

DECEMBER 2019

SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



LARNELLE HARRIS

Christmas all year long



ALSO FEATURING

Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, The McKameys, Jessica Horton

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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



Welcome to the December's Publishers Point. It's hard to imagine that we've already reached the end of another year. 2019 was full of growth, change and challenges. As I think of those three words, I realize that it is true for every year and for some people it's every day. Sometimes the only way that we grow is through challenges and change.

As we come to the end of the year, I am, of course, always excited about Christmas. If you know me, you know I love gifts, but I'm also excited about a new year. There's something about turning the page on the calendar from December to January. A fresh start; 365 new days to do whatever it is that we feel God has called us to do.

I love seeing 2020. I've already spent a lot of time thinking about the year to come, and one of the areas that I want to challenge you to begin after the holiday season, is a time of prayer. So many people say, "January 1st, I'm going on a diet," or, "I'm going to read more," or, "I'm going to exercise more." Let me challenge you this January 1st, to pray more. People ask how things change. I am blessed to have many pastors who are also very close friends, and they will tell you all the same thing: Life changes the most, and life decisions come the easiest, when we pray more.

So, I ask that you, along with me, pray more in 2020. May 2020 be a year full of vision for what God has, for what he is going to do, what he plans to pour out. That we seek those things that he wants for us; not the things that we desire, but the things that he truly has already put inside us that is there for us to do.

I was talking with a pastor recently and he told me that you are at the happiest point in your life when you are fulfilling what God has instilled in you to do, and I would totally agree with that. Over the year 2019, I will have traveled, by the end of it, 132 days. That means one in every four days I was on the road. Now I won't lie to you and say it was all easy, but God always gave me strength. I had an opportunity to meet many fantastic people, to go to many fantastic places, and to do things that I only dreamed about 10 years ago. God has allowed me to do that and I am so thankful now God has allowed me to do it. It's people like you that read this magazine and who

advertise with us on a monthly basis, that are the people that laid the foundation for me to be able to fulfill the calling that I have for God.

How many of us, as we reflect on the holiday season, realize that this is a great time to begin to pray and seek what God has for us to do in 2020. Maybe you are searching right now for your calling, maybe you're in a transition period in your life, and maybe God is just getting ready to open a door that you have never dreamed was possible.

I believe that for all of my friends, I believe that for everyone who's reading this, that in 2020, God is going to pour out extreme blessings. I believe 2020 is going to be a year that we, as a family that works together for Creekside and all of the other events, are going to see personal and family growth.

Now, as we get ready to celebrate the holidays and begin to turn the page on a new year, I pray that you will find the peace that only comes from God, the joy that only comes from God, and the grace that only God gives.

I hope to see you in the new year at an event that I will be at. You can find me at Oxford, Alabama coming up March 21 - 23. Also, I will be in Tupelo, Mississippi, April 23 - 25, for Gospel Music Expo. We want to see you at one of these events.

I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, from my family to yours.

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The McKameys

Still giving God the Glory as retirement nears

By John Herndon

The question posed to Peg McKamey Bean was simple. The answer, however, was far more complex than expected. Yet, that answer explained why her legendary family is one of the most beloved in gospel music history.

“Are there any songs you recorded that really stand out in your mind,” we asked Mrs. Bean during a recent phone interview. She thought for a moment, then started talking about, “Who put the Tears in the Eyes of the Lamb,” from September, 1984, and didn’t stop for several minutes.

By the time she finished answering the question, Mrs. Bean had listed the titles and dates of numerous songs — more than we could accurately take down — that had reached No. 1 on the various gospel music charts. It was a fitting summary of what the McKameys have meant to gospel music for over 60 years: The big moments and great moments are too many to list.

And, most importantly, the lives touched by McKamey music are too numerous to count. That number is known only to the God they have proclaimed in more than 150 concerts a year and will continue to serve after their final concert.

Since the McKameys announced their retirement from full-time traveling more than a year ago, the accolades have flowed and concert venues have been full as gospel music fans have clamored for one more chance to hear the unforgettable family.

The obvious question is if they ever get tired of hearing questions about the upcoming retirement. “Oh, no. People are curious,” Peg says in her distinctive east Tennessee accent. “Different people have different questions. We are just delighted to answer them the best way we can.”

It’s been an emotion-filled year as the McKameys’ re-



retirement draws closer. In June 2019, their latest album, "Crown," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Southern Gospel charts and in September, Ruben Bean was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame at the National Quartet Convention, joining Peg, who had been bestowed the honor three years earlier.

"That thrilled my heart," Peg said. "I thought he was more worthy than I. The whole family was honored and thrilled that he was inducted into the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame."

While Peg noted that The McKameys "didn't realize the impact (the retirement) was going to have on the industry," the outpouring of love has been heartfelt and deserved. For over 60 years, the McKameys have brought a worshipful style of music to churches, fairgrounds and auditoriums across the nation. Even as their traveling career draws to a close, there is still a sense of amazement in Peg Bean's voice as she describes the leap of faith the family took to sing full time in 1980.



McKamey fans can recite the group's history without hesitation. The group had started in 1954 when Peg's older sister, Dora, told her that she and younger sister Carol would be singing with her the following night at a revival service in their hometown of Clinton, Tennessee.

Eventually the sisters asked Ruben Bean to play guitar and sing bass with them. He and Peg struck up a romance, got married and had two daughters. Dora pursued a career in nursing. When Carol left the group to spend time with her own family, Ruben and Peg's daughters, Sheryl and Connie came aboard in 1972, according to a documentary appearing on The McKameys' Facebook page.

Ruben and Peg also adopted and raised two sons.

When Sheryl married a pastor and wanted to stay home with her young family, Carol returned to fill in, a stint that lasted 26 years.



"It was me, and Ruben and Connie and Carol that sang during that period of time," Peg says. "Then Carol retired. I called Sheryl to ask her to pray for us because I didn't know what the Lord wanted us to do. We didn't want to advertise that we needed someone to sing with us. We just went on and prayed about it. Then one day, she called and said, 'I'm ready to sing the part and I'm ready to come back.'"

"I said, 'Praise the Lord!'" The excitement sounds like something that just happened, but it was in 2009 and Ruben, Peg, Sheryl, Connie and Connie's husband, Roger Fortner, and son, Eli, have been traveling together ever since.



The concerts are still packed with favorites, including the song that is often referred to as the McKameys' signature, "God on the Mountain," which was chosen as gospel music's Song of the Year in 1989. Peg says the message is still powerful today. "It has reminded me on a daily basis that God is God and that's all I need," she says. "He's God in the mountain. He's God in the valley. He's all anyone would need. God is God! He's God wherever He is!"

The passion and wonder coming through Peg Bean's voice is what has brought millions to their concerts over 65 years. And it's what led her to start carrying what is now a trademark handkerchief while onstage.

"I really don't know when that started. I have a tendency to cry because of the goodness of the Lord. And when I go to talking about it, I go to crying. I have learned to carry a handkerchief with me instead of using my sleeve," she says with a laugh.

The timeless message is serious business for the McKameys even as they wind down their traveling career. We asked how gospel music has changed since 1954.

"Style has changed," Mrs. Bean says. "The McKameys have always leaned to the worshiping side because my father and Ruben's father were both pastors. We were raised in that atmosphere, so our type of music has been

worship to our wonderful Lord and his goodness. We have never tried to entertain anybody with jokes or anything. It is serious singing. That has been our lifestyle.

"He did it all. We have done nothing. We brag on him, our whole family does. We sing songs that bring honor and glory to Him and that will minister to the hearts of Christian people and will be a witness to the lost."

In the final months of touring, fans have been wishing the McKameys well. "Lots of people say they hope we enjoy our retirement," Peg says. "A lot of people say, 'I hate you're quitting.' I say we are not quitting. We are retiring."

At one concert, a fan said the Bible does not teach retiring, but Peg disagreed. "I said if you study carefully, you see the priests in the Old Testament retired when they were 50 years old (Numbers 8:25). They had a reason for retiring at 50. It took a lot of strength to put the animals on the altar. I do believe there is a place for retirement. The Bible teaches that to me. I think it's our time to retire.

"Our health is fairly well. Ruben had one open heart bypass surgery in 2001. In 2017, I had a triple bypass and heart disease runs in both of our families. But we are able to do whatever people our age do. I'm 76 years old and Ruben is 78 and I think we've got enough years in," Peg laughs.



Recently, some children or grandchildren of legendary groups, such as the Goodman Family and the Speer Family, have continued the family music, but Peg says that would be left to the children or grandchildren. She says Connie and her family do some trio work but

Roger and Eli are happy working in the studio with other groups. “I think they can stay busy doing that,” she says.

Regardless, McKamey music will still be available. “We will be working out of the office (in Clinton, Tenn.) for a while until things die down. Then we will probably transfer things to our home and work from our home,” she says, adding that music will be available at www.mckameyonline.com “as long as it’s needed or wanted.”

And the McKameys could show up at the National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. “You know, I don’t know,” Peg chuckled. “We could. We are just about an hour from Pigeon Forge. We could go over there and have lunch and stay for the singing and be back home that night.”

But one thing is sure: The McKamey legacy will live on for decades to come.

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What they are saying about The McKameys

“It’s always refreshing and encouraging when a gospel group proves over the course of time to be just who you felt they were and who they portrayed themselves to be. I have found, always, that the McKameys are true in all senses of the word. I love them, as a group and individually.”

— Ann Downing, Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame, Class of 2018

“I remember meeting the McKameys when they recorded at my recording studio. They just brightened up the entire building when they came in. I have never met a more humble group of people. But when Peg got that hanky going and started moving around, one could see and feel the presence of God. They have made their place in Gospel Music, but more importantly, they have stacked up treasures in Heaven. Thank you, McKameys. Your Earthly job has been well done!”

— Duane Allen, lead singer of The Oak Ridge Boys, members of Gospel Music Hall of Fame (2000) and Country Music Hall of Fame (2015).

“I first met the McKameys in the Chicago area in the late 70s. They’ve been a blessing to me from that moment on. I have been blessed to interview them dozens of times, I have presented awards to them throughout the years (one, I gave to them at a Cracker Barrel), I have been to their office and traveled to hear them sing in probably 30 states. I have often said, when the McKameys and Primitive Quartet retire, I’m going to hang it up as well. I still feel that way. Southern Gospel music will never be the same!”

— Les Butler, Old Time Preachers Quartet, soloist, instrumentalist and radio personality

“Mama Doris Sellers” was a huge Peg fan and long before I got into professional gospel music, I was able to carry her to a McKameys concert and she got to meet her. Mrs. Peg was so sweet and visited with her for a long time. I know she doesn’t remember my grandmother, but I always appreciated Mrs. Peg for that. She’s a classy lady whose regular presence in this industry will be sorely missed!”

— Bob Sellers, Bob Sellers Ministries, formerly of The Kingsmen.



“I can remember when the McKameys were traveling circuits just like me. Wow! Long time ago! But then, ‘God On The Mountain’ hit the airwaves and the McKameys became the group everyone wanted to see and book. We were both part of the Eddie Crook company at the time, so it was easy for me to keep up with all the news of what Peg and the gang we’re doing. The one thing that always stood out to me was the sincere, anointing that has been constant with that group. The McKameys not only sang it, but it was obvious that God’s hand and leadership was all over their ministry.... They never take, nor took credit for the things they’ve accomplished or seen, but have always given God the glory! I am honored to have been able to work with, and known these fine folks.”

— Bill Sowder, owner of His Heart Quartet, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky




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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Darrell Gibbs



By Vonda Armstrong

Recently, we shone the DJ Spotlight on Darrell Gibbs from WUAT AM, in Pikeville, Tennessee. Darrell spent the week with us at Creekside Gospel Music Convention and it was a joy to get to know him better. Check out our conversation below.

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

Darrell: The radio station is WUAT AM 1110. It is an old-time radio station, and has been around since 1960. We are considered the giant of the valley, and have an antenna on the top of the mountain that reaches way out there.

The station is located on the corner of Main Street and Cumberland Avenue in Pikeville. We have around 3700 listeners. Many businesses in Pikeville and the surrounding area tune into our station in their stores, doctors' offices, and even at the courthouse. The radio station blasts through the streets and side streets on speaker in town. It is really old school and really cool.

Billy Bridges is our station manager and is a great guy. We have several TV shows filmed at the station every week. The very popular "Albert and Billy Show" is filmed here, along with my program as the only Facebook Live. We hope to become an FM station in the future, and to purchase additional equipment as well. It takes time and money though.

Vonda: How did you get your start in radio?

Darrell: The very first time I ever played gospel music as a DJ was in the 80s. I was working on Christian Night at a skating rink in west Nashville. I was the only one that knew anything about gospel music, because of my dad's love for it. The area I grew up in used to be called

the Star Route in Nashville. I knew a lot of those people from school or at least their kids and grandkids.

Vonda: Can you tell our readers your testimony?

Darrell: I was raised in the Methodist church. Once, I was able to take a ride to the Carolinas with Harold Lane. Some of your readers may remember him with the Speer Family. He told me about a simple gospel that started my way to salvation. I was working on pools in the summer, and in the winter I would do anything I could do to make money. I was driving my own car to school in the ninth grade. I worked hard, sometimes two or three jobs as a teenager because I wanted to, not because I had to. I was making my own money and doing my own thing.

Soon, I found myself doing things I shouldn't. I was about to get into some trouble and I decided to leave and move to Chattanooga with my parents. Right away I went to the skating rink and got a job. They had a



Christian Night and I was the only one that knew about Christian music. Fast forward to three years ago, I went into a radio station in Pikeville, wanting to DJ a show for Facebook and for the local radio station.

I was called to preach many years ago. I told God he had the wrong guy. I told him that I don't look right, I don't talk right, and I can't stand up straight. But opportunities kept opening for me to speak on the road in churches and even colleges. God has given me my heart's desire. A beautiful wife, a beautiful place to live on the Cumberland plateau, and a voice on the radio station. That's what brought to where I am today and God is still working in my life today.

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

Darrell: This one is easy. I would play the Primitive Quartet. I had the opportunity to interview them once. They are amazing and so friendly.

Vonda: If you could interview anyone, who would it be and why?

Darrell: Well I would love to interview Johnny Cash. I would also like to interview Harold Lane and let him see what God has done in my life since the last time we saw each other. And besides them, I would also love to interview the McKameys, Guy Penrod, Gold City, and Squire Parsons.

Vonda: If someone is interested in working as a DJ, what advice would you give them?

Darrell: My advice to them would be don't give up trust in Jesus in all you do.

Thank you, Darrell!! Keep spinning those songs and thank you for sharing with us.



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LARNELLE HARRIS

CHRISTMAS IS ALL YEAR LONG

By Jennifer Campbell

Every story has a beginning. For Larnelle Harris, his story began in the small town of Danville in the Bluegrass State of Kentucky. Even as a young boy, God was preparing him for a prolific singing ministry that has afforded him the opportunity to share the Gospel message around the world for more than five decades. Larnelle continues to devote his life to fulfilling the Great Commission. He faithfully serves the Lord, singing praises to God and sharing the love of Christ all year long.

Undoubtedly, the name Larnelle Harris is synonymous with Christian music. Representing the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame, and the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, he is the only person in history to be a member of three distinguished hall of fame organizations. His accolades are numerous, including five Grammy Awards, eleven Dove Awards, and a Stellar Award for Best Solo Performance and the Kentucky Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts.

Nevertheless, none of the awards, chart-topping songs, and other honors will ever compare to the reason he sings. Larnelle says, "The greatest [experience] of all is to sing these songs and to see what God does as people hear the message of His grace."

Even though he has performed at the White House, Carnegie Hall, the 38th Parallel, the Kremlin, and an incredible number of prominent places around the globe, Larnelle says the greatest ministry experience he has ever had is the opportunity to witness to others.

Larnelle shares his thoughts on ministry: "One of the things I always stress is witnessing is not just for professionals; it's for everybody. We are all a part of God's min-

istry. You don't have to know every verse in the Bible, just share a testimony of what God has done in your life."

As a young boy, many different people along the way influenced Larnelle. In 2018, he released his first memoir titled, *Shaped Notes: How Ordinary People with Extraordinary Gifts Influenced my Life and Career*. Within the pages of this book, he recognizes the people who have made a profound impact on his life and ministry. Had it not been for a precious woman named Miss Georgia, for instance, Larnelle might not have ended up pursuing a musical career.

"There was a lady in town named Miss Georgia Donehy. She taught piano lessons to every kid in town," says the



vocalist. “I really did not want to take piano lessons. I was into baseball, basketball, and all those other things as a kid, but my mother wanted me to take piano. Miss Georgia found out that I could carry a tune. I had this very high voice. The kids my own age would just laugh and tease me all the time. The ladies in the church choir would just cry, a little kid singing ‘The Lord’s Prayer,’ ‘How Great Thou Art,’ and other old hymns. I did my first concert when I was nine years old in Danville, Kentucky. I ended up at Western Kentucky University as a voice major and my degree is in music education with an emphasis in voice.”



While his music teacher certainly played a significant part in influencing him musically, Larnelle credits his parents to having the greatest impact on his life. He reminisces about his mother and father: “I discovered that I was not smarter than my mom and dad. They were really smart folks. My mom, I think she finished the third grade and my dad, the eighth grade, but the wisdom these folks had. I think the people who influenced my life the most were the people who had charge of me for the first eighteen years of my life, Ida ‘May’ Harris and Oscar Harris, Jr.”

Through the years, Larnelle has sung a wide variety of Christian music. He attributes his love for southern gospel music to his time singing with the Gaither Vocal Band. He states, “That first year, I got an education into Southern gospel music. One of the guys I worked with quite a bit was Lari Goss. I grew to love him and understand more of what southern gospel music was all about. Lari sang with the Goss Brothers. His arranging, his use of the orchestra, the instruments; he understood it. He would play a melody known to most people, but he was doing these wonderful substitutions musically. He was a great musician, and I’m proud to say, a great friend.”

Larnelle’s involvement with Southern gospel music expanded when he was invited to be a part of the Gaither Homecoming Video series. His fondest memory of these recordings did not focus on the prominence of the Homecoming stage, but the hearts of the Homecoming friends: “One of the things I really enjoyed about singing on those

Gaither videos is that those folks were real. They had lived through a whole bunch of stuff, and they watched God work in their lives through thick and thin, so when they sang, they were believable.”

When it comes to good sense, Larnelle and his wife Cynthia (fondly known as Mitzi) have exercised godly wisdom through more than 47 years of marriage. Larnelle shared the secret of the longevity of their love for one another: “Mitzi and I met at Western Kentucky University. She has her master’s in education. We were still dating my junior year, and we decided at that point, should we get married and have a family, that other than God, our first obligation is going to be to each other, that we were going to spend not only quality time together and with our family, but we were also going to spend some quantity time.”

“As a result of that beginning commitment,” stated Larnelle, “we took the opportunity that was given by our Lord Jesus Christ to put ourselves in the place where God could do this work in our hearts and in our lives individually. When I started to travel, that was tough. As the ministry grew and it became more apparent God was calling me to do what I was doing and calling her to do what she was doing, putting her best into her students who had some special learning disabilities, that we were going to have to protect our time together.”



The bond between Larnelle and Mitzi is truly special. God has allowed them to honor their commitment to each other, all while maintaining their respective ministries and honoring their commitment to God. Even now, as Larnelle is using his musical talents, Mitzi continues to serve the youth in her community. Larnelle says, “At our church, we have a daycare that has been going for 50 years. Mitzi has been volunteering there for the last two years. She has been volunteering, getting up at four o’clock in the morning, coming back home in the afternoon. She said something the other day that I thought was great. She said, ‘It is as though I was called to such a time as this.’ She retired from teaching years ago, but when I

heard that, I understood this is what a calling looks like.”

In the Harris household, family is very important. Every Christmas, their home is the place where everybody comes. Larnelle and Mitzi have two grown children, Larnelle, Jr. (Lonnie) and Teresa, and they are proud grandparents as well. Larnelle shares about their holiday traditions: “One of the things that has been happening over the years is we take our pictures and my daughter puts them on a disc so we can stick it on the television. The kids will watch these pictures, and invariably, there are people on there who have already gone to Heaven. The stories will come, and I’ll bet you there’s not 20 minutes of actual pictures on there, and it takes hours to get through it because everyone has a story about that person who is no longer here. As they watch those pictures, they get a sense of lineage, a sense of family, and a sense of where they came from. That is our biggest Christmas tradition.”



Last year, Larnelle released his first Christmas musical, co-written with Dave Clark and Nick Robertson, based on Larnelle’s original song, “All Year Long.” Although the musical is very new, the story behind Larnelle’s song goes back several years ago. Larnelle tells the story behind the musical: “One Christmas, when our kids were very small, we had a Christmas tree up. We were putting stuff away, and Lonnie, my son, who is now grown up, said the strangest thing. In his little mind, he wanted to know if we were going to put away Jesus. You know what, many of us do. I was working on this song called, ‘All Year Long,’ and it was about how we celebrate Christmas. It’s great to have fun, but let that lead us to worshipping the Lord on a daily basis. I’d never heard a song that had that in it. God misses us when we fail to take the time to pray and to honor him by reading his Word and by having fellowship with other believers.”



Over the past few years, Larnelle has also served as a special musical guest at the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City. He says, “Jim and Carol Cymbala are great friends. To join them in ministry has been a great privilege because of the worldview they have. It’s not about Brooklyn Tab. We’ve been to some great churches around the world, but the greatest thing is that they are a part of disseminating nuggets of scripture such as the people that hear it can get through tomorrow.”

The need for us to share the Gospel with those who are hurting is truly great. Larnelle’s most recent project, “Disturb Us, Lord,” is a compilation of songs about the cross, which will certainly minister to the hearts of those who hear the songs especially selected for this album. The title cut, written by Dave Clark, Tony Wood, and Lee Black, is a poignant song, which causes the listener to ponder the need for all Christians to be disturbed by the Lord.

Larnelle says, “When I heard the lyrics, it took me back to Israel. Our guide who was a messianic Jewish lady took us to the Garden of Gethsemane. We had a prayer service and sang hymns. There are still two thousand year old olive trees still bearing fruit all around in that part of Jerusalem. I tried to figure out where Jesus might have sweat blood and where the disciples slept. As I thought about that, my thoughts ran to whom I really identified with, and of course, I identify with Christ because he loves us so much and I love him, but had I been in that era, I would have identified with the disciples. Jesus would wake them up, and he would ask, ‘Can you not stay awake and pray with me one hour?’ I thought about that. He disturbed them.

“I did a Christmas tour the year after I recorded that song, and I said, ‘I have a gift for you for Christmas. My gift for you as the church is that you be disturbed.’ The complacency, the missed opportunities to share witness, we all miss them; I miss them all of the time because of misreading the Holy Spirit. My gift to them would be to be disturbed. There are so many times I just need to be

shook, and God will get that done.”

Over the years, Larnelle has recorded a large number of songs that carry a thought-provoking message for believers and non-believers alike. He says of the song, “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying,” “It’s a timeless lyric because when you look around at the attitude of America and even the world today; if it were not for the willingness of those who are praying, I think we’d be in pretty bad shape. God always hears, and he always listens.”

Throughout his career, Larnelle has received awards, accolades, and a plethora of other distinctions. Rather than viewing it as a pedestal from which to boast of his own accomplishments, Larnelle simply views these things as tools for the Kingdom.

“You can’t just knock on the door and host something at the White House or go into the Kremlin and do a Christian concert,” notes the vocalist. “The Grammys and all of that stuff; those are tools that allow us to get our feet into the door. Grammys and Doves, they are tin, they break. They sometimes make great doorstops. The real *award* is going to come in the *reward* – all of us who are simply ordinary become extraordinary when Christ comes to take over our lives. We become his servants and take on the responsibility of sharing his peace and his grace.”

Larnelle Harris is one of the most talented vocalists in the Christian music world today. Even so, Larnelle does not focus on who he is, but on who Christ is. He stays grounded in his faith, with the sure realization that Christ is the One who has opened every door and continually blesses him with opportunities to proclaim the name above all names, Jesus Christ. Unlike so many misguided people in the world today, this gentleman believes that all Christians have a calling on our lives to share the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not solely during the Christmas season, but all year long.



For more information on Larnelle’s ministry, visit www.larnelle.com.



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Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

By Jimmy Reno



Ernie Haase and Signature Sound are well known to fans of Southern gospel music. The group has been Grammy nominated, and has won multiple Dove awards, but when it came time for a new Christmas album, Ernie wanted to achieve something new. He wanted to make an authentic jazz Christmas album. “I’ve always loved the classics. Especially Christmas. I wanted to create something people would love even if they had never heard of our group,” says Haase.

One thing he knew for sure was it had to be authentic and intimate. Growing up a fan of the classics with groups like The Four Freshmen and artists such as Tony Bennett, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra, Haase had an idea of exactly what he wanted.

While in New York, he attended a jazz concert of a 3-piece band. The piano player, Billy Stritch, happened to be Tony Bennett’s piano player. When Haase asked him if he would be willing to work with them on their

new recording, he agreed and the final piece was put into place.

“That was the nexus. That was the door I had been waiting to open,” Haase notes.

Signature Sound headed to New York and recorded the tracks with Stritch’s 3-piece jazz band.

Haase felt confident in the group’s ability to perform the vocal arrangements needed. “There’s really a parallel between the two art forms. Southern gospel has elements of jazz, so it wasn’t a big stretch. (Because of) the way the group gelled as an ensemble on “Clear Skies,” I really felt achieving what we wanted was possible,” declares Haase.

The success so far has proven him right. The album debuted at No. 1 on the charts and in the top 10 on jazz charts.

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A JAZZY LITTLE *Christmas*



One of the strengths of the album are the songs that were chosen.

Haase penned one of the songs, along with co writers Joel Lindsey and Wayne Haun. The song, “Christmas In Manhattan,” sounds like an instant classic. It’s a love song, and Haase’s inspiration was none other than his marriage to his wife, Lisa.

“We were married in December and there was snow on the ground. We love the snow, and we enjoy New York City and the musicals. I wanted to write a song about two young lovers going to Manhattan for the first time. (EHSS) will have a music video for the song coming out, cast with two young actors. We also felt that since it was going to be jazz, Christmas is a great time to go out of genre,” Haase notes.

One song on the album, “Love You Remember,” was co-written by group member Devin McGlamery. This one reminded Haase of his childhood.

“Dad would be laid off and leave to work during the holidays. He would work in New York City and other areas to earn some money. One year, Dad drove all night to surprise us on Christmas Eve. I don’t remember the gifts that year, I just remember Dad coming home,” shares Haase.



A "Jazzy Little Christmas" has Christian favorites like "Silent Night," "O Holy Night," and "We Three Kings," but it also contains traditional songs like "Peace On Earth," and "Christmas Time Is Here."

"This is not billed as a Christian concert. It's billed as 'A Jazzy Little Christmas.' It's intended to reach people who may otherwise never come to one of our shows," Haase states.

The album contains the harmony fans of the group have come to love, and blends it with vocal styles of a Tony Bennett-type song. It's a jazz vocal sound that will please those who love Christmas music and appeal to those who may not attend Christian concerts at all. Haase shares, "I always go back to a quote Tony Bennett shared. 'Don't sing to genres; sing great songs and you will sing to generations.'"

Ernie Haase and Signature Sound are doing just that.



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(as posted in November 2019 on SGNScoops.com)

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

1. I'd like To Tell It Again – The Down East Boys
2. What Kind Of Man - Legacy Five
3. The River - Karen Peck and New River
4. Uncommon Praise – The Guardians
5. The People That God Gives You – The Bowling Family
6. Going There – The Triumphant Quartet
7. Set Your House In Order - Gordon Mote (With The Oak Ridge Boys)
8. Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord – The Steeles
9. Alabama Mud - Gold City
10. A Rugged Old Cross – The LeFevre Quartet
11. From Dust To Glory – The McKameys
12. Day One - Jason Crabb
13. Brave – The Browns
14. This Is The Place - Gaither Vocal Band
15. You've Arrived - Greater Vision
16. Resurrection Power – The Mylon Hayes Family
17. Come To The Well – The Kingdom Heirs
18. Live Like Jesus – The Collingsworth Family
19. God Says You Can – The Hyssongs
20. He Has – The Old Time Preachers Quartet
21. Deeper - Gerald Crabb
22. Heaven Is - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
23. Shame On Me - Joseph Habedank
24. Come Sunday Morning – The Old Paths
25. What Only God Can Do - Michael Booth
26. Sing In The Valley – The Perrys

27. When The Answer Is No – The Talleys
28. You Are Loved - Jeff and Sheri Easter
29. No Other Name Like Jesus - Josh and Ashley Franks
30. The Storm - Brian Free and Assurance
31. Robes of Pure White – The Williamsons
32. Jesus To Me – The Wisecarvers
33. Just Pray - Billy Huddleston
34. Keep Me Close – The Whisnants
35. Take Him To That Place - Tim Livingston
36. When God Says Wait – The Browders
37. Think About You - TaRanda
38. His Hand Reached Further Down – The Inspirations
39. Beautiful City – The Bibletones
40. Grateful – The Pruitt Family
41. When I Close My Eyes Here - Eagle's Wings
42. My Kind Of People - Mark209
43. The Empty Altar - Heaven's Mountain Band
44. I Got Saved - The Diplomats
45. Better Things To Do - John Whisnant
46. The Healer Hasn't Lost His Touch – The Tribute Quartet
47. Anyway - Judith Montgomery and Family
48. Rejoice - Cami Shrock
49. I Need A Fresh Drink – The Liberty Quartet
50. Old Church Choir - Hazel Parker Stanley
51. Down The Road To Damascus - Three Bridges



52. Think Again - Hunter May
53. What A Morning – The Port City Quartet
54. Safe - Lindsey Graham
55. The Joy He's Given Me – The Sharps
56. I've Got The Son In My Eyes - Endless Highway
57. Let Your Light Shine - Sacred Harmony
58. Go Ask Moses – The Mark Trammell Quartet
59. Love Still Flows – The Taylors
60. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
61. I've Ever Been Glad – The Kingsmen
62. Sometimes It's You – The Isbell Family
63. Who I Am Today - Melissa Evans
64. Life - Battle Cry
65. Hold On - Reliance
66. He's Coming Again – The Joyaires
67. I'm Reminded - The Dodsons
68. Be That Kind - Zane and Donna King
69. Bass Medley - Bros.4
70. Better – The Chandlers
71. God's Gonna Give You A Testimony – The Frosts
72. Real Truth Revival - Real Truth Revival
73. Listen To My Heart - Answered Prayer
74. He Knows My Name – The Rochesters
75. I Got Saved – Fields Of Grace
76. I'm Going To Heaven - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
77. Everybody Ought To Praise His Name - Chronicle
78. Jesus Cares For Me – The Ball Brothers
79. Good To Go – The Pathfinders
80. 3 Nails, 3 Days - Greg Sullivan
81. His Eye Is On The Sparrow - Lauren Talley
82. Wings Of Prayer - Michael Combs
83. Love Always Finds A Way - Johnson Edition
84. Black Sheep - Mary Burke

85. Thank You For Saving Me – The Phillips Family
86. His Name Is God - The Edwards Family
87. I'm In Good Hands - Mark Bishop
88. I'll Give You Grace – The Britton Family
89. He Has Made A Way - Steve Ladd
90. The Time Is Near - Ben McGalliard
91. The Meeting In The Air – The Chuck Wagon Gang
92. Still - Riley Harrison Clark
93. I'm Not Who I Used To Be - Tonja Rose
94. It Took The Cross – The Griffith Family
95. Another One Like Him – The Master's Voice
96. Straight And Narrow Road - Blood Bought
97. Everytime - Mary Burke
98. Shoulder To Shoulder – The Blythe Family
99. Worthy - BJ Jenkins
100. Love Still Holds Our Scars - Blake and Jenna Bolerjack

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Jessica Horton

is having a Country Christmas



By Jimmy Reno

SGNScoops' Diamond Award Sunrise artist for 2019, Jessica Horton, has released her first Christmas album with M.A.C. Records, entitled, "A Country Christmas." Originally, the album was to be an EP but a sponsor, Exceed Technologies, stepped in to make a full recording possible. The project is a mixture of new tunes, popular Christmas songs and religious favorites, and will surely become a seasonal standard for Southern gospel and Christian Country fans.

The album kicks off with "Winter Wonderland." With a mid tempo, country-infused arrangement, this classic will have you singing along. This oldie is followed by an original song penned by Horton herself, titled "I Love You." This song has excellent vocals that are reminiscent of past country divas. The words will tap into your emotions and have you thinking of mistletoe.

"This song was actually written to express romantic love during Christmas time," Horton explains. "The character is surprised by a love she wasn't expecting and thought would never come, providing warmth to a previously cold heart. This is her greatest treasure, above and beyond anything she could receive for Christmas. She isn't

sure if the feeling is mutual but she hopes. The second part suggests there might have been a disagreement - we all can relate! But still, all she wants is for the one she loves to come back to her. The love is more important than anything else."

Horton adds, "I wrote this one in the style of Patsy Cline. I love the old songs - they are simple and relatable, with innocent goals. I just wanted to write a good, old-fashioned love song. After all, love is the greatest gift of all!"

The next cut is the holiday standard, "Christmas Time's A-Comin'." This tune has an upbeat, fun tempo, which will encourage you to tap your toes, and reminisce of old-fashioned seasons full of snow and sleigh bells.

"I remember Christmases at my granny's house," Horton shares. "We would get together with the cousins to have Santa. She was always dressed head to toe in Christmas gear - hat, earrings, ugly sweater, pants, socks. We got to open presents, eat a big meal, and play. This was one of the only times throughout the year that we would all get together so it was something I always looked forward to. My hope is to offer these same fond memories to my



nephews. I really look forward to this year because we are starting some new traditions. They will come to my house for Christmas Eve dinner and spend the night. We will make cookies, read the nativity story, and play. They will wake up to Santa having arrived. Then we will cook Christmas breakfast. I can't wait!"

Things begin to slow down on the recording as the popular ballad "Away In A Manger" follows. Horton's talents really shine in this arrangement, showcasing the artists' strong, beautiful vocals.

This writer's top choice of the project is the choral favorite. "In The Bleak Midwinter." This classic was written in

1872, and first published as a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti. Horton uses a ballad arrangement on the song, with emotionally haunting vocals. The song details the incarnation in Bethlehem and Christ's birth in a humble setting. This one is a powerful, moving piece.

"I learned 'In The Bleak Midwinter' at MUW where I majored in music education and studied classical voice," says Horton. "It became an instant favorite, so I was dead set on making my own more acoustic and intimate version. I originally intended for Dennis [McKay] to lead it with an acoustic guitar, but when I played it for him to learn, he convinced me to record it playing the piano myself. (This) particular track is all me. Piano, autoharp, strings via keyboard, background vocals. That was a cool experience!"

The next cut is a country-flavored version of "I'll Be Home For Christmas," while the album finishes with an original song penned by Horton, titled "Holy Son, Holy." This song sounds like an instant classic, with a choral type feel that describes the birth of the Savior.

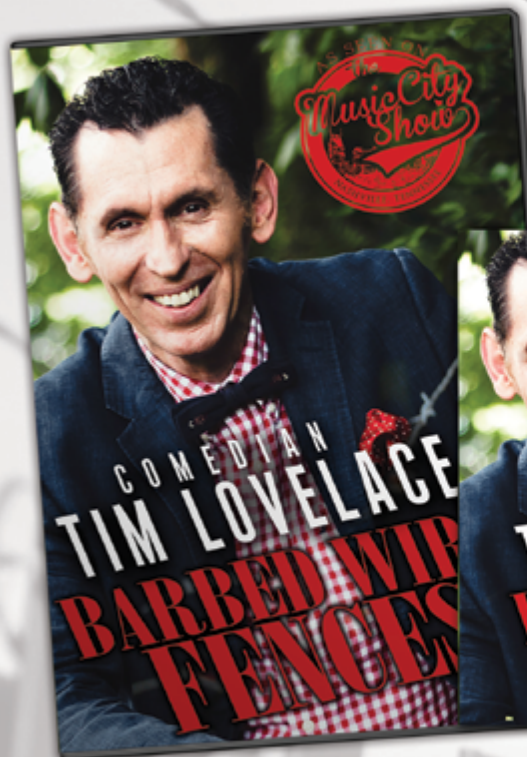
"I actually wrote this song many, many years ago," Horton recalls. "Long before I started my music career. It was the only decent thing I had ever written at the time. I remember it was nearing Christmas time and I was reading the story of Jesus. The story of His birth and first few years are such an epic adventure. It sort of played through in my mind like a movie, then the words came. I just imagined Him like a real baby, and Mary like any mother I had seen. What would He be doing? Cooing, grabbing at her hair, etc. She might be singing to Him to settle Him. And I tried to imagine His birth in light of the cross. I can't imagine being in Mary's shoes. She had to process so much. I just tried to imagine her doing like any mother would - trying to calm Him, focus on the present, protecting and nurturing."

"A Country Christmas," is a solid first offering from Jessica Horton for a holiday album. The album contains 11 songs that Christian music fans will enjoy.

Horton explains her love for the season. "People seem to be generally so much happier and more outgoing. People come together to serve those in need in their communities. I wish we could find a way to inspire the community to serve all year round like we do at Christmas. I love spending time learning about the amazing mystery of Christ's birth. God is with us. I love the trees, the lights, the whole deal. It's a time everyone comes together. I love spending time with my family and watching my nephews open their gifts. I have tried to make my home a place where the boys will have traditions and fond memories. I love seeing the community all decked with lights and trees and all things Santa. I just love everything about it. Family. Community. Giving. Joy. Jesus."

"A Country Christmas" by Jessica Horton is just what you need to get into the holiday spirit!

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A photograph of four men in suits standing in a church aisle. The church has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams. A circular stained glass window is visible in the background. The men are standing on a tiled floor between wooden pews. The title 'THE GUARDIANS' is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters, with 'SINCE 1988' in smaller, black, sans-serif capital letters below it.

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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

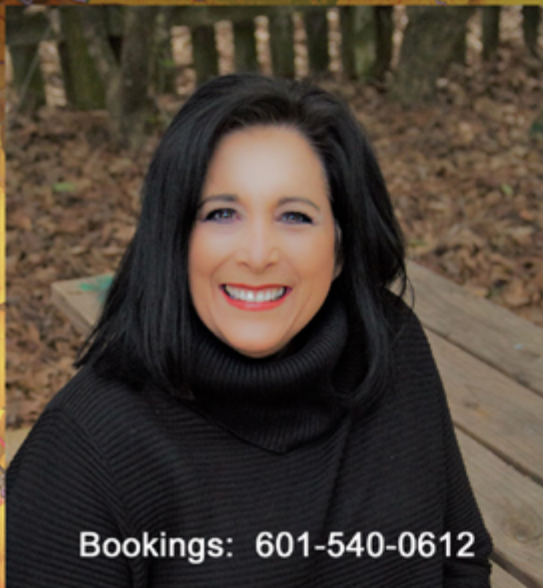
2019 December SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40 (posted in November 2019 on SGNScoops.com)

1. Mama Said - Kolt Barber
2. Six Feet - Tim Menzies
3. Sky Full Of Angels - Kali Rose
4. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
5. Riding Out On Faith And Prayer - Mary James
6. Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick
7. I Gotta Be Goin' Now - Scott Brown Band
8. Down Side Up - Lisa Daggs
9. Mom - Tim Atwood
10. I'm Reminded - The Dodsons
11. I Am Saved - Johnny Rowlett
12. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
13. Think Again - Hunter May
14. God Did It - Greg Day
15. You're Not The Only One - Tim Livingston
16. Hand Of The Lord - Jan Harbuck
17. God, Oral Roberts, And Billy Graham - Carol Barham

18. Heaven Is Not That Far Away - Pam Blackstock
19. He Took Me In - Appointed 2
20. This Train - Scott Brown Band
21. Down At The Altar - Pardoned
22. Mercy On Me - Foretold
23. Three Story House - Don Stiles
24. Who I Am Today - Melissa Evans
25. Black Sheep - Mary Burke
26. If You Could Love Me Anyway - Perfectly Broken
27. On The Inside - Wade Phillips
28. 'Til I Get Home - Billy Droze
29. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
30. If I Were In Your Shoes - Chuck Day
31. Rather Be A Moon - Jimmy R. Price
32. You Are The Christ - Kevin and Kim Abney
33. What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Greg McDougal
34. Good Things - James Gee
35. Wherever You Are - Melissa Evans
36. I'm Not Who I Used To Be - Tonja Rose
37. Man On Monday - Band Reeves
38. Let's Meet By The River - Craig Bell
39. The Storm - Kane and Kelly
40. Straight and Narrow Road - BloodBought

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Les Butler and Friends: Larry Cordle

By Les Butler

Larry Cordle is one of my all-time favorite music guys in the world. His writing impacts me. He's one of the best country singers I've ever heard, he's one of the best bluegrass singers I've ever heard, and he's one of the best gospel singers I've ever heard. He's a pretty stellar guitar picker too. Throw it all in a pot and he's simply the best. I've been blessed to see him live many times. I've been blessed to sing and pick with him at my house, and it was a special blessing to produce his vocal on his guest spot on the new Bama Blu-Grace album. In a word, Larry Cordle is special.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Larry Cordle: Listening to my great-grandfather play the fiddle and hearing his old records on the Victrola.

Butler: Tell the folks about the rich musical heritage of your eastern Kentucky area.

Cordle: The music of east Kentucky was largely gospel, bluegrass and country. Many of the inhabitants of the region were descendants of Scots-Irish people who brought their music with them to the new world. Many great musicians and songwriters called east Kentucky home, among them Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Dwight Yokam, Patty Loveless, Loretta Lynn, Tom T.

Hall, and many more. Music is what brought us together in this remote region.

Butler: For my two cents, you are one of the greatest writers to ever pick up a pen. Who are some of your favorite writers and why?

Cordle: Some of my favorite writers are Tom T. Hall, he spoke my language. His characters were people I felt I knew, and he could do more with less than anyone I have known past or present. Another favorite is Dolly Parton. Her work, especially her early work is just brilliant. Appalachian pictures with melody. Loretta Lynn. Way ahead of her time and 'Coal Miner's Daughter' is just - wow. Bill Monroe: Blue Moon of Kentucky. Hank Williams; Timeless stories of love and the angst of lost love. Albert E. Brumley; 'Rank Stranger,' 'I'll Fly Away,' 'I'll Meet You In The Morning,' etc. anointed by God to bring us so many classic gospel tunes.

Butler: When did gospel music become important to you?

Cordle: Gospel was always a part of me. My earliest memories are of gospel music. I went a long time without acknowledging it much but my grandfather, my



mother and dad, aunt and uncle were gospel singers and sang all the time around the house and in church. They were all really good singers. It became more important to me as I got older. But it has always been important to me.

Butler: You are a great singer as well. Do you recall the first song you ever sang in public? Who is your favorite singer?

Cordle: Picking my favorite singer is a tough one, there are so many I admire. Keith Whitley would be in there as well as Ricky Skaggs. Bradley Walker, Jimmy Fortune, Sonja Isaacs Yeary, George Jones, Merle Haggard, Carter Stanley, Russell Moore. I work with some great singers now, Val Storey, Mike Rogers and Carl Jackson.

Butler: What is your favorite song that you ever wrote and why? How about your favorite self-penned gospel song?

Cordle: My favorite gospel song that I ever wrote is 'Gone on Before.' I got the idea from a dream I had about my mom after she had passed. It gave me the peace of knowing beyond a doubt that she was in a better place, and that I would be reunited with her when my days here are complete. It just has so much hope in it.

My favorite song I ever wrote is a tough question for me. If I could only pick one I'd have to say 'The Fields of Home.' Its honesty and the emotion stirs in me when I sing it. I picture that life, how tough I thought it was, how little I knew of the world and how homesick I was going to be for my simplistic, loving, dear old home and family one day and a way of life that was gone

forever by the time I wrote the song.

Butler: What gospel song that you didn't write, would you have liked to have written and why?

Cordle: 'Give Me Jesus.' It is so simple and frank. I don't know about the readers but the very first thing I think of when I wake up is Jesus and the last thing, I think of at night is Jesus. In troubled times I call on him and give him thanks for the blessings of life. The simplicity of the message in this song is like salvation itself, which all Christians know was made simple so we humans could understand it and be saved. Regardless of anything else in this world, give me Jesus.

Butler: What is your favorite gospel song to sing and why?

Cordle: 'Beautiful Star of Bethlehem.' I just love this lyric. I don't sing it a lot, mostly around Christmas, but it just always touches me in a way that few songs ever have. Dr. Ralph Stanley's version of this number never fails to bring tears to my eyes.

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

Cordle: Usually I'm working on music. I try to write as much as I can for my own records and hopefully other folks too. These days I just really enjoy just being home with my wife and family, which includes a brand new granddaughter, Jensyn Christine Wiegand. (Jensytine to me .. ha!). I still love my old hobbies fishing and flying but just never seem to have time for them these days. I produce my own records, do all the day to day business of keeping my brand out there, it doesn't leave much



time for anything else.

Butler: Give us a brief testimony...

Cordle: I am a Christian. I praise God for saving my wretched, lost soul. I have always believed in God. I was raised to believe in God, that he was the creator of everything and that he sent his son Jesus to earth... God in man form to die for our multitude of sins. Though I believed this my entire life, sadly, I did not live it. I was rebellious and wanted to experience the sin the world offered. I knew I was on a road that lead to destruction, and I was so afraid of dying and being lost but yet I stayed away from the church and my Savior. I was constantly under conviction for my many, many sins. One night in 2010, I went to church with my dad up in east Kentucky, and when they gave altar call at the end of the service, I got to my feet, found the altar, fell to my knees and ask the Lord to forgive me, a sinner, of my atrocious sins against him. He came into my heart and saved my soul and though I still fail him from time to time, I know that my mortal soul is saved. I praise his holy name for his limitless grace, which is available to all regardless of our past. I was lucky. Don't put it off if you aren't sure. Just confess your sins and be saved. It's a far better life.



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8:30 am Clinician Mike Speck
9:30 am Clinician Cliff Duren
10:30 am Clinician Tim Davis
12:00 pm Lunch
5:00 pm Registration
6:00 pm Doors Open
7:00 pm Meet & Greet - Clinicians
8:00 pm Concert - The Isaacs

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8:30 am Session 1 - Mike Speck
9:30 am Session 2 - The Isaacs
10:30 am Session 3 - Cliff Duren
12:00 pm Lunch - Comedian
1:00 pm Free time at Dollywood

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1:00 pm Free Time
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SGN SCOOPS

Bluegrass

Top 20

2019 December SGNscoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 20
(posted in November 2019 on SGNscoops.com)

1. When I Close My Eyes Here - Eagle's Wings
2. The Empty Altar - Heaven's Mountain Band
3. Heaven's Back Yard - HighRoad
4. I'll Give You Grace – The Britton Family
5. Up All Night - Southern Raised
6. Lazarus – The Principles
7. Beside The Cross - Rhonda Vincent
8. Here and Now - Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers
9. Little Black Train - Appalachian Road Show
10. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
11. Jesus Is Living In Me - Travis Alltop and Friends
12. I'm Going To Heaven - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
13. Jesus, You're Always There – The Primitive Quartet

14. On My Father's Side - Travis Alltop and Friends
15. A Brighter Day – The Primitive Quartet
16. Rescue Was Made - Right Side
17. I Start Each Day With The Lord - The Britton Family and Friends
18. Let's Meet By The River - Craig Bell
19. I See God - Marty Raybon
20. God Knew You - Sally Berry



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The Gift of Music, Service, and Thanks



by Charlie Griffin

Over the last few weeks, this writer has had more than a plateful to get done. But that is the case with most people these days. So, I thought I would not write anything this month. No ideas, no research, so I was good to go. But just when you think you have a plan, the door opens to another opportunity.

This week, I was standing in line at a local eatery when a lady tapped me on the arm and said, “I know you. You’re that gospel singer.” I replied that I sang gospel music, yes. She continued, “You came to my church and I just want to tell you what a blessing you were and are to me.”

As I listened to her story, we both ordered and sat down together for a biscuit and conversation. She went on to say that she was at the point of giving up on life. But in her despair, God gave her hope through a song. Ada (first name only) shared, “You see, I have been really down in life. I lost my husband this year and just struggling to make ends meet. I’m all alone, because our son died in Iraq. (It’s) been rough, (I) even thought, is it worth it? And, why am I here?”

She continued, “I really enjoyed your singing and preaching. So, I thought I would buy your 3-CD special to help out on your mission trip. Over the next few days I played your songs all the time. There are three songs that just touch me. ‘Still Holding On’ really describes how I feel. (It) seems no one really understands, but that song says it all. Then I heard ‘Thank You Lord For Your Blessings On Me.’ I just listen (to it) over and over. You see, I really do have more to be thankful for than I can ever say. But the last one is ‘Now More Than Ever.’ I sing that song off and on, every day. You see I just can’t make it without God. That song is my prayer. Your songs make me just praise the Lord. God is mighty good to me.”

As I sat there, I got teary eyed. The conversation seemed so surreal. I’ve heard people comment on singers and their songs, but I had never had something like this conversation happen to me. What this lady did not know was how important her gift of words were to me, and they were given at a time when I needed them.

Sometimes after all the miles, the songs, the messages,



and all that goes with it, I wonder if it is worth it. Her gift of words just gave me the encouragement and knowledge, that yes, it is worth every mile. I just needed to hear it, to know the efforts are not in vain.

During this holiday time of year, we focus on gifts wrapped in amazing festive paper with shiny bows and we think that shows our appreciation. We focus on food with a spread of delicacies that is fit for royalty. We think money or the use of the plastic charge card will make life better, and we will be happy. We volunteer at shelters or soup kitchens and give to charities in hopes of giving back. So, I ask you then, why are there so many depressed people on the giving and receiving ends, so many people are in need and searching for hope?

In this world today, people are in need, they're lonely and disillusioned. It is not one ethnicity or group over another. It is just life as we know it. As a believer, we really do have what people are searching for in their lives. Through Christ, there is hope for today and tomorrow. In Christ, there is love, peace, forgiveness and we are touched by his grace and mercies. In him we live, breathe and have our being.

The only good so many people will ever see is in you and me. The only love they experience may be from you. You are the only light so many will ever see in this dimly lit world. You make a difference and many times you never know it.

As Christians, we are challenged to do and be more than ever. It is time we share a kind word. Give encouragement to those you meet along the way. Share the love that has been shared in your life. Give a word

of thanks to those who make a difference in your life, community and church.

We can share the good news and hope to everyone. If you are a singer, sing with all your might. If you are a preacher, preach unashamedly. If you are a teacher, give the best instruction ever. If you are a musician, play the best music possible. If you are a Christian witness, share the positive good news of what God has done for you. This life is really all about those you meet on your journey. Yes, you make a difference in this chaotic world.

This year, give the gift of music and of service. And don't forget to give thanks to God.

A Psalm of thanks: Psalm 30:1-12 "I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. O Lord, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit. Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night but rejoicing comes in the morning. When I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be shaken." O Lord, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: "What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down into





the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me; O Lord, be my help." You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever." (NIV)



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The Hyssongs

Thankful for a great year of ministry



By Robert York

While I was gathering information for this article, I ran across Dell Hyssong at their bus. The first comment he made was, “Tell everyone I’m the good one.” I left thinking that he might want Santa to be aware of that. With Dell being the good one and Christmas getting close, perhaps he’s looking for the gifts.

Dell’s dad loved Southern gospel music and the family attended a lot of concerts. At a young age, Dell decided that music was what he wanted to do. He began singing with a regional quartet with his dad before going to college. Dell felt that God had called him to pastor, which he did for 25 years in three incredible churches, and during which time he married his wife, Susan.

Twenty-four years ago, on Labor Day weekend, the Hyssongs started singing as a family. A Bible conference had an event and they needed another group. The director knew Dell sang, as well as being a pastor, and Susan played the piano. Even though Richard was only 13 years old, he had been singing at school. So they were asked as a family if they would come and sing a few songs during the weekend.

The Hyssongs quickly accepted the invitation and ran to a local Christian bookstore to pick up some

soundtracks. All they found were Cathedral Quartet songs. The weekend went well, and upon returning home they found messages on the answering machine asking about possible bookings.

“This was not something we planned, or ever thought we would be doing,” says Dell. “However, we felt that God was leading us in this direction, so we accepted the invitations. We had no CDs or sound system, we just stepped out in faith.”

Susan grew up in Alaska as a child of missionaries. Her dad was a Christian radio engineer and personality. She said, “At a young age, I would travel with Dad to the Indian villages and play my accordion while he would teach Bible lessons. At college I majored in piano, that’s where I met Dell. I didn’t grow up listening to Southern gospel. It was on my first date with Dell I heard this music for the first time. He took me to hear the Couriers.”

Richard then appeared on the scene, and he grew up listening to Southern gospel music. His dad would often have tapes or records playing in the house. Living in Maine, the only Southern gospel radio was Paul Heil and the Gospel Greats.



“What got me hooked was the Anchormen, Jeff Chapman on bass, Steve Ladd on tenor and Philip Hughes (on lead),” Richard recalls.

Growing up in Maine, traveling full time never seemed like a reality for them. When they first started, they assumed it was just going to be a few dates here and there, with no idea where they would be today. Recently, Richard accepted the Diamond Award for Trio of the Year at Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Richard’s wife, Kelly, didn’t listen to gospel music growing up. She sang with her mom in the choir and praise team, never dreaming it would be something she would be involved in. She attended Cedarville University where she received a teaching degree and taught for four years.

“The Hyssongs were holding a revival at my church,” recalls Kelly. “On the last evening, Richard and I



started talking. He asked if I could drive him to Dunkin Donuts for something to eat. This changed the course of our lives, as we started dating, and eventually got married in October 2005.” She just recently started singing a few songs with the group but mostly handles publicity and product sales.

The group takes a few days off the road at this time of year as Christmas is a special time for the family. It is really the only day that they do not book concerts. Typically, Dell and Susan go to Richard and Kelly’s home a few days prior to the 25th to exchange gifts and spend a few hours together.

“On December 25th, we have our own Christmas apart,” says Richard. “Kelly and myself, along with the kids, get up early, read Luke Chapter 2, then we open presents. The kids love pancakes so Kelly will make chocolate chip pancakes. Around mid-morning, we will drive to Kelly’s mom’s house and enjoy the rest of the day with her family.”

Richard continues, “We love to eat, but enjoy different foods. The menu often includes turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, squash, corn and Kelly’s famous yeast rolls. I really dislike jello salads. It is a running joke to always be offered it.”



There’s nothing like relaxing and enjoying the day with the family. The kids love hanging out with their cousins, while Richard, along with Kelly’s brother, watches sports on tv.

The Hyssongs’ current radio single is, “God Says You Can.” It is currently claiming the charts. It is a reminder to not quit and never give up, and is from their latest CD called “Pressing On.” In the last two years they have been blessed with four number one radio songs, “Let The Hallelujahs Ring,” “I Tell Them Jesus,” “The Race,” and “Choose Life,” which all have had incred-



ible responses.

“The highlight so far,” says Kelly, “has been watching the success my family has received from the industry. I have watched them from behind the scenes. Many do not realize how hard they have worked to get to where they are at. I am proud of them and look forward to the years ahead.”

The Hyssongs do what they do because they know the message in their songs has an impact on lives. The

group says they are thankful to the wonderful writers who are constantly sending them great songs to record. These songwriters are special to them and a huge part of their ministry.

The Hyssongs are booked by The April Potter Agency and you can also visit their website at thehyssongs.com for more information.

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Guest Concert Review

Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, the Booth Brothers and Legacy Five

By Justin Gilmore

On Friday, November 8, Shadow Mountain Community Church played host to three of Southern gospel music's most beloved groups: Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, Legacy Five, and the Booth Brothers. This anointed night of worship kicked off with Ernie Haase, accompanied by Josh Townsend of L5 on piano, leading the audience in an opening hymn "Victory In Jesus," as well as a beautiful prayer. Haase then introduced his lifelong friend and former quartet mate, Scott Fowler, and Legacy Five.

Legacy Five's first set opened with the fun, upbeat, "Deep In My Heart," which showcased each member. Fowler then introduced Lee Black, who joined the group in the tenor position six months ago. I firmly believe that he is one of the best tenors on the road today. His tone and effortless range are impressive. He was featured on the title track on their latest CD, "Pure Love," which tells of the transforming power of Christ's love. It doesn't matter where you're from or

what you've done. His love is enough.

Next, Bryan Walker, the group's new baritone who also joined six months ago, took the lead on the powerful anthem, "I Believe The Book," which received a great response from the audience. Walker's smooth baritone has been an incredible addition to the quartet, in my opinion.

Josh Townsend shared his testimony and performed the simply incredible, "God's Been Good." Townsend, only in his early 20s, has been through many trials related to his health. He, by earthly medical standards, should not be here, but God had other plans. Through it all, God has been good to him. Even having heard his story before, this was still a powerful performance and testimony. No matter what your circumstances, if you believe, God is faithful and right by your side.

They closed their first set with two more songs from

their latest project the great ballad, “Only Passing Through,” featuring bass singer Matt Fouch, and the worshipful, “What Kind Of Man,” which is probably one of the best songs the group has ever recorded. I loved the a cappella reprise of the last chorus of “Only Passing Through.”

Next, Scott Fowler introduced the most awarded trio in Southern gospel music, the Booth Brothers. This powerhouse trio featuring Michael and Ronnie Booth and Paul Lancaster were in top form vocally and comedically. They opened their set with the beautiful mid-tempo track, “That Says It All,” which simply says, “Jesus loves me and I guess that says it all.” He loves me and I will not ask for more. I know he cares for me.

Next, they picked up the tempo with the Celtic styled, “See, What A Morning,” the triumphant telling of Christ’s death and resurrection. The intricate harmonies and vocal blend on this song were stellar.



Next, Ronnie Booth took the lead on the country classic, “Three Wooden Crosses,” which can be found on their latest recording entitled, “Country Roads.” Speaking of country roads, baritone Paul Lancaster was featured on that John Denver classic which got a great response from the audience. They closed their first set with the favorite, “All Over The World,” Michael’s tender ballad, “He Heals,” and the powerful classic, “Then I Met The Master.”

These men continue to impress me not only with their incredible vocals, but also their deep love for the Lord and their desire to spread his word through their music. Also, Michael Booth was hilarious as usual. His



bit about getting older and the comment about getting two great groups to open and close their program were great.

Michael Booth then introduced Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, who took the stage opening with three songs from their Grammy nominated album “Clear Skies.” They kicked it off with the fun, uptempo, “You’ll Find Him There,” which showcases the group’s stellar harmonies.

Baritone Dustin Doyle, took the lead on the title track, “Clear Skies,” which reminds us that no matter what trials you face, God will bring you through. Clear skies are coming and it won’t be long.

Next, the group delivered a beautiful rendition of the Fanny Crosby co-written hymn, “Give Me Jesus.”



Ernie and the guys also showcased some songs from their brand new Christmas record, “A Jazzy Little Christmas.” This old time recording takes inspiration



from the classic style of the 50's and was recorded in New York instead of their usual Nashville spot.

They then performed a fun Christmas version of the classic "Mister Sandman," retitled, "Mister Santa," and a new love song called "Christmas In Manhattan." Both were very well received.



They closed out their first set with the incredible "Walking Through Fire," co-written by Devin McGlamery and Lee Black, and the Cathedrals-style, "Heaven Is." I was deeply moved by McGlamery's performance and his preaching before it. God is always beside me through it all.

There was a brief 15 minute intermission during which I got to catch up with Legacy Five. It was an honor to finally meet Lee Black and Bryan Walker, who are incredibly kind. I also picked up Josh Townsend's new solo Christmas CD which I will review in the coming days. As it was quite crowded, I was unable to chat with EHSS or the Booth Brothers aside from a quick chat with Paul Harkey of EHSS. It was great to see them again as it has been about four years since I'd last seen them in concert.

Following intermission, EHSS took the stage once

more. This time they delivered stellar performances of "Happy People," the Cathedrals classic, "Wedding Music," and of course, "Oh, What A Savior." Each time I hear Ernie sing this song, it gets better and better.



The Booth Brothers' second set featured the beautiful mid-tempo "Grace Divine," the classic Booth Brothers hit, "The Blind Man (He Saw It All)," and their powerful anthem, "Jesus Saves." I was blown away by the incredible vocals on the latter.

Legacy Five closed out this incredible night of worship with the classic "I Found Grace," the patriotic "I'm Proud To Be An American," and catchy new track "What A Day."



What can I say? This night was simply incredible. It was great to see these groups in concert again. I cherish the friendships I've made with these kind hearted men of God. It has been a rough few weeks for me with the loss of my beloved dog, as well as a hard work schedule. This was a welcome reprieve. Not only did each group sound incredible, they also straight up preached the word. I loved every second of this concert. I hope to see them all again here in California soon.

Concert photos courtesy of Craig Harris.

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Coastal Media Events

By Lorraine Walker

Coastal Events Update

Coastal Events is expanding to bring the experience of a family music worship retreat, such as Creekside, to many states in 2020 and beyond. The list below explores several of these events, concluding with Creekside Gospel Music Convention. Included with this feature are several photographic memories from Creekside 2019. Be sure to make your plans to attend at least one Coastal Event near you in 2020.

March 2020

Rob Patz, Coastal Events owner, is excited about the upcoming **Southern Gospel Weekend**, which he is involved as a board member with Donnie Williamson and Vonda Armstrong. The Southern Gospel Weekend,



March 20 - 21, 2020, in Oxford, Alabama (call 360-933-0741 or 256-310-7892 for information.) Concert lineup to follow. Host hotel is the Sleep Inn, Oxford at 256-770-4804. Please mention that you are a guest of SGW when you call for a special rate. Some artists already announced include the Freemans, East Ridge Boys, Master Peace Quartet, Cross Ties Band, Hope's Journey, the Connells, New Ground, Eagle's Wings, Pardoned, ClearVision, Jessica Horton, and the Bibletones.

April 2020

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, and Masters Quartet, Day 3, Jessica Horton, The Defreitas Family, and others.

June 2020

Gospel Music Weekend—Michigan is coming to Ann Arbor June 4 - 6, 2020. GMW -- MI will feature 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.



July 2020

Gospel Music Weekend—Ohio is coming to Mansfield, Ohio, July 16 -18, 2020. Some of the artists appearing in GMW--OH are from the Great Lakes Region, including Gloryway Quartet, Ezekiel's Call, The Bobby Jones Family, New Promise, Kristen Stanton, Justified Quartet and Matchless Grace, among others.





Other states in Coastal Events' plans include: Indiana, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky. Artists in these areas who would like to become a part of these concerts, please contact Rob Patz at 360-920-4057. For more information on these events please visit gospelmusicconvention.com More information for VIP tickets, lodging, bus groups, and more, can be requested at events@sgnscoops.com.



October 2020

Creekside Gospel Music Convention

The cornerstone presentation of Coastal Events is Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2020, taking place Oct. 25 - Oct. 29, 2020, at the Grand Smokies Resort Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Creekside is an annual event, bringing hundreds of gospel music fans and over 50 artists to beautiful Pigeon Forge. The convention presents Bluegrass, Country and Southern gospel music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer. Some of the great artists who appeared in 2019 were the

Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, Sue Dodge, the Browders, Josh and Ashley Franks, and more. Keep watching this column for announcements regarding artists appearing in 2020.

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the Diamond Awards ceremony, Creekside Bluegrass, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741, email events@sgnscoops.com or visit the website www.gospelmusicconvention.com.

Christian Country at the Creek

Christian Country at the Creek 2020 will take place Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 at the Grand Smokies Resort Convention Center located at 2385 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The event will begin the day after Creekside ends, with a special kick off on Thursday night at the close of Creekside, followed by evening concerts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Special events and Midnight Prayer are also being planned as part of Christian Country at the Creek. "This is an event you don't want to miss. We can't wait to showcase these amazing artists," Patz adds. Admission is free to the public with VIP tickets available for just \$10.00 per night or \$25.00 for the entire weekend.

If you are an artist wishing to be included on the roster for 2020, or if you would like more information, please contact Rob Patz at (360)933-0741 or send an email to events@sgnscoops.com. For reservations, you may contact the Spirit of the Smokies Lodge directly at



(865)453-4106 and indicate the group code of CCC20 or Christian Country at the Creek to get the group rate.



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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

December is here with all of its great colours and festive lights. This is also the month of great music that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It's terrific to be walking through the grocery store and hear a song that lifts up the name that is above every name, Jesus. At just the mention of his name, our hopes are raised and fears pushed away. We trust you have enjoyed this issue filled with the story of Jesus Christ, the blessing of his name, and the wonder of eternal life.

We are thrilled to present one of the forerunners in Christian music, Larnelle Harris. His voice and his declaration of the word of God have brought many closer to Jesus. Special thanks to Jennifer Campbell for writing this story that lets us into Larnelle's life just a little more.

It is an honour to present so many great Christian artists who are bringing new Christmas music into our lives this year. Ernie Haase has always been a favourite gospel music gentleman to many, including myself and my family. Thank you to Jimmy Reno of Mark209 for taking time to talk with Ernie and also with newcomer Jessica Horton, who is thrilling many with her voice.

We do hope you enjoyed John Herndon's article on The McKameys, a group we honour as they head into retirement. We know these lovely people will not use retirement as an excuse not to share the

name of Jesus with others, but will continue to share him through their words, music and lives.

Robert York has consistently brought us the ministries of many gospel groups throughout this year, and we thank him for his article on The Hyssongs. This group was honoured at the recent Diamond Awards. Charlie Griffin is another frequent contributor to this magazine and we thank him for his faithfulness as well.

Les Butler, Justin Gilmore, Vonda Armstrong, and Rob Patz have also given of their time and talents to create this magazine, as well as designers Staci and Pete Schwager, copyeditor Joan Walker, and cover designer, Stephanie Kelley. Be looking for more great colorful artwork and contributions from all of our staff as we present our full color January condensed version of SGNScoops, featuring a few of our top articles and song charts. Look elsewhere in this issue to get your subscription.

This season, if you are feeling anxious and fearful, take another look at Charlie Brown's Christmas. The scene where Linus clutches his security blanket and recites the Christmas story, at the portion where the angels tell the shepherds, "Fear not," the little boy drops the ever-present blue blanket. Place your trust in the Christ child today, and let him allay your fears.

Merry Christmas to all of our readers, staff and artists. We hope you have a moment in this delightful season to share your faith and your gifts with those who are lacking. Have a sweet time of warmth and family this month. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please write to me at lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

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Contributors

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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all- digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com.



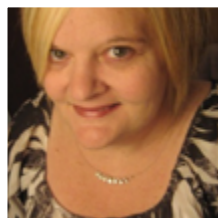
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



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



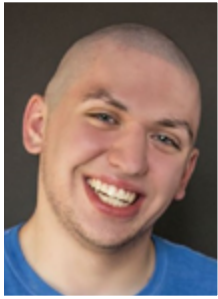
Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and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



Justin Gilmore, 22, a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share his love of this great style of music.

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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.



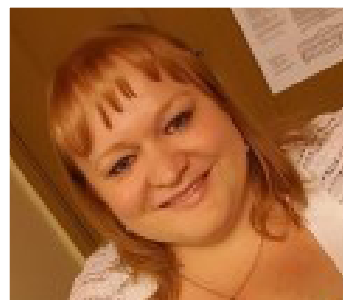
John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing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

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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.



Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The Mystery Men quartet, Florida Boys and Mark209. Off the road, he spends time with my wife, Christa, with whom he celebrates 25 years of

marriage with this year. Jimmy also enjoys spending time with his three kids and one granddaughter.



Jantina Baksteen I live all the way overseas in the Netherlands. I'm married and I have three adult children. I grew up in a Christian home and knew in my early years that I wanted to belong to Him. I surrendered my life to Christ was baptized one

day before I turned 11 years old.

Somehow, the seed of loving gospel music was planted by the style of music my parents played at home. Around 2006/2007, I was listening to Gaither home-

coming music that I found on the internet. The song, "Oh, What A Savior," by Ernie Haase hit me with the so-called Southern gospel bug.

From there, I've been reading /studying all I can find. I found the digital SGNscoops Magazine.

As I was spending so much time reading and listening about this industry, I started praying for God to please give me a job in the Southern gospel industry. Sometimes, I commented to Lorraine Walker on her posts. How could she know the longing of my heart?

But last year she asked me if I wanted to do something for SGNscoops: the Wacky Wednesday posts online. Now I do the "Beyond the Song" article that really has my heart as I am reaching out to artists, asking about a current song and having a sneak peak behind the scenes.



My name is Lyndsey Chandler. I sing with my family, the Chandlers. I have wanted to get something started to promote the youth in Southern gospel for a long time. I want to say a huge thank you to SGNscoops magazine for allowing me the opportunity to do this. I

will be sharing exclusive interviews in an effort to showcase the abilities, talents and dedication of young artists in Southern Gospel music. I will be offering these monthly interviews to better acquaint you with young voices that are growing louder in our industry.

The Chandlers travel in a ministry of singing and preaching conducting concerts, revivals, camp meetings and conferences. Their travels have taken them all over the United States, Canada, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia, and The Philippines. The group consists of Tim, Lana, and their two daughters, Tiffany, and Lyndsey. Their ministry website is www.thechandlersmusic.com.