

JANUARY 2026

CrossCountry^{USA} magazine

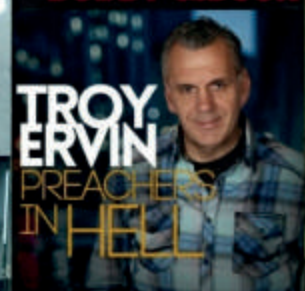
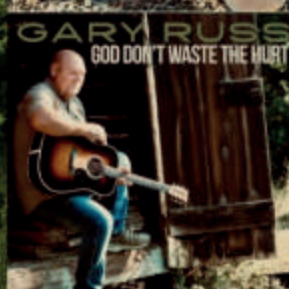
***A Life of Music,
Miracles, and
the God Who
Never Let Go***

SUSAN AGEE HICKS

COUNTRY MUSIC WITH A MESS AGE

NASHVILLE
CHRISTIAN·COUNTRY

FOR BOOKING NSAA: 615.830.4351/NEWSOUTHARTISTSAGENCY@GMAIL.COM
FOR RECORDING INFO: 615.830.4381/RICK@NASHVILLECHRISTIANCOUNTRY.ORG
TO REQUEST SINGLE RELEASES FOR RADIO: RADIO@NASHVILLECHRISTIANCOUNTRY.ORG





NEW SINGLE. STREAMING NOW.

BOOKING: 615.830.4351/newsouthartistagency@gmail.com

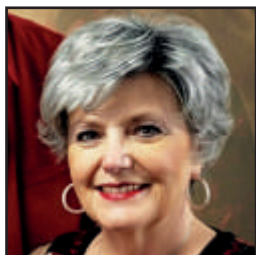
NASHVILLE
CHRISTIAN-COUNTRY

NEW SOUTH
ARTISTS AGENCY



IN THIS ISSUE...

ON THE COVER



- 30 Susan Agee Hicks**
***A Life of Music, Miracles,
and the God Who Never
Let Go***
By Jackson McKee

Features

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>12 Remembering...
<i>Glorya J. Wilson</i>
Staff, Cross Country USA</p> <p>14 J.W. Jackson
<i>The Late Bloomer Who's
Redefining Country
Music, One Song at a Time</i>
By Cory Parker</p> <p>26 Dick Van Dyke
<i>A Century Full of Joy,
Laughter, and Legacy</i>
By Robin Tanner</p> | <p>38 Lainey Wilson
<i>Unshakable Faith in Jesus</i>
By Mark Ellis</p> <p>46 Ashley Collins
<i>A Heart of Worship and a
Calling Fulfilled</i>
By Chloe Wright</p> <p>52 The Pauls
<i>A Family in Harmony, a
Ministry in Motion</i>
By Jackson McKee</p> |
|---|---|

Series

- 8 Young Country - The Fortner Brothers**
By Malik Riaz
- 18 The Story Behind the Song - I'll Fly Away**
Staff, Cross Country USA
- 36 The Music Lives On - Kevin Sharp**
Staff, Cross Country USA
- 42 Legends Series - Jim Sheldon**
By Cory Parker

Departments

NEWS

- 20 Cross Country USA Report**
Christian Country Music News & Scoops

MUSIC CHART

- 50 Cross Country USA Hot 100**
Official Christian Country Music Top 100



JANUARY 2026

CROSS COUNTRY USA MAGAZINE

PO Box 147 • 17911 Hwy 96 • Kennedy, AL 35574
Phone: 205-596-4371 / Fax: 205-596-4375
(Office hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm CST Mon-Fri)

WEBSITE

www.crosscountryusamagazine.com

BUSINESS OPERATIONS / C.O.O.

Randall Wilds

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rachel Hodges

MANAGING EDITOR

Robin Tanner

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

John Lanier

FEATURE EDITORS

Teresa Schweinsberg
Malik Riaz
Jackson McKee
Cory Parker

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

John Lanier

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Christine Scott • Gatlin Dean

COVER PRICE

\$3.95 U.S. • \$5.95 CANADA

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

\$20.00 per year (U.S. Only)

Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express accepted

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY



©2026 Cross Country USA Magazine / Wilds & Associates. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or any other - without written permission from the publisher. News or information read 'live' on the air is allowed without prior written permission from the publisher by noting the source of information.

All advertisements must be approved by the publisher before appearing in Cross Country USA Magazine. All advertisers must agree to provide documentation to establish credibility and reliability to fulfill obligations incurred as a result of said advertisement. Cross Country USA Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising for any reason. Acceptance of advertisement by the publisher does not necessarily imply endorsement.



From the Editor

Joy On Our Journey In 2026

As we step into a new year, I am reminded that life is not a destination, but a journey marked by both the winding roads and the quiet stops along the way. Each January feels like the moment when we stand at the crossroads of what has been and what is yet to come.

The past year may have carried its share of burdens, but it also offered lessons that shaped us for the path ahead. We walk with courage, to trust in unseen horizons, and to believe that every step has meaning. The beauty of the journey is in the people we meet, the wisdom we gather, and the faith that sustains us when the road feels long.

This year let's look at the days as part of a greater journey - one guided by hope, strengthened by resilience, and illuminated by grace. Let us walk with intention, carrying gratitude like a lantern to light the way. Let us remember that even when the path bends into shadow, we are never alone.

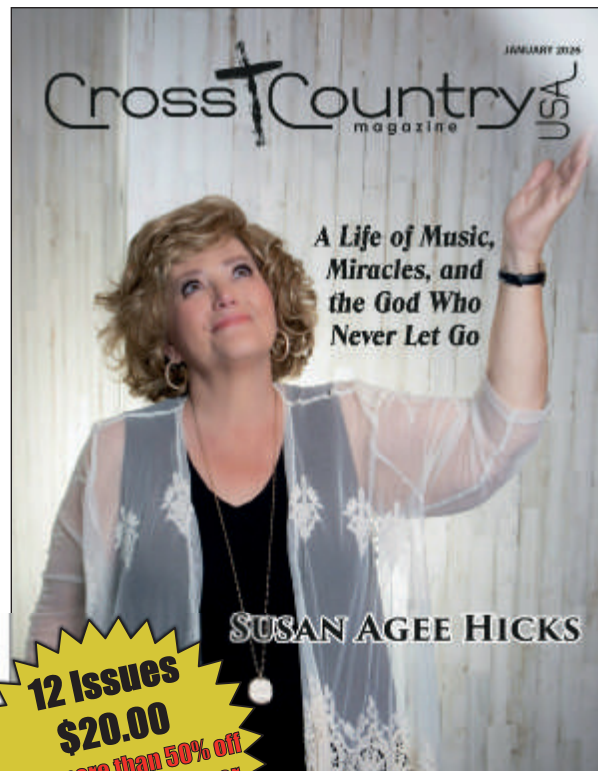
We wish you all a Happy New Year. May 2026 be filled with God's blessings to you and your families. I read this phrase and it conveys our wishes in 2026 to our subscribers and artists: "May we find joy in the journey, peace in the pauses, and strength in the steps yet to come in 2026."

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- Psalm 119:105

Robin

Robin Tanner, Managing Editor

*For more information, visit our website
and connect with us on Facebook!*
www.crosscountryusamagazine.com
[Facebook.com/crosscountryusamagazine](https://www.facebook.com/crosscountryusamagazine)



**12 Issues
\$20.00**
Save more than 50% off
the single issue cover
price with annual
subscription!

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

U.S. subscription \$20.00 per year
Canadian subscription \$45.00 per year
(payable in U.S. Dollars only)
Please allow 6-8 weeks for
delivery of your first issue.

Visa, MasterCard, American Express
and Discover cards accepted.
Call 205-596-4371 for payment by phone
or complete and mail in form.

Card # _____

Exp Date _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Mail your subscription order to:
Cross Country USA Magazine
PO Box 147
Kennedy, AL 35574



Gina White

Thank you DJ's for playing and charting
"Lighthouse In The Harbor"

Distributed by Tommy Smith with Canyon Creek Records

Please keep playing my last releases

"Lovin' Me" &

"What Color Is Grace"

I would like to thank all the pastors that have allowed me to minister and sing in their churches over the past 20+ years. I am available to minister through music and the Word. Ladies, men's or couple retreats. God has blessed me and I am so grateful for the gifts and talents he has bestowed on me.

Thank you Tommy and AnnaSmith of Canyon Creek Records for believing in me and also a very special thanks to Pastors Susie and Lowell Barton and Solid Rock Church in Athens, Texas.

**For ministry or products call: Gina White
(903) 571-8876 or gina2041@aol.com**

*Norman Lee
Schaffer*



**"Everything
You Do"**

Contact:

THE GARDEN WORSHIP CENTER
12740 SE County Hwy 484
Bellevue FL 34420
(352) 245-0809 or (352) 553-9356
normanls@earthlink.net
normanleeprayon.com

Thanks for playing and charting

"EVERYTHING YOU DO"

At Radio now and available
at all major
digital music outlets



THE FORTNER BROTHERS

By Malik Riaz



In the rolling hills of Rainsville, Alabama, a family band is making waves in Christian country music. The Fortner Brothers - Layne (age 22), and triplets Kyle, Kennon, and Konner (age 20) - have transformed their childhood passion for music into a ministry that reaches audiences across the nation. With a rich blend of Country instrumentation and faith-filled lyrics, their music not only entertains but also spreads the message of Christ.

With their father, Phillip, on keyboards, and their mother, Kayla, as their first harmony teacher, the brothers have created a dynamic sound that honors both their musical heritage and their Christian faith. From humble beginnings in their children's church choir to performances at major venues, their journey is a testament to passion, perseverance, and purpose.

Music has always been a part of the Fortner household. Their mother, Kayla, introduced them to harmony at a young age, leading them to church performances. But it was their growing love for playing instruments that led them to form a band.

"At ages eight and ten, we started guitar lessons. We really enjoyed learning and asked our parents if we could become a band. Mom and dad surprised us that Christmas with a bass guitar and a drum set, so we could start the band. I decided to play the bass, and Kennon decided to play the drums," Konner recalls.

A Christmas gift sparked a lifelong passion, leading them to hone their skills at Chris Robert's School of Music. Kennon learned drums from Mark Herndon, Alabama's former drummer. Starting with church and school events, their 2015 performance at a family friend's church opened doors to invitations across multiple states and prestigious venues.

The Fortner Brothers' ability to blend classic Country sounds with faith-based messages quickly caught the attention of music industry professionals. In 2022, Nashville producer Rick Schweinsberg approached them about singing Christian Country music. It was an opportunity they didn't take lightly.

"We prayed about it and decided to take him up on his offer," the brothers shared. "We've always loved Country

music, and this was a way to stay true to our sound while keeping our focus on Christ.”

That decision led to a surge in popularity. In 2024, they were nominated for both ‘New Artist of the Year’ and ‘Group of the Year’ by the Inspirational Country Music Awards. In 2025, they won the Gospel Music Fan Awards ‘Horizon Country Gospel Group.’ Their album “No Future in the Past” was even considered in the first round of votes for a Grammy.

Their music isn’t just about catchy tunes; it’s deeply personal. Each song carries a message, often inspired by real-life experiences. One such song, *Numbered*, holds special meaning for Layne.

“One of my friends lost his life in a car accident. I didn’t think about someone my age’s life getting cut short until it happened. I learned that we are never promised another minute on this earth! We need to be right with Him and live every moment for Him! When we were pitched the song *Numbered*, it put into words everything I felt. I knew that we had to record it!” Layne recalls.

Their third album, “Things That Never Rust” debuted on February 22, 2025, and received critical acclaim. The album - considered in the first round Grammy nominations - maintains their signature classic Country sound, with a mix of Western swing and ‘90s Country influences.

For Kyle, the greatest challenge has been stepping out of his comfort zone. “My greatest challenge has been coming out of my shell and feeling comfortable singing solos, as well as pushing myself to become a better musician,” he admits. “The greatest reward is reaching people for the Kingdom.”

Their music is making an impact, with songs like *Jesus, Cause I Want To*, *Numbered*, *Keep Keepin’ On*, and *Honky Tonk Missionary* charting on Christian Country radio. Their latest album includes a tribute to their late grandfathers and a cover of Alan Jackson’s *Small Town Southern Man*.

When asked if they consider themselves role models, Kyle responds with humility: “I don’t want to be a role model as when someone sees me, they say, ‘Oh look, there’s Kyle!’ But I do want to be the role model that the Lord calls us to be, and that is to live like Christ. And when people see me, whether they remember my name or not, I want them to see Christ in me,” Kyle states.

The goal of the Fortner Brothers group is and has always been to take Christ to the world, and if you attend a concert, you should expect a fun, high-energy, spirit-led concert in a Christian Country style.

The Fortner Brothers' journey continues with a growing fan base, award nominations, and a mission to glorify God through Country music, whether on local or national stages.



Beyond the stage, the Fortner Brothers see themselves as more than just musicians; they are messengers of faith. Their concerts are high-energy, but the focus remains on spreading the Gospel.

“We have played at the Ark Encounter three times. It has always been a wonderful experience! Everyone there is wonderful to work with, and it is great to be able to share the Gospel with so many people who are visiting the Ark. We have found that many who visit do not know the Lord,” Kennon shares.

This year is a different season for the guys as they are moving to different colleges, but their goal is to continue traveling, singing, and spreading the love and message of Christ as often as they can.

As their journey unfolds, one thing is obvious: “The Fortner Brothers aren’t just creating music; they’re inspiring lives and leaving a lasting impact.”

www.fortnerbrothers4christ.com

NEW RELEASE



FOR BOOKING:

KEN STULL 704.208.9899 OR NEW SOUTH ARTISTS AGENCY
615.830.4351 NEWSOUTHARTISTSAGENCY@GMAIL.COM

NASHVILLE
CHRISTIAN-COUNTRY

NEW SOUTH
ARTISTS AGENCY



David Timms

Thanks for playing and charting

“That’s When God Moves”

At Radio now and available at all
major digital music outlets.



Booking:

davidtimmsmusic@gmail.com
(662) 231-7382



David Timms Music



davidtimmsmusic

NASHVILLE
CHRISTIAN COUNTRY

NEW SOUTH
ARTISTS AGENCY

newsouthartistsagency@gmail.com
(615) 830-4351



david
timms davidtimmsmusic@gmail.com
(662) 231-7382

STRAIGHT ARROW
RECORDS

DISTRIBUTED BY:



Millennium
MUSIC GROUP

(205) 662-4826
randall@wildsandassociates.com

AirPlay
DIRECT
GO STRAIGHT TO THE SOURCE

Remembering...

GLORYA J. WILSON

June 24, 1949 – November 16, 2025

Staff, Cross Country USA

Glorya Wilson's life was a radiant testimony of faith, music, and ministry. Born June 24, 1949, in Dallas, Texas, to Charles and Joyce Julian, she grew up deeply rooted in family and Christian conviction - foundations that would shape every chapter of her journey.

After graduating from Sunset High School, Glorya pursued her calling at Christ for the Nations Bible School and Word of Faith Bible College, where she became an ordained minister in 1982. That same year, she founded The Mustard Seed Faith Ministries, launching a lifelong mission of evangelism and song. With a voice that carried both conviction and compassion, she traveled across the United States, preaching and singing in churches, bringing encouragement and healing through the Gospel. Her 1985 debut album, "I'm Healed, Set Free and Delivered," became a cornerstone of her ministry, and over the years, four of her songs rose to number one on the International Country Gospel Music Association Chart.

In 1993, Glorya married Robert "Bob" Wilson, and together they adopted their son Matthew the following year. Their shared vision for Gospel music led them to Hughes Springs, Texas, where they launched KNGR King Country Radio in 1995. Through this station, they created a platform for Christian and Country Gospel artists to be heard, nurtured, and celebrated. Their vision expanded in 2000 with the founding of Agape Fest, an annual Country Gospel music festival that grew into a nationally and internationally recognized event. Glorya's leadership and artistry were honored at the Southern Gospel Music Awards, where she became the very first recipient. Over the years, she received numerous accolades, including ICGMA 'Album of the Year,' 'Artist of the Year' (twice), 'Song of the Year' (four times), and multiple fan awards from CFM and TIMA.

Her influence reached beyond the stage. In 2006, the White House recognized Agape Fest and the traditions she helped elevate. President George W. Bush wrote: *"Music plays a vital role in exploring ideas, expressing emotions, and conveying the diversity of the human experience. Both Country and Gospel music are an important part of America's heritage... Today, we continue to be inspired by their message of courage, comfort, and hope... May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America."*



Glorya's gifts extended into writing, with several self-published books that reflected her faith and creativity. She cherished horses and horseback riding, and her warmth, humor, generosity, and compassion touched countless lives. Above all, her unwavering faith was the heartbeat of her ministry, guiding her work, her relationships, and the way she cared for others.

At age 76, Glorya (Neu) Wilson passed away on November 16, 2025. Her legacy is not defined by her passing, but by the countless lives she touched, the songs she sang, and the faith she lived. Her ministry continues to echo in churches, homes, and hearts across the nation - a lasting testimony of courage, comfort, and hope.



Paula Slow

AT RADIO NOW AND
ALL STREAMING
PLATFORMS

WWW.PAULASLOW.COM

GOOD KIND OF CRAZY



Todd Lee

Thanks for playing
and charting

"Foot Steps Of My King"

At Radio now and available at all major digital
music outlets








Music

Distributed by:
Tommy Smith with Canyon Creek Records



At an age when most people are winding down, JW Jackson was just getting started. “I was 66 when I picked up a \$75 acoustic Epiphone six-string,” Jackson recalls with a chuckle. “Nice little guitar. Took me a month and some sore fingers to get three chords down. That’s when I wrote my first real song - *Blues Ain’t Country (But It’s Country to Me!)*”

That humble beginning marked the start of a whirlwind journey that would take Jackson from quiet songwriting sessions in Branson, Missouri, to the stages of Nashville, and eventually to the top of the European Academy of Country Music charts.

The Late Bloomer Who’s Redefining Country Music, One Song at a Time

JW JACKSON

By Cory Parker

A Voice That Refused to Blend In

Jackson’s musical roots stretch back to childhood church choirs in Wisconsin, where his unmistakable Country twang first made waves - literally.

“I was probably five or six,” he says. “The choir leader stopped everything and said, ‘What’s that noise?’ All the kids pointed at me. She asked, ‘Jimmy, do you think you could not do that with your voice?’ I said, ‘I was justa sangin’.”

That raw, unfiltered sound would become his signature. Though he never quite fit into the choir, Jackson found his place out front, singing solos that couldn’t be ignored.

A Family Legacy Unearthed

At 68, Jackson uncovered a truth that would deepen his connection to Country music: his birth father had been a Nashville songwriter. DNA tests revealed ties to the Jackson family, tracing back to immigrant Ralph Jackson, born in 1650.

“I found out my whole birth family were musicians,” he says. “Some with big connections. But I was pretty much ignored. It’s hard for folks to accept a new 68-year-old cousin or brother.”

Still, the revelations kept coming. His wife - also adopted - turned out to be related to Harold Morrison, a Hall of Fame Bluegrass musician who played with Loretta Lynn, George Jones, and Tammy Wynette.

“It didn’t change my music business,” Jackson insists. “I stand on my own. But it’s cool history. Full circle in so many ways.”

Baptism by Fire in Nashville

Jackson’s first real industry moment came at the Omni Hotel in Nashville, where he was invited to perform and attend, at the Listening Room during the Country Radio Seminar (CRS).

"I was unprepared would be the understatement," he laughs. "Had a sore throat, croaked my way through it. But I met some radio folks and fellow artists who gave me good advice on how to approach my approach."

That moment of vulnerability turned into a catalyst. Jackson began recording with top-tier session musicians introduced to him by Greg Roller of Roller Music Pro in Branson. The studio became a creative haven, producing nearly 30 songs and counting.

Building a Sound with Legends

Jackson's tracks feature a who's who of Country talent: Mike McAdoo on lead guitar (Mel Tillis, The Osmonds), Wayne Massengale on fiddle (Roy Clark, Tanya Tucker), and Debra Paxton on vocals (daughter of Gary Paxton who produced and recorded *Monster Mash* legend Bobby "Boris" Pickett and many other hits).

"I've been blessed," Jackson says. "These folks bring my songs to life. Mike McAdoo plays on many of my tracks, and Jonathon Black's keyboards are just magical."

One standout collaboration came through Herosong Studios, a charity supporting law enforcement and military. Jackson's tribute *Brave Blue Shields* featured Kent Slucher on drums (Luke Bryan), Jake Clayton on strings (Tanya Tucker) and harmonica legend Charlie McCoy, who had worked with Jackson's birth father decades earlier.

"Charlie sat next to me at a Herosong event," Jackson recalls. "Turns out he was best friends with Jim Denny, who signed my father's songwriter contracts. Another full circle moment."

Songs with Soul and Purpose

Jackson's music isn't just catchy, it's deeply personal. His song *Our Flag Flies in Dover*, written for Gold Star families, was inspired by his own military service.

"When I was 17, waiting to go to Vietnam, they put me on funeral detail at Dover Air Force Base," he says. "We buried an 18-year-old who had just served. I thought... that could be me."

The song was nominated for 'Social Impact Video of the Year' at the 2025 Josie Awards, held at the Grand Ole Opry. It's now playing on Cashbox-affiliated stations.

Another hit, *Bent Rusty Nail*, climbed to #1 on the EACM chart after 26 weeks and is nominated for 'Cut of the Year' by the Tennessee Songwriter's Association International.

Faith, Family, and the Fire to Keep Going

Jackson's faith is the bedrock of his artistry. "Nothing would be possible without my faith," he says. "And I believe the United States is the best place to live on this earth."

Recently, that faith took musical form. Jackson wrote and released his first Christian track, *My Tiny Soul*, a song he describes as coming "straight from the heart." It traces back to his earliest memory of church - a moment of wonder and confusion for a five-year-old boy suddenly moved from Perry, Georgia to Wisconsin to live with his adopted grandparents. His grandmother, a Sunday School teacher for 75 years, introduced him to the stories of Jesus and God, concepts that were mysterious and new to him. The song follows the spark of that first light as it grew through his life and into the man he is today. Those memories became the inspiration behind *My Tiny Soul*.

His songs often reflect that belief, blending patriotism with personal storytelling. His current Country single, *Pop Smoke*, tells the tale of a Vietnam veteran Jackson met in the Louisiana swamps. The Jerry Reed-style track features McAdoo's guitars, Black's organ, and Jackson's own ethereal background vocals. "All veterans will relate to that song," he says. "It's got heart."

Crossing Generations, Defying Expectations

Despite entering the industry at an age most would consider "too late," Jackson's music is resonating with younger audiences.

"One fan commented online, 'I think I just found my favorite new Country artist,'" Jackson says. "That makes me smile. He was young. So, my music is transcending age gaps."

He's seen firsthand how trends cycle back to tradition. "Younger folks are liking the more traditional stuff," he notes. "I write some old, some modern tunes. But I always try to deliver a heartfelt performance."

The Dream That Still Burns

Seven years into his music career, Jackson has already surpassed his own expectations. But there's one goal that still drives him. "I'd love to write that ONE super iconic song that's known by everyone," he says. "Something that lives on."

Until then, he'll keep writing, recording, and performing - one soulful, stompin' track at a time. "I hope fans have a good time," Jackson says. "And maybe be touched to the core or moved to tears. Most of my songs come from real experiences. I just try to deliver that heartfelt performance."

www.jwjacksonmusic.com



Joy LaVallee
Singer/Songwriter
(817) 496-9090 or (417) 812-0114
youtube.com/@joyinyourpresence

Announcing the new release of
"WHEN LOVE AROSE"
 written by Jeff McLeod
 on all music platforms now

Thank You DJs and Canyon Creek Records
 for playing and charting
"WHEN LOVE AROSE"
 Continue to Listen to
"DO YOU REMEMBER"
 Joy LaVallee and Johnathan Bond

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE
COUNTRY GOSPEL GROUP



THANK YOU **DJS AND FANS**
FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT!




**AirPlay**
DIRECT
A QUALITY CONNECTION

DISTRIBUTED BY:
 **Millennium**
MUSIC GROUP
800-461-4100

Thanks for playing and charting
I've Been Thinking
At Radio Now

WWW.THEWAYMASTERS.COM




Thomas Brown Ministry

Thanks to the DJs for Playing
"Even When I Fall"


Distributed by
Canyon Creek Records
Tommy Smith
903.566.3347

Songwriter
Kenny Webb

At Radio Now and available at all
major digital music outlets



Booking Information
423.715.9851 or 423.715.7213
thomasbrownministry@gmail.com



Rachel Taylor



Thanks for playing and
charting
**"Nothing
No Nothing"**

At Radio now and
available at all major
digital music outlets



Voted Gospel Music Fan Awards
Favorite Female Vocalist 2025

Fans I greatly appreciate your support.
Contact: Rachel Shields Taylor, Ph.D
Gospel Music Artist
Behavioral Specialist
Email: rachelshields1969@gmail.com




DISTRIBUTED BY:
Millennium
MUSIC GROUP
3851 662-4826





Bruce and Betsy Mullins

Thanks for playing and charting
"In Times Like These"

At Radio now and available at all
major digital music outlets



For Bookings Contact: Bruce & Betsy Mullins
brucebetsymullen@gmail.com
(509) 675-2761





RON HEMPHILL

STILL SINGING HIS SONG

Thanks for playing and charting
"Meanwhile Back At The Cross"
from the album 'Still Singing His Song'

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets



1850 SE Lincoln Rd - Prineville, OR 97754
(541) 480-5642 - thorn3006@centurylink.net




The Story Behind the Song

I'LL FLY AWAY

Written by Albert E. Brumley

Recorded by various artists

Staff, Cross Country USA

I'll Fly Away is a beloved hymn of the church and a favorite Gospel song across all genres. When the hymns were more prevalent in the churches, the congregations knew where to turn in the hymnals as they sung the classic hymn with feeling. For over ninety years this song has been a musical treasure.

I'll Fly Away was written by Albert E. Brumley (1905–1977) in the late 1920s while living in rural Oklahoma and attending a musical institute in Arkansas. He was a young farm worker picking cotton in 1928 when inspiration struck. He recalled singing a popular tune, *The Prisoner's Song* (1924) which contained the line 'If I had the wings of an angel.' Brumley later said: "Actually, I was dreaming of flying away from that cotton field when I wrote *I'll Fly Away*." That sparked the idea of flying away - not just escaping the cotton field but symbolically leaving behind earthly struggles.

Brumley began drafting the hymn in 1929 and completed it by 1932. It was published by the Hartford Music Company in a collection titled *Wonderful Message*. The song's joyful melody made it easy for congregations to sing, and it quickly spread through Baptist, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Methodist, and Church of Christ communities. The hymn expresses hope of eternal life and freedom from earthly burdens. It blends personal longing for escape with Christian imagery of heaven, resonating deeply with audiences facing hardship.



Albert E. Brumley Jr. has spoken about his father's hymn *I'll Fly Away*, often emphasizing both its humble origins and its extraordinary impact. He described how his father wrote the song while dreaming of escape from the cotton fields, and how it grew into one of the most beloved Gospel hymns in history. Brumley Jr. explained that his father wasn't trying to write a "hit" but simply expressing a longing for freedom: "Dad was just a poor farm boy who wanted to get away from the cotton patch. He never dreamed that *I'll Fly Away* would become the most recorded Gospel song in history."

I'll Fly Away has over 5,000 versions across genres. It has been performed by artists ranging from traditional Gospel quartets to Country legends and even featured in popular culture (notably in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*). The song became a staple at funerals, revivals, and



One doesn't have to look far to sense the influence Brumley Music has had on the Gospel, Americana, and Country music industries. Artists like Keith Urban, Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley, George Jones, Alison Krauss, Mumford & Sons, Alan Jackson, Vince Gil, Jars of Clay, Aretha Franklin, Johnny Cash, The Oak Ridge Boys, Crystal Gayle, The Blind Boys of Alabama, Etta James, Gaither Vocal Band and even Kanye West have recorded or performed Brumley original songs. Most have gone on to become Gold or Platinum selling albums. Songs from Brumley Music have received 9 GRAMMY Awards, 25 GRAMMY nominations, won countless DOVE Awards, IBMA, CMA, ACM and Americana Awards. *I'll Fly Away* greatly influenced the TV show by the same name which won three Golden Globe Awards, five Golden Globe nominations, 3 Emmy Awards, received 23 Emmy nominations, won a Peabody Award, and four NAACP Awards.

I'll fly away, Oh Glory
I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)

JANUARY 2026 • CROSS COUNTRY USA MAGAZINE 19

CrossCountry Report

..... CHRISTIAN COUNTRY MUSIC NEWS & SCOOPS

Guitars4aCause.com Offering Autographed Guitars to Help Raise Money for Charity

Concerts 4 A Cause, the 501(c)3 that has helped raise money over the past several years in support of various events and charities, is offering up autographed guitars to raise money for charity. In 2023, Concerts 4 A Cause raised over \$82,000 for two police officers ambushed in the line of duty in Huntsville, Alabama; in 2024, raised over \$88,000 for the Daryle Singletary Memorial Fund; and over the past three years raised over \$250,000 for law enforcement charities.

As the title sponsor of the 5th annual Mission:Possible Celebrity Classic Golf Tournament hosted by Tracy Lawrence, Concerts 4 A Cause helped raise funds that were invested in

multiple partner organizations across Middle Tennessee who work tirelessly on the front lines to support both individuals and families facing hardship. These resources strengthen vital community programs, expand access to essential services, and help sustain the year-round efforts of local nonprofits. This support also helps fuel Tracy's annual Mission:Possible Turkey Fry, which provides more than 32,000 meals through the Nashville Rescue Mission, surrounding county school systems, and community-based organizations across the region.

Country stars Wynonna, Vince Gill, Zach Top, Travis Tritt, Tanya Tucker, LeeAnn Womack Jamey Johnson, Gary Allan, Mark Chesnutt, Riley Green, Dustin Lynch, Ronnie Dunn, Tracy Lawrence, Aaron Lewis, Jon Pardi, and more have all joined in the fundraising efforts.

"We are extremely thankful to the artists that have signed guitars and helped us raise the much-needed funds to continue to support so many charitable partners. Nashville is a big town, but a small community and, once again, the artist community showed up when needed," says Josh Bleidt, founder of Concerts 4 A Cause.

Guitars4aCause.com is an initiative of Concerts4aCause.com. All monies collected go directly to Concerts 4 a Cause, a 501c3 organization. The organization is 100% volunteer staffed allowing for funds raised to go even further.



Wynonna providing her signature on guitars

Country Music Hall of Fame Member Ray Stevens Give Health Update

Country Music Hall of Fame member, GRAMMY®-winning songwriter, and entertainment icon Ray Stevens is pleased to share that his recovery from the heart attack he suffered in July is progressing very positively. He is doing well following the life-saving procedures that took place in 2025. Stevens remains upbeat and active, now back working full-time in his recording studio as he regains strength and continues forward with confidence.

A photograph of Gena Hamilton, a country music artist, sitting in the driver's seat of a red pickup truck. She is looking out the window with a thoughtful expression. She has blonde, wavy hair and is wearing a white shirt and a large, colorful bracelet.

GENA HAMILTON

Thanks for playing my new radio single
"What A Gift"

At radio now and available at all major digital music outlets

GENA HAMILTON
MUSIC GROUP
(822) 662-4825

Genahamiltononline.com
Bubbajmusicartist.com
heavensound.com

AirPlay
DIRECT



"I'm trying to get strong enough to continue performing," Stevens says. "But in the meantime, I've got a lot of work I want to do in the recording studio, so I intend to focus my attention there for now."

With renewed energy and a creative spark driving him, Stevens is preparing for the release of his forthcoming album, "Ray Stevens Favorites Old and New," available February 12, 2026 via Curb Records. The first single, *Savannah*, will arrive the same day, offering fans the first glimpse into the project.

In addition to recording, Stevens has been considering the future of his entertainment complex located in West Nashville. "I'd like to sell it," Stevens remarks. "I just need someone to give me a call and make an offer I can understand and can't refuse."

Opened in 2018, the Ray Stevens CabaRay Showroom seats 713 guests and features two full-service bars, a 60-seat piano bar, ample restroom facilities, a gift shop, ticket office, television production offices, a full recording studio, and substantial storage capacity. The venue sits on a 6.5-acre paved property with parking for more than 300 vehicles.

Though he is not currently committing to returning to live performance, Stevens remains optimistic and keeps the door open for the possibility as health and strength continue to build. For now, fans can look forward to new music on the horizon, and Stevens himself is grateful to be back doing what he loves every day.

Brandon Lake And Cody Johnson Record Duet On 'When a Cowboy Prays'

Brandon Lake and Cody Johnson are releasing their duet, *When a Cowboy Prays*. The single will drop on January 9, 2026.

Back in October, Lake confirmed that he would feature CoJo (Cody Johnson) on the track, something that the fans have been requesting: "I'm not telling anybody except for those who showed up for my tour, but you can't post about it 'cause it's a secret. This song, I'm about to sing, I just recorded with Cody Johnson. And we're gonna come out with it. I heard all of your comments. I wrote this song, and you're like, 'This sounds like CoJo. You gotta get CoJo.' I was like, 'Honey, already on it,'" according to Whiskey Riff.

Lake also recently posted on Instagram a photo of him inside a studio wearing headphones and a lyric sheet with Cody Johnson's name, subtly indicating that the two are already in the studio recording the song.



Brandon Lake and Cody Johnson

His announcement also comes after Lake won 'Christian Music Songwriter of the Year' and 'Christian Music Song of the Year' for *Hard Fought Hallelujah* during the ASCAP Awards. He hinted back then that there would be more Christian and Country collaborations in store for him next year: "Christian x Country Collision incoming 2026. To God be the glory!"

Cross Country Report continued on page 24 > > >



Chapel Valley

**TAKING YOUR MINISTRY
TO THE NEXT LEVEL.**

www.chapelvalleymusic.com 865-278-3681






TERESA JOHNSON

An Earthly Angel With A Heavenly Voice

*MAY OUR LORD
BLESS YOU IN
THIS NEW YEAR*



www.thepearlygates.net

A Song Of Eternal Hope For 2026

Don't Cry For Me

Written By: Renee Martin, ASCAP

Canyon Creek Records.....Volume 74.....(903) 312-4113

Jerry Weatherly



Thanks for playing and charting
"No Thought To Pray"

At Radio now and available at all
major digital music outlets



amazonmusic



Apple Music

(573) 201-1072 | jerryweatherlymusic.com

jerryweatherlymusic@yahoo.com

YouTube: jerryweatherlymusic@yahoo.com

[Facebook.com/jerry.weatherly.98](https://www.facebook.com/jerry.weatherly.98)

DISTRIBUTED BY:
 **Millennium**
MUSIC GROUP
(205) 662-4826

 **AirPlay**
DIRECT
GO STRAIGHT TO THE SOURCE!

Music City Christian Fellowship Presents The 44th Annual Sunday Mornin' Country

The tradition continues as Music City Christian Fellowship presents their 44th Annual Sunday Mornin' Country at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee. This special event has always blended the top Country music artists and your favorite Gospel music together for a time of celebration and Inspiration.



Sunday Mornin' Country is the longest running named Country/Gospel event associated with the week of CMA Music Fest/Fan Fair. It's sponsored by the Nashville-based nonprofit, Music City Christian Fellowship. For over four decades this legendary event always leaves fans and guests feeling uplifted and encouraged with memories that last a lifetime!

Many of your favorite artists and familiar favorites will grace the Opry stage again. Many members of Music City Christian Fellowship come from all over the United States and Canada to sing in an eighty-voice choir known as the Country Chorale to lift their voices in song. Many performers and updates will be announced soon.

Sunday Mornin' Country's past artists and performers have included Brenda Lee, Charlie McCoy, Connie Smith, The Oak Ridge Boys, Cowboy Joe Babcock, Lulu Roman, Ronnie McDowell, Barbara Fairchild, John Berry, T. Graham Brown, Rhonda Vincent and many more.

Make plans to attend, the 44th Annual Sunday Mornin' Country, Sunday, June 7, 2026.

For more information and updates visit musiccitychristianfellowship.org and follow on social media, [facebook/New Sunday Mornin' Country](https://facebook.com/NewSundayMorninCountry).

Nickelback Meets Shenandoah At "The Church on Cumberland Road"

Legendary GRAMMY® Award-winning Country band Shenandoah and multi-platinum, diamond-certified Rock group Nickelback are headed for a nostalgic trip down the Cumberland Road. Genres collide as the two bands join forces on a dynamic new rendition of Shenandoah's classic hit, *The Church on Cumberland Road* (8 Track Entertainment).

Over the past few months, Shenandoah and Nickelback performed together on multiple major Country music festivals. After meeting on the tour trail, the collab was spawned, and the rest is history.

"First, let me say that it's always a great opportunity to befriend those in the music industry, regardless of the genre," shares Shenandoah lead singer Marty Raybon. "Nickelback's Chad Kroeger and I had the chance to talk about their music and ours and the parallels of some of the tunes that could be swapped out on the set lists. The idea came up, and after a few text messages, we were off and running with what is one of the coolest things we've ever done. Shenandoah and Nickelback. Who would have thunk it?"



"We've always had a deep respect for the artists who came before us, and Shenandoah is one of those bands that helped define an era," says Chad Kroeger of Nickelback. "Getting the chance to collaborate with them on *The Church on Cumberland Road* was an absolute blast. It's a song that feels as vibrant today as it did when it first came out."

An animated music video, created by Cartuna, accompanies the single. The video recreates Shenandoah's original 1989 version and adds Kroeger into the mix. Watch it on YouTube and download and stream the song.



Aaron Green • Anointed • Ben Stone • Bobby Monk
Calhoun's • Called • Cheryl Stone • Ever-Present
Going Higher • Harvey Perdue • He Called My Name
Higher Calling • Jay Cummins • Joyful Sound Trio
Karis Young • Ken Mobley • Lighthouse 3 • Michael Walsh
One Voice • Pearly Gates • Perry House
Peyton Cathey & New Generation • Phil Smith • Rhythm Reign
Robert Blankenship • Spirit Filled • The Masseys

Harold Fouch
(606) 767-1670

Dave Stone
(270) 454-0969

Donna Fargo Releases Collector's Preview Edition of First Novel, Heartaches and Mind Storms

Singer, songwriter, entertainer and author Donna Fargo has released a 'collector's preview edition' of her first-ever novel, "Heartaches and Mind Storms." It is a captivating read that follows in true Donna Fargo fashion, breaking the mold once again by writing a masterful work of pure fiction, yet she has filled it with life lessons and practical advice for the reader.

"Since 'Heartaches and Mind Storms' is a novel, it's fiction, but as the writer, I tried to fill the characters' cups with lots of life lessons about hope, love, and joy that tests the heart and soul," shares Fargo.

Fargo's music, inspirational books and greeting cards have touched the hearts of millions around the world, beginning in 1972 when Country music lyrics were filled with whiskey, bars and cheating lovers, yet Donna dared to make "happy" popular with her platinum Grammy award-winning song, "The Happiest Girl In The Whole U.S.A."

Now, with her first novel, "Heartaches and Mind Storms," she is again pushing the boundaries. The fictional story surrounds life coach, Deidre Leigh, as she navigates, not only her clients' problems, but her own tumultuous love life. With her strong convictions and faith, she is able to weather the storms and find true happiness. While on that journey with her clients, the protagonist confronts a variety of very real issues - weight loss, cheating husbands, spiritual awakening and juvenile delinquency.

Fargo aims to bring inspiration and healing beyond the story, to readers who may relate. She even includes a dietary chart in the book, something that has been helpful to her personally after her MS Diagnosis, which led to decades of focusing on a healthy lifestyle.

"Heartaches and Mind Storms (Collector's Preview Edition)" can be ordered online at DonnaFargo.com in her online shop, under featured items.

"Donna Fargo Live!!!" is a new, 14 track live album recorded at Whiskey Pete's featuring Fargo's history-making hit songs and showcasing her charismatic talent, warm vocals and enthusiastic crowds, reinforcing her six decade career as a Country music superstar. 2026 calendars of faith and beauty and new t-shirts, plus her 2025 radio single, *You Can Count On Me* and the poster from Donna Fargo's recent Songwriter

Session at the Country Music Hall of Fame are all available on the website as well.

And there is more on the horizon as Donna Fargo's hit songs continue to inspire fans and rising stars, along with her other works. The legendary star's next project will be an autobiography. She wants to tell her story, not for accolades, but to help others. Her deep-rooted faith, sheer determination and positive attitude have guided her through the trials and tribulations of life - from the competitive music industry and her MS diagnosis, to the recent loss of her husband, Stan Silver. Although her life has been difficult at times, she always comes back to "happy."



Celebrating
13 Years
of Excellence

WHERE INDIE ARTISTS... GET MAJOR EXPOSURE!

MTS

Artist Management and Promotions

www.mtsmanagementgroup.com

At 100 years old, Dick Van Dyke has given us a century full of joy, laughter, and legacy. Many accolades and celebrations have been bestowed on the entertainment legend. We wanted to honor the life and legacy of Dick Van Dyke for his milestone 100th birthday.

Dick Van Dyke

A Century Full of Joy, Laughter, and Legacy



By Robin Tanner

Richard Wayne Van Dyke was born on December 13, 1925, in West Plains, Missouri. From his beginnings in radio and stage performance, his career blossomed into one of the most beloved in American entertainment.

His Broadway breakthrough came with *Bye Bye Birdie* (1960), earning him a Tony Award. Soon after, he became a television icon with *The Dick Van Dyke Show* (1961–1966), where his portrayal of Rob Petrie won three Emmys and redefined the sitcom format.

Van Dyke's charm translated seamlessly to film. His starring roles in *Mary Poppins* (1964) and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (1968) cemented his place in cinematic history.

Later, he captivated a new generation with *Diagnosis: Murder* (1993–2001). He appeared on the *Night at the Museum* film series, proving his versatility and enduring appeal. His career spans stage, screen, and television.

As an a cappella enthusiast, he has sung in a group called

Dick Van Dyke and The Vantastix since September 2000. The quartet has performed several times in Los Angeles as well as on *Larry King Live*, *The First Annual TV Land Awards*, and sang the national anthem at three Los Angeles Lakers games including a nationally televised NBA Finals performance on NBC. Van Dyke was made an honorary member of the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1999.



Circa, 1964: Dick Van Dyke alongside Julie Andrews in Disney's "Mary Poppins"

Van Dyke holds Emmy, Grammy, and Tony honors, along with a SAG Lifetime Achievement Award. His contributions across multiple mediums have made him one of the most decorated entertainers in history.

His voice and performances have become part of America's cultural fabric. Featured songs include: *Put on a Happy Face* (Bye Bye Birdie), *Step in Time* (Mary Poppins), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (title song) *Theme from The Dick Van Dyke Show*, and *Diagnosis: Murder* opening theme.



Circa, 1962: Pictured left to right, Mary Tyler Moore as Laura Petrie, Dick Van Dyke as Rob Petrie, and Larry Matthews as Ritchie Petrie on the hit sitcom, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*

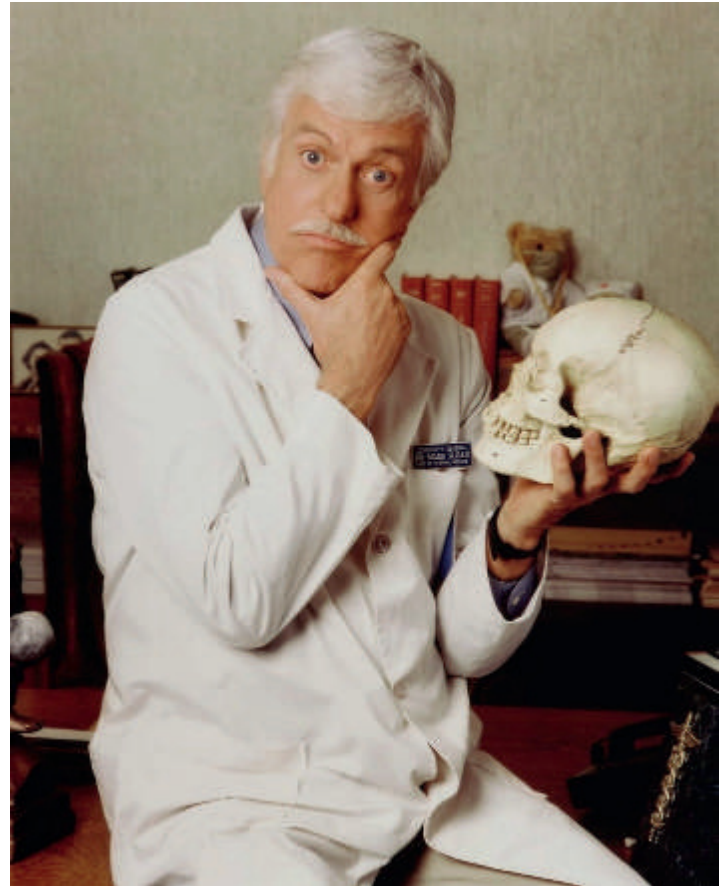
As Van Dyke approached his 100th birthday, tributes reflected his enduring optimism and charm. Malibu Sing-Along: on November 30, 2025, Van Dyke and wife Arlene Silver hosted a charity “Vandy High Tea” at their Malibu home, featuring sing-alongs and conversations to benefit the Van Dyke Endowment of the Arts. VANDY DAYS!: A two-week festival in Malibu included the debut of the documentary, *Dick Van Dyke: A 100th Celebration* on December 7, 2025. Then Fathom Entertainment released *Dick Van Dyke: 100th Celebration* in theaters December 13–14, showcasing interviews, clips, and Van Dyke’s reflections. “I think of how rare it is that a person gets to do for a living what they love to do,” Van Dyke shared on TODAY.

A charity close to the actor’s heart is The Dick Van Dyke Endowment of the Arts. It’s a charitable fund created by Dick Van Dyke and his wife, Arlene Silver, to support arts education and cultural programs, particularly for students and young performers. It helps ensure that schools and communities have lasting resources for theater, music, and other creative opportunities. The initiative gained attention in 2024 when Van Dyke and Arlene unveiled a \$3 million endowment tied to Malibu High School’s theater program. The endowment supports students by keeping arts courses accessible, cultivating skills in creativity, collaboration, and confidence. The Malibu High School theater was renamed in

honor of Dick and Arlene, symbolizing their lifelong commitment to the performing arts.

Dick Van Dyke shared his thoughts with PEOPLE on his 100th birthday. He shared reflections filled with humor and wisdom. “I feel really good for 100. I often have more energy than others and never wake up in a bad mood,” he admits. “The end of my life is so much closer. When you expire, you expire. I don’t have any fear of death for some reason.”

He also credits his wife Arlene Silver, whom he married in 2012, with keeping him youthful: “She’s responsible for keeping me in the moment. She kept me happy every day of my life.”



Dick Van Dyke starred as the crime-solving Dr. Mark Sloan on “*Diagnosis Murder*,” a mystery medical drama series that aired for eight seasons

Looking back, Van Dyke acknowledges the challenges of his early years - raising a family with little money, juggling game shows, nightclubs, and radio work. Yet he insists: “After that, I’ve enjoyed every minute of it.”

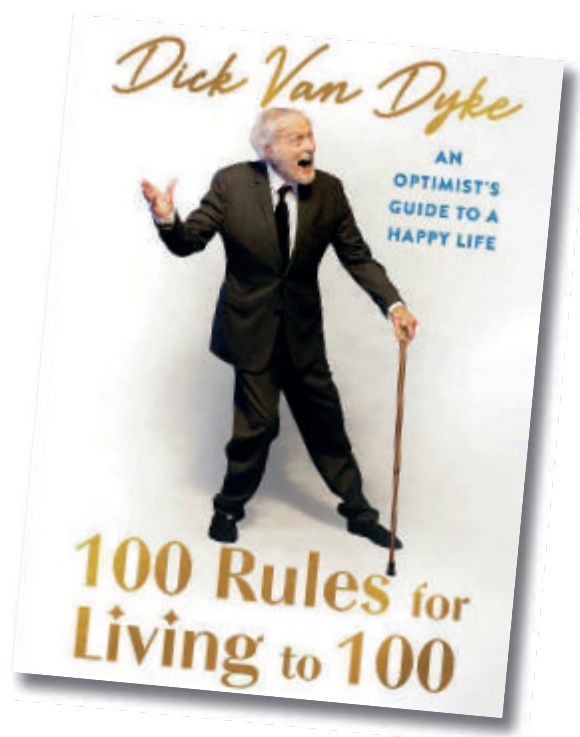
His legacy, he says, lies in children’s entertainment: “What I left in the way of children’s entertainment and children’s music - that’s my legacy. For as long as children are proudly belting out *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* or singing and skipping along to *Chim Chim Cher-ee*, the most important part of me will always be alive.”

He believes in staying active and shared that he and his wife like to sing and dance together, which helps “keep me a

teenager.” On his positive outlook, he stated, “I’ve decided people are born with a certain personality and a certain outlook, a certain perspective. I tend to look on the good side of things.”

Regarding how he wants to be remembered, he focused on his work rather than his personal fame. He shared that he doesn’t care how long the memory of him lasts, but he cares about the “survival of what I’ve shared with the world, humor, compassion, a zest for living, a love of music.”

Van Dyke released his new book, *100 Rules for Living to 100: An Optimist's Guide to a Happy Life*. It was published just before his 100th birthday and serves as a combination of memoir and life advice. It's an autobiographical collection of stories and reflections, structured around 100 chapters, each offering a rule or takeaway for a happy and long life. Van Dyke reveals his philosophy for maintaining his zest for life and making the most of one's time. He shares anecdotes and stories from his life, covering: pivotal moments from his childhood, experiences on famous film sets (*Mary Poppins*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, etc.) finding love late in life with his wife, Arlene and focusing on his positive attitude. The book also touches on personal challenges, such as the loss of his grandchild and dealing with age-related health issues like advanced dry macular degeneration (loss of reading ability). In essence, it's a book filled with the same indefatigable spirit and positivity.



At 100, Dick Van Dyke remains a beacon of joy, resilience, and optimism. His laughter, music, and boundless energy continue to inspire generations - proof that a life lived with passion and positivity can truly become timeless.

I'M GONNA MAKE IT
On radio stations everywhere and available
on all major digital music platforms






Distributed to radio by
 **Millennium**
MUSIC GROUP

THE FREEMANS
www.the-freemans.com

For booking inquiries
Phone: (615) 824-6161 or (615) 390-6486
Email: bookingthefreemans@gmail.com

Keith Buchanan

Thanks DJs
for playing my music

"His Hand Can Reach Your Heart"

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets



Apple Music

AirPlay
DIRECT



DISTRIBUTED BY:

Millennium
MUSIC GROUP
(205) 662-4826

For booking, (864) 310-1640
KeithBuchananMinistries.com



SUSAN AGEE HICKS

A Life of Music, Miracles, and the God Who Never Let Go

By Jackson McKee

At 71 years old, Susan Agee Hicks stands in a season of life many would call twilight, but for her, it feels more like sunrise. “I’m one of the most blessed ladies in the world,” she says, and she means it. Her voice carries the weight of valleys walked through, the sparkle of promises fulfilled, and the unmistakable conviction of a woman who has seen the hand of God orchestrate every chapter of her story.

Today, Susan is not only living the fulfillment of a lifelong dream, she is stepping boldly into a renewed calling, a renewed purpose, and a renewed voice to share the good news of Jesus Christ through song.

A Calling Born in the Glow of All Night Singing Conventions

Susan's story begins long before she could spell the word "ministry." At just three years old, she attended the all night singing conventions hosted by pioneer Wally Fowler on the first Friday of every month. Those gatherings were electric - harmonies soaring, saints shouting, and the Spirit moving in ways a child could feel even before she could understand.

"I knew I had found my calling," Susan remembers. "The harmony, the joyfulness, the spirit of those nights - it got into my bones before I even knew where my path would lead."

Her first toy accordion arrived at age 10. A piano followed at 16. Soon after, she became the church pianist, a role she still describes as one of the greatest blessings of her youth. "As I grew older, my love for music continued to expand," she says. And it never stopped expanding.

Farmhouse Studio: A New Chapter of Ministry Through Music

After more than 35 years of balancing family, work and music, Susan retired in 2008 and stepped into a brand-new chapter. She opened Farmhouse Studio - a record label, creative haven, and ministry hub where she produced music for other artists while continuing to record her own.

Independent artists quickly discovered what so many already knew: Susan's warmth, musical intuition, and deep understanding of Gospel tradition made her a rare treasure. Farmhouse Studio became a gathering place for dreamers, singers, and storytellers who needed someone to believe in them.

And Susan believed.

A Divine Appointment: Crimson Chord and a New Season of Strength

For years, Susan flourished as a solo artist, content to follow the path God had laid before her. But last January, He rewrote her story again - this time through a "divinely orchestrated" moment that brought her into the musical family, Crimson Chord.

"God knew I would need the encouragement and support of both Miss Lena Aldridge and Mr. Terry Dorsey during this time," she says. "Their support has helped me through what was probably the most challenging time in my life."

What Susan didn't expect was how deeply the group would shape her musically as well as spiritually. Singing with Crimson Chord opened new creative doors, stretching her voice into harmonies she never knew she could reach.

"I've discovered which harmonies I can sing that I didn't know existed!" she says with a smile.

But more than the music, it was the ministry of friendship, the steady presence of people who loved her, prayed with her,

and stood beside her, that carried her through her husband's illness and homegoing.

"There have been many times when things were rough," she reflects, "but God has never abandoned me, and He isn't going to start now."

Crimson Chord became more than a group. They became a family, a lifeline. A God-sent reminder that no one walks through the valley alone.

A Love Story Marked by Faith, Loss, and Eternal Hope

At Gospel Music FanFair in 2012, Susan met Forrest, the man who would become her husband, her partner in ministry, and her greatest earthly encourager. Their connection was instant. They married on July 9, 2016, beginning a life filled with laughter, prayer, and unwavering support.



Crimson Chord

L-R: Lena Aldridge, Terry Dorsey, and Susan Agee Hicks

"Forrest was my biggest fan," she says. "Before I met Forrest, my father was my only fan. Forrest believed in me right until the very end of my ministry."

In the summer of 2025, their world shifted when Forrest was diagnosed with Stage 4 bladder cancer. The disease spread quickly. On November 20, 2025, Forrest "celebrated home," as Susan lovingly puts it.

Her grief is real. Her faith is stronger. Through tears, she continues to sing.



Susan with her late husband, Forrest Hicks

A Viral Moment and a Voice That Resonates

Three years ago, Susan traveled to Nashville to record new music - a trip that would change everything. Her rendition of *Long Black Train* became a surprise viral hit on Itube247.com, nearing one million views and over 900,000 listens.

She laughs when she talks about it. "Mr. Josh Turner may never forgive me for the damage I've done to his song!" she jokes. But listeners heard something unmistakable, a voice shaped by life, loss, and unshakeable faith.

Today, Susan is preparing to release her newest single, *Address Change Notification*, this January through Grace Records Nashville LLC. She can hardly wait to share it. "It's another piece of my heart," she says.

A Gospel Heritage Rooted in Heroes and Hymns

Susan's musical DNA reads like a Gospel hall of fame: The Goodmans. The Hinsons. Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters. The Isaacs. One of her most cherished memories is meeting Ronnie Hinson and Little Jan at the National Quartet Convention in Louisville. "Some of my friends won't believe this, but I couldn't speak," she recalls. "I was just standing there crying!"

Those tears carried decades of gratitude - for the songs that shaped her, the voices that mentored her from afar, and the faith that grew because of them.

A Scholar, A Counselor, A Servant

Susan's grit is not limited to music. At 60, she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and English. At 65, she completed her master's degree in marriage and family therapy. Today, she uses her education and life experience to help others navigate pain, trauma, and transition. "What a privilege and blessing it is to help others who are hurting," she says. "To walk with them toward a better life."

Her ministry is not just sung - it is lived.

A Life Surrounded by Fulfilled Promises

At 71, Susan is surrounded by family, friends, fellow artists, her Crimson Chord family, and a community that loves her deeply. She calls this season her "New Life Normal."

It is a life marked by heartbreak and blessing, loss and renewal, valleys and mountaintops - all held together by the faithfulness of God.

Through it all, Susan has remained a light. "All I can say is, WELL GLOREE!!!" she shouts with the joy of someone who has seen God move too many times to doubt Him now.

And then she offers what she calls "a little free therapy": "Life is 10% what happens and 90% what you do with it. No matter how painful a situation is, if you look hard enough, you'll find something good came from it. Maybe you met someone you never would have met. Maybe you had to trust God completely. Whatever it is, cling to that positive. Practice it in all situations, and you'll find the strength to overcome the pain. Momma and Daddy taught me from childhood: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. Children, it works - I'm living proof!"



A Legacy Still Being Written

Susan Agee Hicks is not finished. Not even close.

Her voice is stronger. Her purpose is clearer. Her faith is deeper. Her testimony is richer. And her story - this extraordinary blend of music, miracles, perseverance, and divine timing - continues to unfold.

For those who hear her sing, meet her in person, or cross paths with her ministry, one truth becomes unmistakable: God isn't done with Susan Agee Hicks.

And Susan isn't done singing His praise.



COWBOY JOE BABCOCK

Thanks DJs for playing and charting

"God Does Not Change"

by Cowboy Joe Babcock

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets



Distributed by Canyon Creek Records

Be watching for Cowboy Joe on the legendary Hee Haw television show on RFD-TV.

Founder of Sunday Mornin' Country which is held at the Grand Ole Opry House on June 7, 2026

Western Way Magazine

#1 Cowboy Western Album "Nebraska"

Contact: CowboyJoeBabcock@comcast.net



MARVIN HARRELL

Thanks Djs for playing and charting my
new radio single release

"Mamas Old Chester Drawers"

Written by Mike Owens and James Payne

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets



For Booking & Product
Email: mharrell1958@yahoo.com • (252) 428-8234

Carol Barham



Thanks for playing and charting
"One Of These Days"

Distributed by Hey Y'all Media Compilation

*At Radio now and available at all
major digital music outlets*



(205) 712-0721
carol_g_barham@yahoo.com



CHUCK HANCOCK

Thanks to DJs for playing
"It's Never Too Late"

We appreciate your support
of our music!

*At Radio now and available at
all major digital music outlets*



www.chuckhancock.com
Terry Beene (214) 695-9775
Chuck Hancock Enterprises, Inc.
PO Box 756
Sandersville, GA 31082

*Distributed by
Canyon Creek Records
Tommy Smith
(903) 566-3347*

The Music & Legacy of KEVIN SHARP

Kevin Sharp was born December 10, 1970, in Redding, California. When he was seven years old, his family moved to Weiser, Idaho to open a restaurant. Sharp performed in local musicals in high school and stayed active in music after his family moved to Sacramento, California in 1985.

Starting in 1989, he began to experience dizziness and fatigue. He was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Kevin was given little chance of recovery. Through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses, Sharp met the record producer David Foster, with whom he soon became friends. After two years of chemotherapy and radiation treatment, while still in his early 20s, the cancer went into remission by the early 1990s - although, Sharp had permanently lost all of his hair as a result of the radiation treatment.

After remission, Sharp worked at Great America in Santa Clara, California, while working on a demo tape, which he sent to various talent shows, and later to his friend David Foster. Foster introduced him to A&R representatives and by 1996, Sharp was signed to Asylum Records. His first album, "Measure of a Man," was released in September 1996. The album's first single, a cover version of the R&B artist Tony Rich's *Nobody Knows* spent four weeks at number one on the Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks chart.

He became a spokesperson for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and was awarded the foundation's Wish Granter of the Year award in 1997. He was named 'New Touring Artist of the Year' by the Country Music Association and nominated for 'Top New Male Vocalist' award by the Academy of Country Music.

"Measure of a Man" produced two more top ten Country singles, *She's Sure Taking It Well* and *If You Love Somebody*.



The album's fourth single, *There's Only You*, peaked at No. 43. His second album, "Love Is," was released in 1998 on Asylum Records.

Sharp continued to perform as a musician as well as also becoming a motivational speaker, and a spokesperson for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Sharp wrote a book, "Tragedy's Gift," and published it in 2004 about his life and his fight with cancer. His third album, "Make a Wish," was released on the independent Cupit Records label in 2005.

Sharp passed away on April 19, 2014, at the age of 43, of complications from stomach surgeries and digestive issues. "His dream came true through music, and he touched thousands of lives, and he helped heal the soul of people dealing with cancer," his sister Mary Huston shared at the time of his passing. Many music artist and friends described Sharp as a caring individual who had a humble spirit. He always tried to help as many as he could through countless charities. Through his talent and humanitarian efforts, Kevin Sharp's legacy will continue.



THE BEST MIX AND THE BIGGEST VARIETY OF
CHRISTIAN MUSIC FROM YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Experience the Difference!



www.christianvoiceradio.com



*Donna
Kilmurray*


Thank you DJs for playing my new release,

SENT BY THE FATHER



Distributed to radio by Millennium Music Group and Canyon Creek Records

Donna Kilmurray Ministries
www.DonnaKilmurray.com • Phone: 816-237-6724



Lainey Wilson

Unshakable Faith in Jesus

She won top prize of 'Entertainer of the Year' at the 2025 Country Music Association Awards, along with 'Album of the Year' for "Whirlwind." Beneath the 33-year-old star with her distinctive bell-bottom flair and raw, heartfelt storytelling lies a foundation built on her rock: Jesus Christ.

By Mark Ellis

The faith-filled Grammy winner joined the cast of *Yellowstone* in 2022, with some of her songs being featured in the series until it ended in 2024.

Raised in the tiny farming community of Baskin, Louisiana - population around 200, with no stoplights and plenty of dirt roads - Lainey grew up in a home where faith wasn't just talked about; it was lived.

Her family attended Baskin Baptist Church every Sunday, a place where her parents were married and where young Lainey made her decision to follow Christ. "A lot happened at Baskin Baptist Church," she shared in a recent interview with *Us Weekly*. "My parents got married there, and I got saved as a little girl there. It was full of good people, the kind that would give you the shirt off their back."

That simple, Bible-believing upbringing shaped everything about her. In a 2022 appearance on *Southern Living's Biscuits & Jam* podcast, Lainey reflected on those formative years: "The church was a huge part of my growing up and our family foundation. We love Jesus. And I'm not sure where I would be right now on this journey without Him. It's just a part of who I am."

When Lainey first moved to Nashville at age 19, she lived in a camper trailer parked outside a recording studio. Her faith became her anchor there.

She credits the grit instilled by her parents - and the calling she felt from God - as the driving force behind her perseverance. "I knew from an early age that this was my calling," she said in an interview with *Movieguide.org*. "I knew that this was a gift. I truly believe that if you feel like you have a gift, you're supposed to share it with the world."

Lainey's music reflects that conviction unapologetically. Songs like *Me, You, and Jesus* lay it out plainly: true love and life work best with Christ at the center. Her track *Sunday Best* draws directly from those childhood memories of dressing up for church, reminding listeners to bring their best to God no matter the storms of life.

And in collaborations that bridge Country and Christian genres - duetting with Anne Wilson on the powerful *Praying Woman*, honoring faith-filled moms; joining Matthew West on *My Jesus*; or teaming with Zach Williams on a rousing *Go Tell It on the Mountain* for CMA Country Christmas - Lainey proclaims her beliefs without hesitation.

In 2022, Wilson's father, Brian Wilson, experienced severe health issues including a stroke and an infection that resulted in the removal of his left eye. This all occurred while she was filming her first season on *Yellowstone*. Wanting to be closer to him, she considered quitting the show. However, her father encouraged her to continue filming regardless of his health outlook. He eventually recovered and was seen accompanying her on the red carpet at the 56th CMA Awards.

Since 2021, Wilson has been in a relationship with former NFL quarterback Devlin "Duck" Hodges. In February 2025, Wilson and Hodges announced their engagement, as reported by *People* magazine.

As arenas fill with fans singing along to hits like *Heart Like a Truck* and *Watermelon Moonshine*, Lainey remains the farmer's daughter from Baskin who starts her day talking to Jesus. Her story is a reminder that performers don't have to compromise their faith to reach the top. In fact, for Lainey Wilson, surrendering to Christ has been the most important element of her journey.

As she continues to shine brightly in Country music, one thing is clear: Lainey's light comes from the One who called her out of a small Louisiana town and into His great adventure of faith. And she's not afraid to tell the world about it.



Dale Rochell

**Based in SW Oklahoma,
Dale travels the country,
singing and sharing God's Word
and what He has done for us!**

**Thanks for playing and charting
"Always Enough"**

**At Radio now and available at all
major digital music outlets**



**Visit our Facebook page: "Waves of Faith Country
Gospel" for bookings, videos, and daily quotes or
contact us by phone at (580) 467-0720.**



**AirPlay
DIRECT**
THE SOUND TO THE SOUL

DISTRIBUTED BY:
**Millennium
MUSIC GROUP**
(205) 662-4826

Barbara Jean



Thanks for playing and charting
"Thank God For The Darkness"

At Radio now and available
at all major digital music outlets



Booking Call: Danny Smith
301 South 3rd St
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: (859) 327-7698
www.disciplesofsong.com
www.gospelgigs.com



Mike Leichner



Thanks for playing and charting
"Shout Of Testimony"

A true story written in honor of my Aunt Betts, (Betty
Ledbetter Jameson) of the Singing Ledbetter Family

At Radio now and available at all
major digital music outlets



mikelechner.com
mikelechner@yahoo.com

Distributed by Canyon Creek Records



RICHARD LYNCH



Thanks for playing and charting
"THE PHONE CALL"

Be looking for my new radio single

"Why Me Lord"

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets



www.richardlynchband.com



Thanks for playing and charting
"Man From Galilee"

Singer/Songwriter
Distributed by Tommy Smith
with Canyon Creek Records

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets



Contact Jennifer Sides
(903) 948-9702 | jensmusicministry@yahoo.com
jennifersides.com




the Journeys

Chapel Valley

Thanks for playing and charting
"It Just Doesn't Seem Enough"
 Be looking for our new radio single
"It'll Be Good To Be Home"
 At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets

amazon music apple music

For Booking:
 The Journeys | (336) 710-3851 | djourney1@surry.net



Billy Gregg

Thanks for playing and charting
"Fueled Up Fired Up Ready To Go"
 With special guest vocalist
 Nikki Nelson

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets

amazon music apple music

Billy Gregg Walker Ministries
 (843) 624-2663
greggwalker1966@gmail.com

DISTRIBUTED BY: Millennium MUSIC GROUP
 AirPlay



MIKE McADOO

Thanks for playing and charting
"Pushing You Away"

To God be the glory!

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets

amazon music apple music

Available on all digital platforms from my album,
"Try A Little Kindness"
 Distributed by Tommy Smith with Canyon Creek Records
 Contact:
mcadoo@centurytel.net | (417) 598-3238



DEBRA CAMP

Thanks for playing and charting
"Daddy's Hat"

At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets

amazon music apple music

For Booking and CD sales
 Debra Camp Ministries
 River of Faith Worship Center
 P.O. Box 736
 Weatherford, TX 76086
 817-235-0940
debra@debrecamp.com
www.debrecampministries.com

DISTRIBUTED BY: Millennium MUSIC GROUP
 AirPlay

JIM SHELDON

By Cory Parker

Jim Sheldon is an award-winning singer, songwriter, minister, and TV personality affectionately known as 'The Positive Cowboy.' He believes in putting God first in every area of his life and, in doing so, he reaps God's abundant blessings and rewards.

Jim was born on a naval base in Illinois, raised in New Orleans, and lives in Scottsville, Kentucky. He was saved by the amazing grace of Christ on May 7, 1972, at the age of eighteen. He graduated New Orleans Baptist Seminary with an associate's degree in Church Music Ministry and went on to serve in music and youth ministry in several states.

To understand the man Jim is today, one would need a glimpse into where he came from. A failed marriage would cause him to feel worthless, deepened by those affirming that a divorced person was no longer useful in ministry. The fear of losing it all, simply trying to survive, and subconsciously trying to find his way back to God, Jim found Country music.

Feeling as if he were living the life of a sad Country song, Jim travelled and sang Country music for the next several years. It seemed things were looking up for Jim when he married Jeanette in 1992. It was during this time God's hand in his life became evident to him. He says, "After I repented and got my life straight with Jesus, I immediately started praying, seeking what God wanted me to do."

Although Jim enjoyed singing bass with a quartet for a while, he was still a little hesitant about his path choices. "I felt right at home and thoroughly enjoyed my time there, but I wanted to be certain of God's path for me, never wanting to go down the wrong path(s) like I had done before in my life."

It was in that moment God firmly planted Proverbs 3:6 in Jim's heart: "In everything you do, put God first; He will direct and crown your efforts with success." From that point on, Jim totally surrendered all his future plans and ideas over to God and has never looked back. Jim went on to sing lead, baritone, and bass for numerous other quartets.

While working jobs that didn't conflict with a singing schedule, Jim honed his craft, spending six incredible



summers studying at the Charles Novell School of Music. Forever learning, Jim now has eight summers of study under his belt and has been part of the teaching staff for eight years.

Through the Charles Novell school, Jim would amass a wealth of influences in Charles Novell, Rob Novell, Danny Funderburk, Bill Baise, Ann Downing, Jeff Stice, Donnie Sumner, Billy Blackwood, Dan Keeton, Nick Bruno, Bev McCann, Jimmy Jones, Mary Fay Jackson, and Mark Fain. Pastor Bob Melvin gave endless encouragement, as well as Glen Payne of The Cathedrals, telling Jim to remember that God gave the talent and the desire, "Now go, sing and serve with a servant's heart."

All the while, staying positive has not always been easy for Jim. He admits, "There were many times when disappointment and frustration drove me to quit, but God would always open a new door for me."

One such new door was the opportunity to sing with The Keetons. Jim recalls, “Dan Keeton, tenor singer for Gold City, took a chance on me! He hired me to sing baritone for his group, The Keetons. Under Dan’s wings, God brought fine-tuning to the training, hard work and experiences that would be required of me in the coming solo ministry. God knew what was coming!”



also a co-host and featured performer on the show. Here, viewers witnessed ‘The Positive Cowboy’ singing what was alive in his heart. Seven seasons of The Music City Show are still airing today on FFE and a few other outlets. Whether on TV or on stage, Jim sings of God’s love and mercy - all with such a positive faith and a smiling face.

Currently, Jim is co-owner and co-producer of the Nashville

When The Keetons disbanded for Dan to move on with Gold City, Jim decided not to sit at home and wait for another singing group to call. He would take that giant leap of faith, establishing a full-time, solo Country/Gospel ministry. ‘Putting God first’ was born, Sheldon gave total release for God to take charge.

God certainly did take charge with Jim’s first project, “His Grace,” with Donnie Sumner. Jim signed with Homeland Inspiration Group’s Mont Eagle Records, releasing his first-ever charting single, *God Is Looking At My Heart*. He recorded two more albums with Scott Godsey, Bev McCann and Nick Bruno. His first music video, *I Belong to Jesus*, went viral. Jim has gone on to record several other videos that can be found on YouTube or TV shows ie: Family Friendly Entertainment on Roku and other streaming services.

Jim has continued to record and release several projects over the years with none other than Mark Fain, a multi-Grammy award winning producer and musician and award-winning Steve Chandler as his engineer.

Traveling and singing from coast to coast for more than twenty years, Jim’s motto remains, ‘Putting God First.’ Along the way, Sheldon has held onto a very successful charting ladder with songs like, *I Would Crawl All The Way, I Saw A Man, I’m Going Home, Church Like We Knew, Old School, He’s There, He’s A Mighty Good Friend*, and *God Is Looking At My Heart*. Jim’s latest project “Gloves” has resulted in more great radio hits, *Sin is Color Blind* along with his latest single and video, *Father of the Fatherless*.

In 2012, Jim became co-producer of The Music City Show along with Scott Godsey and Bev McCann. He was

37201 TV network, which is under the FFE umbrella. Jim, along with the Music City Quartet appears weekly on The Nashville Corner TV show. Jim is also the owner of Positive Country Records.

For two consecutive years, Jim was awarded the IGGMA (International Country Gospel Music Association) awards for ‘Male Gold Cross’ and ‘TV Show of the Year.’ Jim has since received other awards for his singing and his effective ministry.

One of the benefits of ministry is the special moments and memories made along the way. One of the most memorable moments, for Jim, was a little boy standing in front of him asking for prayer, while sharing the heartbreak of parents going through a nasty divorce. The grandma tells of how a little boy went from crying to saying, “Grandma, I don’t want to be sad and crying all the time. I want to be like that Positive Cowboy - joyful and happy in Jesus!”

For Jim, it bears repeating: Proverbs 3:6, “In everything you do, put God first; He will direct and crown your efforts with success.” He says, “This verse has been my foundation of ‘The Positive Cowboy’ and It is a verse of promise to all God’s children. I firmly believe this small verse has kept me focused on what is important in my life. I knew my love of music came from God; I knew that He had a purpose for my life in ministry. God’s patience, long-suffering, love, and redeeming grace carried me from my sin, misery, and shame to who I am today.”

www.jimsheldonmusic.com



AirPlay Direct is a premium, global radio distribution and promotion platform. AirPlay Direct delivers a smart set of digital marketing and promotion tools professionally supported with radio promotion training for independent artists and record labels.

AirPlay Direct provides artists and records labels a music business platform designed to help them keep their music in front of and available to our global radio station members and music industry professionals every day of the year... 24/7 - 365. From new releases to global radio promotion of deep catalog, AirPlay Direct is the solution.

For more information please visit: AirPlayDirect.com

Contact: Lynda Weingartz at lynda@AirPlayDirect.com

CANYON CREEK RECORDS, INC

(903) 566-3347 | CanyonCreekRecords@gmail.com

CANYON CREEK RECORDS RADIO COMPILATION VOLUME 75

We proudly present these great Christian artists
and their newly released songs at radio now.



Get Out Of The Boat
Felicia Deramus Paul



He Lives
Ed Bruce



Shout Of Testimony
Mike Leichner



Honey In The Rock
Mary James



Love Like Jesus Does
Aaron Justice



If That Isn't Love
Bruce Minchey



That's The Least That I Can Do
Greg Marlow



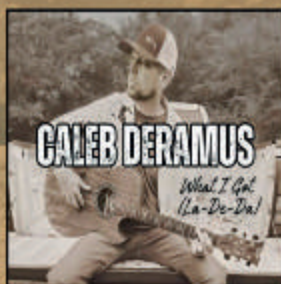
Wish You Were Here
Johnathan Bond



It'll Be Good To Be Home
The Journeys



The Most Perfect Gift
Clare Cunningham



What I Got (La-De-Da)
Caleb Deramus



The Crossroads
Richard Sprayberry



In The Morning
Hunter Logan



Man From Galilee
Jennifer Sides


Melanie Walker

If That Ain't True Love

At Radio Now

Available on all streaming platforms



A photograph of Ashley Collins, a woman with long reddish-brown hair, sitting on a stone wall. She is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with white patterns on the sleeves, blue jeans, and black boots. She is holding a dark book or album. To her left is a large, rustic stone cross. In front of her on the wall are some yellow and white tulips. The background is a misty, wooded area.

A Heart of Worship and a Calling Fulfilled

Ashley Collins

By Chloe Wright

Since Ashley Collins could tightly grip a pair of drumsticks, music became the vehicle in which to express her faith, family and the world. What began as rhythm became a complete musical experience, where her passion was deeply rooted in worship and a sense of purpose from the spiritual realm.

Ashley's musical journey began early in life, inside the walls of her church. When their bass player stepped away, Ashley, by faith, picked and played the bass guitar, not because she aspired to play the bass guitar, but out of obedience and willingness. By the time she was 15, she was at the piano where melodies and lyrics began to flow together in ways that she had not previously experienced.

"The Lord started to give me words to my melodies," she remembers. It was during this time, just 15 years old, that she received one of her earliest and most impactful songs, *Is This the Thanks I Get*.

At age 16, Ashley met a psalmist, Mindy Schweiger, which would ultimately lead Ashley into her ministry journey. Mindy selected three of Ashley's original songs for her debut

album, which led Ashley into a season of traveling, evangelizing, and ministering through music.

Ashley's musical upbringing is influenced by strong voices of worship (including CeCe Winans and Tasha Cobbs), but the most significant influence on her life is from two people much closer to home: her mother, Rhonda Haynes, and her grandmother, Beulah Haynes. Their spiritual integrity, musical ability, and steadfast faith have made a permanent impact on her life and calling.

Ashley lists one of her favorite moments of her career was singing at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee with the Sunday Mornin' Country Chorale. It was a huge moment for her and a blessing, but the highlights of Ashley's life are not on stages; the highlights of Ashley's life happen when lives are changed. "Anytime someone gives their heart to the Lord... there is no sweeter feeling of joy than seeing someone come to Christ," she says. "That's the heart of my mission."

Ashley's message has moved audiences well beyond church walls. Her second radio single, *Redeemed*, was in the

Top 10 on the charts and is something she says was incredibly humbling and rewarding. Her current radio release, *Is This The Thanks I Get*, is a retrospective look at how humanity views its relationship with God. She states, "The song expresses what the Lord may think of us when we are living, and we forget the daily provision, mercy, grace, and protection He gives us; It is a lament, and it is worship, and a reminder from the heart."

Ashley carries a message she hopes every artist, whether a newcomer or more seasoned developer of their craft, will hear: "Go all In with your relationship with Christ."

She encourages and challenges others to put their trust in God with their whole heart. "If He has called you (especially in the arts) to this journey, He will lead you through every unknown. Don't be concerned about the what ifs, the how, the when, or the where. Just give Him your yes and He will handle the rest."

Ashley's aims go beyond just achievements or accolades. She has one simple yet powerful goal: to share her story so that others can see the work that God did in her life, and what He can do in theirs, too. "My goal is to let people know they are never too far gone to become what God has planned for their lives," she says. "There is always a plan."





TROY Richardson

Special thanks to DJs and fans for making
"His Church Went Marching On"

On Millennium Music Group
Comp # 1 for August on
Christian Voice Country Gospel
Charts. I deeply appreciate your
support of my music!

For radio distribution,
call (205) 662-4826 or
(859) 433-5014

**Wishing everyone a
Happy and Blessed
2026**



**NEW MUSIC
COMING
SOON!**

www.troyrichardsonmusic.com




Melissa Evans

Thanks for playing and charting
"Greatly To Be Praised"

Go to my website for
free download:
MelissaEvansMusic.com

Like, Subscribe, Follow:
YouTube @MelissaLEvansMusic

Facebook: Melissa L. Evans Music

Music on all streaming platforms



Booking Info:
Melissa Evans
(423) 677-1461 | (606) 505-6743








EXPECTATION
MINISTRIES


Margie & Robin Tanner
Mother/Daughter
Evangelistic Duo

Available for
Concerts,
Revivals, and
Women's
Conferences

Thank you DJs for charting our new single release,
TAKE MY HAND





Booking Information: 205-662-4826
Facebook.com/ExpectationMinistries






My new single
**Theres a New Man
In Her Life**
is at radio NOW!
~Thanks DJs for adding me~
Classic Christian Country
from the writer of
the Gospel Classic
Midnight Cry!

NowBooking for 2026
some choice 2025 dates
are still available! Call Now!
Call (706) 870-3692



Chuck Day
P.O. Box 602
Hoschton, GA
30548

CHUCK DAY.COM



**DAVID
SMITH**


Thanks for
playing
and charting
"Somebody
Bigger
Than
You And I"
At Radio now
and available
at all major digital
music outlets











Booking Info:
David Smith
43 Walnut Rd. | West Liberty, KY
(606) 743-7549
pepperann41472@yahoo.com

Thanks DJs for playing and charting
SOMEBODY'S PRAYING
WRITTEN BY BERNIE NELSON



Michael Knight

Phone: 903.714.5277 • Email: michaelknightlivemusic@yahoo.com
www.michaelknightlivemusic.com

STEVE WARREN

*Thanks for
playing and
charting*

*"Say Hello
to Heaven"*

*At Radio now and
available at all major
digital music outlets*



*Steve Warren
Nashville Recording Artist
(931) 520-7111
(931) 520-7100
stevewarren.world
fleetwoodrecords.world*

AirPlay
DIRECT

GO STRAIGHT TO THE SOURCE!

DISTRIBUTED BY:
Millennium
MUSIC GROUP
(205) 662-4826

CrossCountry^{USA} **HOT100**

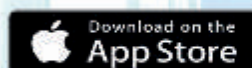
OFFICIAL CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 100 - JANUARY 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	4	Wake Up Call	Cyndi Reynolds	51	49	Find Your Way Back Home	LizzyG
2	6	That's When God Moves	David Timms	52	54	Even When I Fall	Thomas Brown
3	9	You Can't Box Me In	Fortner Brothers	53	57	Not On My Watch	Darin Kinser
4	5	Somebody's Praying	Michael Knight	54	55	Take Over Me	Rex Robards
5	7	Father To The Fatherless	Jim Sheldon	55	74	Back Pew Prayer	Woodie Kitchen
6	8	Mama's Old Chest Of Drawers	Marvin Harrell	56	52	One Of These Days	Carol Barham
7	17	Here's My Heart	Scott Peacock	57	28	When The Son Comes Down	Sonshine Road
8	16	Gonna Hit Those Church Steps Running	Carey Easley	58	68	Daddy's Hat	Debra Camp
9	33	Hallelujah	Dust and Grace	59	62	Don't Need A Stone	By Faith
10	15	Just Me	John Penney	60	59	Blessed Is The People That Know	Jonathan Ray Smith
11	18	Country Sinner	Victoria Steelman	61	94	Everything You Do	Norman Lee Schaffer
12	21	God Talks To Me	Dawson Road	62	64	Pushing You Away	Mike McAdoo
13	25	Living Proof	Ken & Kim Stull	63	65	Don't Cry For Me	Teresa Johnson
14	19	A Pew For You	Aaron Loy	64	41	The Colors And The Cross	Bobby Gibson
15	1	Get On Board	Carl Ray	65	61	Footprints In The Sand	Dwight Sanders
16	27	God Does Not Change	Cowboy Joe Babcock	66	72	Your The Man	Judy Bailey
17	26	Looking In The Rearview	Daryl Baker	67	70	Say Hello To Heaven	Steve Warren
18	11	Through Christ	Jimmy R Price	68	84	Shout Of Testimony	Mike Leichner
19	29	Hand In Heaven	The Murphys feat. Abigail	69	80	If That Isn't Love	Bruce Minchey
20	30	It's Never Too Late	Chuck Hancock	70	67	Preachers In Hell	Troy Ervin
21	32	When Love Arose	Joy LaVallee	71	75	The Most Perfect Gift	Clare Cunningham
22	3	He Owns Both Sides Of The River	Terry & Debra Luna	72	88	Bucket List	Daniel Wheeler
23	47	Anyway	The Pauls	73	71	I Feel Knew	J'Lee
24	36	I've Been Thinking	Waymasters	74	--	He Made It All	Dust And Grace
25	12	Right Where You Want Me To Be	Don Stiles	75	77	God Don't Waste The Hurt	Gary Russ
26	50	Greatly To Be Praised	Melissa Evans	76	73	Thanks To Calvary	Greg Finch
27	40	My Home In Glory Land	Beverly Brown Simms	77	81	Meanwhile Back At The Cross	Ron Hemphill
28	39	Why Me	Jenny Dean	78	76	Somebody Bigger Than You And I	David Smith
29	14	I Surrender It All	Luke Hendrickson	79	95	Man From Galilee	Jennifer Sides
30	37	Waiting In The Water	Debbie Mills	80	98	The Way You Do	Michael Walsh
31	35	I Saw A Miracle Today	Michael Ray Fain	81	79	Country Church	Claude Davis
32	2	The Phone Call	Richard Lynch	82	78	He Lives	Ed Bruce
33	44	If That Ain't True Love	Melanie Walker	83	89	The Crossroads	Richard Sprayberry
34	43	New Man	Chuck Day	84	92	No Thought To Pray	Jerry Weatherly
35	60	Footsteps Of My King	Todd Lee	85	97	Wish You Were Here	Johnathan Bond
36	13	Grandma's Bible	Debbie Bennett	86	85	My God Can	Valerie Ellis Hawkins
37	22	I Felt God Today	Heather Thomas Van Deren	87	82	In The Morning	Hunter Logan
38	10	Gravel Gospel	Shellem Cline	88	93	What I Got (La-De-Da)	Caleb Deramus
39	42	Always Enough	Dale Rochell	89	99	It'll Be Good To Be Home	The Journeys
40	24	When I Saw You There	Eternal Vision	90	91	Love Like Jesus Does	Aaron Justice
41	23	It Matter To Him	Jan Harbuck	91	87	That's The Least That I Can Do	Greg Marlow
42	63	Where Are You Now	Ken Mobley	92	86	You Can Talk To The Father	Richard Strong
43	45	Nothing No Nothing	Rachel Taylor	93	--	Picture This	Jessie Ritchie
44	56	In Times Like These	Bruce and Betsy Mullen	94	96	The Journey	Joe Land
45	48	You Can Call On Him	Aaron Partridge and Steve Apirana	95	100	Gods Great	The Messengers
46	66	Get Out Of The Boat	Felicia Deramus Paul	96	--	It's Time, Lord	Eddy Mann
47	83	Blood Bought Cowboy	Marty Deroche	97	--	What I Don't Know	Paula Slow
48	53	Hannah Whooped The Devil	Jason Welch	98	--	I Got A Friend	Ken Mobley
49	58	Honey In The Rock	Mary James	99	--	Why Me Lord	Richard Lynch
50	69	My Everything	Tarrance Phillips	100	--	Blessings	Steven Paul McCollum



All Country. All Christian.

www.crosscountryusaradio.com





HOT 100

OFFICIAL CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 100 - JANUARY 2026

CYNDI REYNOLDS

WAKE UP CALL

FIRST #1 SONG

WAKE UP CALL



I am deeply grateful and honored to celebrate my very first #1 single with Wake Up Call - a song written by Jennifer Sides, but one I lovingly call my testimony song. Its message mirrors the life I lived before I had a personal relationship with Jesus, and the transforming grace He poured over me.

Thank you to every radio station, DJ, and listener who has supported this song. Your encouragement has helped carry the message of hope, redemption, and new beginnings to hearts across the country.

To God be the glory for every open door and every life touched through this music.

- Songwriter: Jennifer Sides
- Distributed by Tommy Smith at Canyon Creek Records
- Recorded at McClain's Recording Studio, Garland, TX

Cyndi Reynolds
MUSIC MINISTRY

For booking visit my website at:
www.cyndireynoldsmusic.com
ajoyfulnoisemusicministry@gmail.com
903-275-6808
Facebook: Cyndi Reynolds Music

At Radio now and available at
all major digital music outlets





The PAULS

**A Family in Harmony,
A Ministry in Motion**

By Jackson McKee

Nestled in the heart of the Ouachita Mountains in southeast Oklahoma, a ranch pulses with the rhythm of faith, family, and music. It's here that The Pauls, a vibrant, close-knit family originally from Florida, have built a life that sings with purpose. Their journey from rodeo roots to radio charts is not just a story of musical success, but a testimony of devotion, teamwork, and the transformative power of Christ-centered living.

From Rodeo Dust to Gospel Glory

The Pauls' story begins in Davie, Florida, where Tracey's family were longtime PRCA stock contractors, hosting hundreds of sanctioned rodeos since 1985. That rural, rugged lifestyle left a lasting imprint on the family's musical DNA. "Growing up in that environment has a lasting effect on the Pauls," they reflect, "and contributes to the enjoyment of rural life and Country music that surrounds the rodeo culture."

Jesse and Tracey married in 1997 and began raising their five children - Austin, Daltin, Priscilla, Bethany, and Mitchell - with a strong work ethic and a shared spiritual foundation. Jesse's mantra, "Y'all have to be doing something," became more than a phrase, it became a lifestyle. That ethic, combined with Tracey's commitment to homeschooling and integrating music into the curriculum, laid the groundwork for a ministry that would eventually span over 125 performances annually.

Baptized in Purpose

In 2005, Jesse and Tracey were baptized together, marking a pivotal moment in their spiritual journey. "The fervent love of Jesus had us praying that God have His way with our family and use the Pauls in ministry," they recall. At the time, they had no idea what that ministry would look like, but God did.

Soon, the family's musical gifts began to blossom. Influenced by the sounds of 90s Country and Contemporary Christian music - Travis Tritt, Dwight Yoakam, Toby Keith, Casting Crowns, MercyMe, Third Day - their style evolved into a unique blend of Country flair and Gospel truth. "Our ministry does not begin or end when we are on stage," they affirm. It's a lifestyle, a calling, and a shared mission.

A Sound Only a Family Can Deliver

What sets The Pauls apart is not just their musical talent, but the unmistakable harmony of family. "Most everyone we meet cannot believe the closeness in our family," they say. "Family devotion time more than anything. We actually enjoy being together and have always worked as a team no matter what the project is."

That unity shines through in their performances. With ten instruments and rich vocal harmonies, The Pauls deliver a sound that only a family can produce. Their concerts feature original chart-topping songs, traditional hymns, and

contemporary worship - all infused with a Country music sensibility that's both uplifting and deeply rooted in faith.

Their mission is clear: "To encourage families to seek God's way as a family. Modern culture has seen the decline in family, but God seeks to restore it." Every performance is a celebration of that mission, offering audiences music that is "encouraging, enlightened, empowered, and emboldened."

Chart Success and Ministry Rewards

The Pauls' commitment to Christ and family has not gone unnoticed. In 2024, they were nominated for 'Group of the Year' by the Inspirational Country Music Association. Their albums "Get Up and Walk" and "Sundays" received widespread radio play, with four top 10 hits and two top fives. *Not Just On Sundays* climbed to #2 on the Cashbox music chart, while *Nothing Short Of A Miracle* reached #1 on the Christian Voice Magazine charts.

But for Jesse, the true reward of ministry is far deeper than accolades. "Witnessing God using our family to help bring the lost to salvation through hearing the Gospel message," he says, "knowing that God uses us in that way is humbling."

A Journey Still Unfolding

Today, The Pauls continue to travel the country, bringing their message of hope, unity, and faith to churches, festivals, and family events. Their performances are more than concerts, they're encounters with grace. Whether singing a hymn or sharing a testimony, The Pauls embody the joy of serving together.

From the dusty rodeo arenas of Florida to the mountain stages of Oklahoma, The Pauls have proven that when a family walks in harmony with God, the music never stops. Their story is a reminder that ministry begins at home, and when rooted in love and devotion, it can echo across the nation.

www.paulfamilyband.com



FAST. EASY. AFFORDABLE.

WebWorx Hosting

GET THE WORX

**24/7 customer support • free domain • php perl • mysql • free scripts • free site-builder studio
no set up fee • business & corporate plans • free full-featured email services • daily data back-up
advanced control panel • 30-day money-back guarantee...AND MUCH MORE!**

WWW.WEBORXHOSTING.NET



Debbie Bennett / CEO

RadioMusicDJ
MP3's at 320K for Radio Broadcasters
128K available at www.RadioMusicAM.com

GRACE RECORDS NASHVILLE • LOOK FOR GREAT SONGS FROM THESE ARTISTS!



Rocky & Tamie



Cathy Guffey



Susan Agee Hicks



Jennifer Gray



Elaine Roy



Elder Dempster



LizzyG



Billy Myers



Bruce Trent



Robbie Cockrell



Leon Everette



Lorraine Stevenson



J Abbott



Ashley Collins



Latrelle Lindon Pharr



Megan Brianna



Aaron Partridge



Angel Michelle Love



Michael Telrick



Soulchase



Michael Ray Fain



Rebecca Holden



Susan Manion



Ma Bell



Amy Michelle



Aaron Loy



Jenny Dean



Lori King



Brant McCollough



Jake Huber



Rylee Austin



Keith McKinney



JC James

Grace Records Nashville LLC provides everything from full recording with Nashville's best musicians, engineers, as well as major distribution (national and international)... plus much more. Call us today!



JA PROMOTIONS
Adding new artists today... Call for more information at
(336) 593-2908



Charting now
Fortner Brothers
"Can't Box Me In"



You can also listen to our music and albums on all streaming platforms or purchase our cds on our website!

For booking call
256-717-9531 *fortnerbrothers4christ.com*





WASHED UP



NOW PLAYING!

BOOKING: 615.830.4351/newsouthartistagency@gmail.com

NASHVILLE
CHRISTIAN-COUNTRY

NEW SOUTH
ARTISTS AGENCY