this year. The last performance will be in Knoxville, Tenn., on November 23. If you get a chance to see them anywhere in the meantime, do so, as you will be blessed. The McKameys will definitely be missed on the concert circuit.

This new CD is filled with pure mountain harmonies and great messages that come through anointed singers. The CD begins with a Sheryl Farris song, "We All Need A Savior," and there's only one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sheryl wrote a total of four songs on this project, including the first single release, "From Dust To Glory." Man was created from the dust and to dust he shall return. But thanks to our Savior, we once again can obtain glory and be with the one who created us.

The CD is book ended by Sheryl Farris songs, as well as in between, showing that this is one of the strongest CDs in a while from the McKameys. One of my favorite songs is from the pen of Tina Sadler, who wrote so many great songs like "God Is Good" recorded by Gaither Vocal Band, and Peg gets her strongest song in a while with Sadler's "The Holy Spirit Prayed." Sometimes, we don't know the words to say, but the Holy Spirit intervenes and helps us pray and say what we cannot say. This is my pick for the second single release.

Eli returns with a song entitled "Heavy." The cut, fully orchestrated with strings, is a beautiful tune. On piano is Eli's dad Roger Fortner. Sometimes events and life, just get "Heavy" and I'm so glad that my Savior will help me bear those burdens, if I just ask. Eli didn't have a song to sing on the last project, but according to Eli, nothing was wrong, they just couldn't find a song.

If this is the last album the McKameys record, they will go out on a high note. Just an absolute wonderful CD, from start to finish. As we all are asked to do, "Finish well." If this is it, the McKameys finish well.

Strongest Songs: "From Dust To Glory," "The Holy Spirit Prayed," "Heavy"



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" (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 with the Speer family heritage. Brian Speer, baritone; along with wife Allison, soprano/lead; Ben Waites, tenor/lead; and Mike Allen, bass, have put together a group that revives the sound and music of his grandfather, George "Dad" Speer and father Brock.

Around 2000, Marc Speer, Ben Speer's son, launched New Speer Revival to continue the legacy, along with Karen Apple of the Speers. I hope this new revival will be around for a long while.

This debut project 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 they all do

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 brought this listener a chill.

This album features one of the most powerful and 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. The whole 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 of this classic in 1971 and they have become associated with the song.

Overall, Brian has put together a group that does justice to the legacy of the Speers. A great first effort and I 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 or wherever you get your good gospel music.

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



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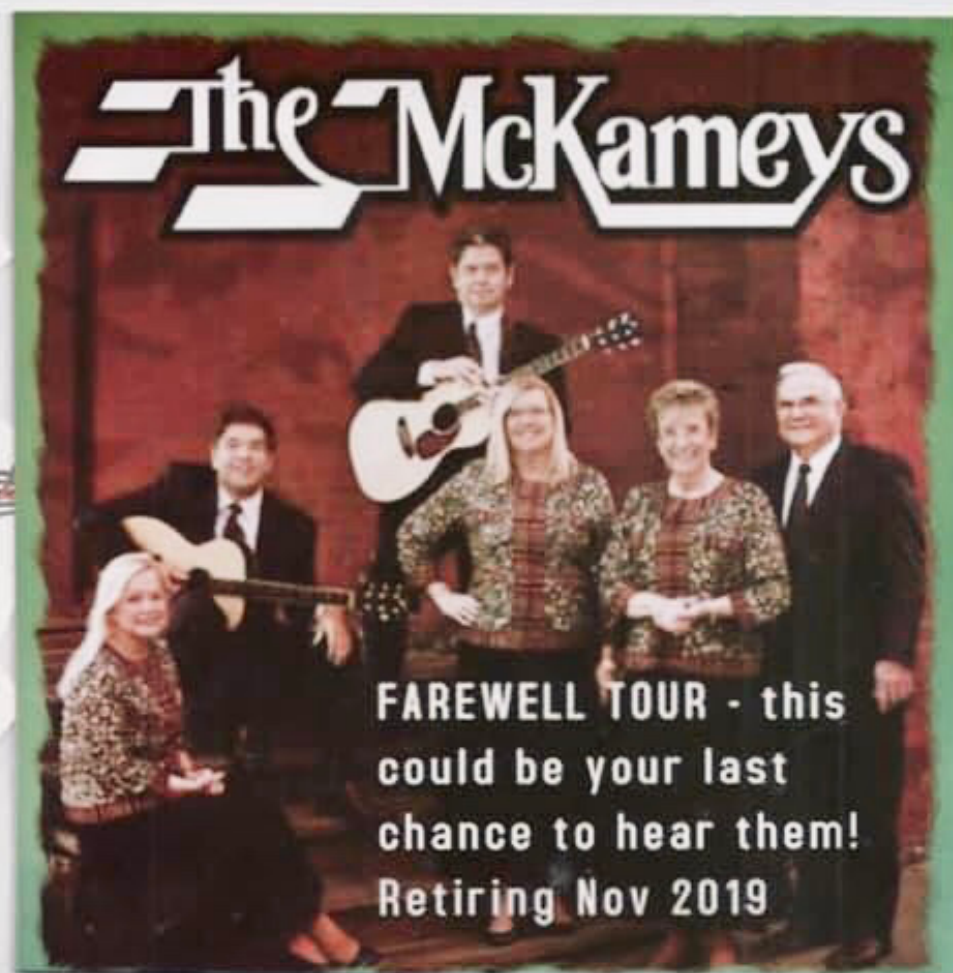


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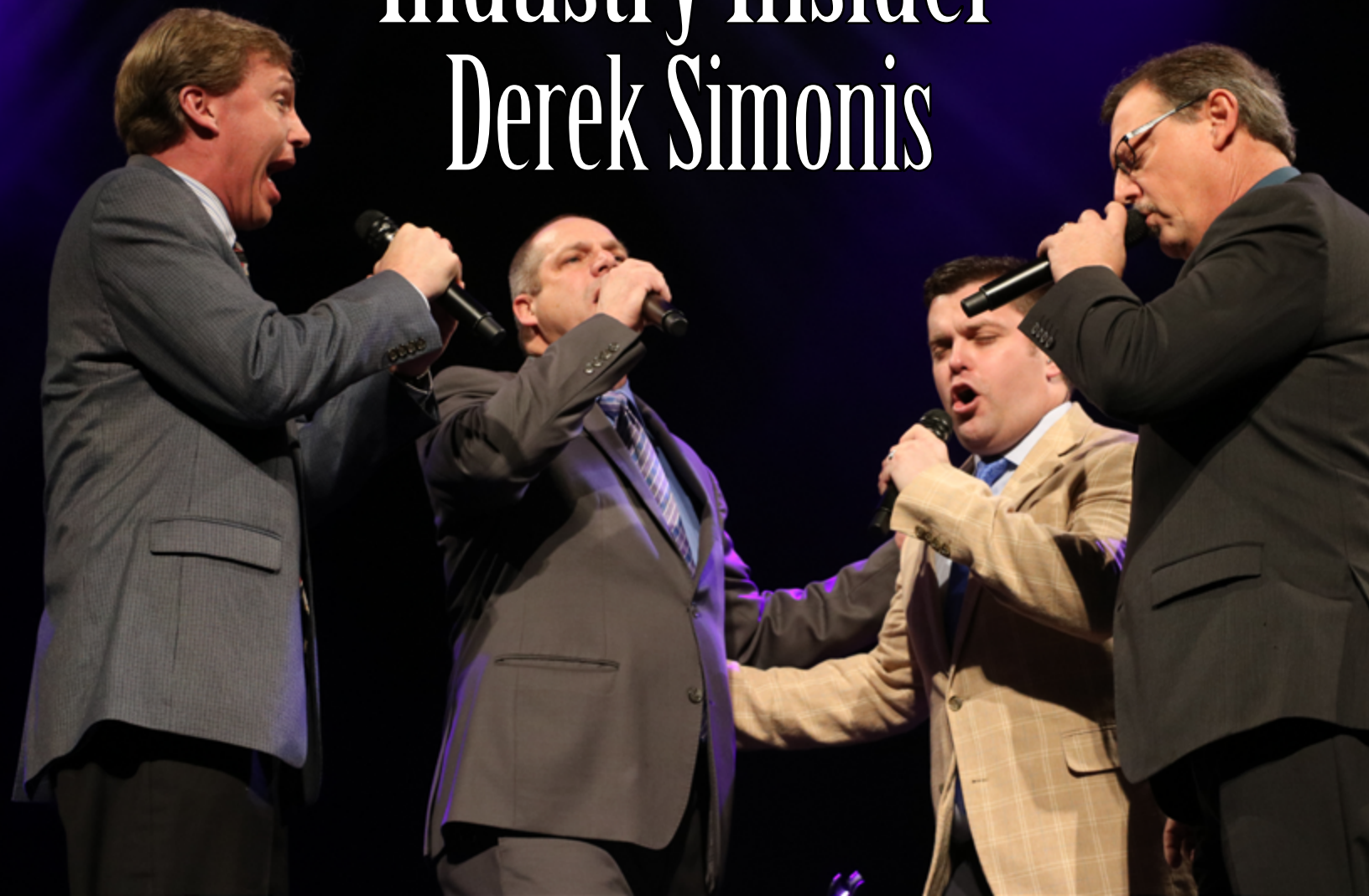
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Industry Insider

Derek Simonis



By Lorraine Walker

Industry insider Derek Simonis is walking where Jesus walked with Icon Destinations

Late June 2019, a news item was published that aroused the interest of the gospel music world. Icon Destinations announced the formation of a facility in Nashville, Tenn., that would take people on luxurious vacations to the Holy Land with their favorite Christian music artists. Among the new team members is Derek Simonis, gospel music artist and writer for SGNscoops, as Social Media Manager.

“My connection and subsequent involvement with (Icon Destinations) came through Jason Clark, of the Nelons,” says Simonis. “Jason is a good friend with whom I have been privileged to work on various projects. Jason was kind enough to recommend my services to Kevin (Stevens, Vice President of Icon Group), and

the rest is history.” The response from the general public to the press release regarding Icon has been “phenomenal,” according to Simonis.

Simonis not only has a connection to the Nelons, he knows many in the gospel music field. The singer’s first memories of this genre relate to one of the best to ever graced the stage. “My earliest memories of Southern gospel are as a little boy listening to the Cathedrals and Gaither Homecoming recordings,” says Simonis. “My older sister had quite the collection of music, and I began to listen to it religiously. I specifically remember singing along to ‘Champion of Love’ on a Cathedrals’ recording and just falling in love with it.”

Gospel music was a family affair in the Simonis’ home. “My two sisters and I grew up singing in church together,” Simonis shares. “Southern gospel was a fixture



best way. “I married into it,” exclaims Simonis. “My wife, Jana, is the granddaughter of Jackie and Elaine Wilburn, who are truly gospel music royalty in my opinion. In fact this year at N.Q.C., Jackie, or DJack as we affectionately call him, is being inducted into the S.G.M.A. Hall of Fame, and we are thrilled to be able to be there and witness a great man being honored.”

in our home. My mother was a piano teacher, and she instilled in all of us children an appreciation not only for talented musicians but also for anointed musicians. Therefore, the style and substance of Southern gospel was something that my parents nurtured in me from an early age.”

People often ask gospel music artists how they got their start in the industry. Simonis says that his way was the

Simonis continues, “I also have an interesting backstory. When I was about 16, I attended a Gold City concert in Peoria, Ill., and it just so happens that the Wilburns opened for them that night. At the time, Josh Singletary and Gary Casto (Tribute Quartet) were with them, and it was an awesome night. Little did I know, that in six years I would be marrying Jackie and Elaine’s granddaughter, Jana.” Jana’s uncle is former Gold City lead singer, Jonathan Wilburn, meaning she is also related to the duo, Wilburn and Wilburn.





Although he laughs about his fortunate marriage, his actual start came about some time later. “My personal involvement in Southern gospel on a professional level came eight years into our marriage. In 2016, Royce Mitchell of Liberty Quartet in Meridian, Idaho, called and asked me to come fill in and try out for their baritone position. That was the start of two wonderful years traveling across the western US and Canada with Liberty.” Simonis sang with Paul Ellis, Royce Mitchell, and Philip Batton, of Liberty, from 2016 to 2018.

Time moves on and lives changed for this young family. “I stopped traveling full time in 2018 to be able to focus on raising my boys and spending more time at home,” Simonis explains. “My boys, Daniel and Avery, are now nine and five, and as you can imagine, these are very important, developmental ages for boys. It has been wonderful to be home, spend extra time with them, and watch them grow. They are both the joy of my life, and Jana and I are so proud of them. They are already showing musical talent, and we cannot wait to see them use it for Jesus.”

“Last summer, (2018), our family released a new project, ‘Blessed,’ and we have done some limited engagements singing and preaching,” Simonis continues. “I also still get to fill in from time to time singing. In the past couple months, I’ve gotten to fill in with my buddies from Avenue Trio as well as my Liberty Quartet brothers. The biggest thing that we are preparing to do, however, is to plant a new church in the Clarksville, Tenn., area. The Lord laid a burden on our hearts last

fall, and we have been praying about it since then. Recently, the Lord gave us confirmation that this is what he had for us, and we are preparing to move back to Tennessee. We truly covet your prayers as we begin this transition and undertaking. We need and want the hand of God on our lives and on this new ministry.

Kasey Kemp, of Avenue Trio, appreciates his buddy, Simonis. “Derek is a stand up guy,” states Kemp. “Concerned about people knowing Jesus in their hearts. He’s been a good friend to me and I appreciate him. I believe he is driven to do good by the spirit of the Lord inside him. He’s a talented singer, graphic artist and web designer. He filled in with Avenue a while back and jumped on stage like a pro. He’s the real deal.”

This ‘real deal’ is extremely busy right now with all of his projects. Not only is he starting a new job and new church, he sings with his family and fills in for groups. Also, he has another pursuit. “Currently, I have a design company, Simonis Productions, and I design and maintain websites, as well as graphic and video content for businesses, churches, music artists, and other organizations across the country,” says Simonis. “God has been very good to us. I’ll take this moment for a bit of shameless self-promotion. If you have a website, graphic, or video design needs, we would love to give you a quote, and we offer wonderful discounts for ministries.”

Why would such a busy person have his hand in so many different areas? “I love working with and supporting those in ministry,” Simonis states. “That’s what



this is all about.”

Simonis’ new position with Icon Destinations will also keep him very occupied. The Social Media Manager explains, “I am in charge of the development and implementation of the social media marketing strategy as well as responsible for Icon Destinations’ brand awareness and reputation management across all social media platforms.”

Simonis has been blessed with many talents and he is

quick to point to the Source. He will tell you that God is good and he is just trying to be willing and open to what the Lord brings his way.

“Over the past few months, Isaiah 55:1 has been precious to me. It says ‘Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.’ I love the prophetic symbolism in this verse referencing the rest, satisfaction, and salvation that Jesus Christ would bring. I’ve been saved for quite a few years now, and I am still ‘drinking at the fountain.’ It has never, nor will it ever run dry. Praise God. Hebrews 13:8 is another favorite which says, ‘Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.’ He will never change, and His power will never fail. There is nothing like a personal relationship with Him. If you don’t know Him, call out to Him in faith, and He will save you today!”

Please connect with Derek and Jana Simonis on the web at www.SimonisMinistries.com or on Facebook and Instagram @derekandjanasimonis.

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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

July is officially the month of the dog days of summer. It's interesting how we move from air-conditioned buildings to cool cars back to even cooler houses, how we don't even really get the full benefit of the heat of summer time. I remember as a kid playing outside and the heat didn't bother me at all. Now if I've been more than 10 minutes outside, I'm begging for either air conditioning or my favorite iced coffee. I don't think I'm the only one either, judging from the lineup at the coffee shop. Have we become a society that can't stand a little warmth? Or has it truly become hotter outside?

One thing that is for sure, an artist whose career is heating up once again, is the ageless Carman. He looks the same and sounds the same as he did when I first became a fan back in the 80s. And now he's back with a gospel album and joined by a quartet. Still, as he begins his new tour, I hope he doesn't leave off the iconic song, "The Champion." Thanks so much to Jennifer Campbell for that feature.

Special thanks as well to John Herndon for bringing us the story on another iconic group, the Kingsmen. So glad to see that they are back with a new album to go along with their new lineup.

In fact, thanks to all of our writers this month, for going above and beyond to bring us these great features. SGNScoops magazine is blessed to have some of the best writers in the industry. They bring us features better not only inspiring but also entertaining. I hope you've had time to also read the devotional writers who contribute to the SGNScoops website. We are blessed.

My sister mentioned the other day about how often the subject of fear comes up in today's Christian music. Whether it's Southern or Country gospel, or Contemporary

Christian music, usually you won't have to have the station on long before you will hear the subject of being afraid, and how Jesus can break those chains of fear and anxiety. The thing is, you have to recognize that it is fear. Then you need to remember that Jesus is love, and perfect love casts out fear. Does that line sound familiar? Then you know it is part of scripture and knowledge of the word of God is essential to dealing with fear. Remind yourself and the ultimate source of fear, satan, that God is in control and he has the final word.

After you have gone to the word to claim the promises of God and to remind yourself of the many times he says, "Fear not!" then rest in that knowledge and talk to the author of peace. Tell him your fears and let him soothe you with his divine presence. Turn on some good gospel music and let yourself soak in the words of songs touched by the hand of God.

If you are afraid or anxious today, I urge you to talk to someone you know and trust who can help you find peace in the words of our Savior. Let his words be your rock, your fence, your protection and your safety. For Jesus is the Word. He will never fail you.

I am so glad we have music that can overcome evil and fear with the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. Thank you to all of the songwriters who bathe their minds and work in the Holy Spirit, and the singers who are blessed by God to communicate his love. You are all vessels for his glory.

If you need have any questions or comments or suggestions after reading this month's issue, please write to me, lorraine@sgnscoops.com



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Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. 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.



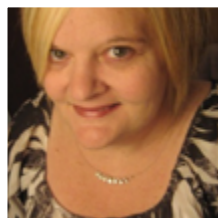
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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.



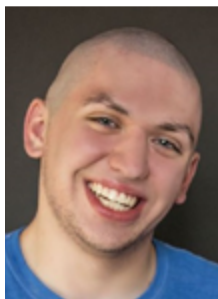
Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and 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

SGN SCOOPS



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 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 within the industry she also hosts a weekly radio show which keeps her in touch with many of Southern Gospel's leading execu

tives 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.



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.



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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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.



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.



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.



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.

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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.



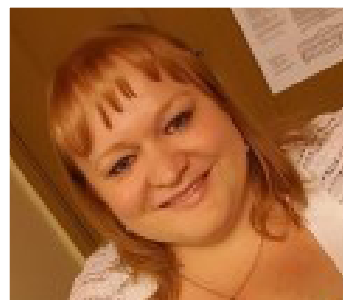
John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing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



Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and

short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped since. She holds a Bachelor of English from Columbia University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she began writing for AFrontRowView.com before joining the SGNScoops.com team. She enjoys sharing the love of Jesus through volunteering, music, writing, and teaching.

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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 SGN Scoops and loves all of the SGN Scoops 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!



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.



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.



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 SGNscoops.

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.

Thanks for Reading
the July 2019 Edition
...until next month!

-The SGNscoops Staff-