

Keystone Quarterly

Fall/Winter 2024



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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, everyone! WHAT A HOT SUMMER, hotter than last year! Is that possible? Wow! I am hoping that many of you were able to stay very healthy and that you were able to attend at least one or more of the many Southern Gospel music events that have taken place both near and far.

Well, here we are in our new 2024 Fall issue of The Keystone Quarterly!

Time seems to be going by (too) quickly. It sure does make me think about what I may be overlooking in life and each and every moment. In this issue, we feature a historian article about 1 of our many HOF inductees, this one inducted into the PSGMA Hall Of Fame back in 2011.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who are members of the PSGMA; we appreciate your continued support; please tell others about the PSGMA as well. If you are reading this and you are not yet a member, take a look at the bottom of the back cover of this issue and sign up today!

We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Dave Theis, Editor



Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association

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THE SOPHISTICATION OF AMPLIFICATION

By Duane Nicholson



The evolution of sound reinforcement in spoken voice and music has advanced immensely over the years. Being out of the recording business for years now since 2013, I am sure there are technical terms I don't even understand today. So, let's go back to my first involvement of sound in studios and auditorium use. Recording was captured on two of what were called, "Tracks". One track was vocals, the other was the piano. That advanced to now: there are tracks galore to capture individually any instrument and any vocal parts. In early years, everyone was present to produce a song. Now, a participant can record alone if necessary. Before, when a mistake was made, the entire song had to be repeated until totally corrected.

When The Couriers first did concerts on the road, we had two microphones on stands, a tiny Bogen amplifier and two speakers, that for transport purposes were snapped together. All this plus our suits, which were mandatory, cramped together into the car's trunk. The purchase of a worn out 1952 funeral limousine (a hearse) did give us 5 men more space! As for pianos, many were atrociously out of tune at the venue. We carried a tuning instrument that was used many times. As time went on and offerings were slim, we did not hire another piano player anymore and started using sound tracks. Now, tracks are used extensively by groups and soloists. As for the current usages of sound, I sometimes think that we have lost a big amount of people to live concerts with volumes that cannot be tolerated!

One interesting sideline in the sound category is that sound purists now believe that even though we have gone from 78 RPM to 33 1/3 RPM, to 8 Track, Cassettes, CD to USB - the best sound is still the 33 1/3 albums that are now available again from various groups. It will be interesting what is next; will live concerts be something in the past, and now only YouTube and PodCasts will be the future? In the meantime, support your local artists!

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INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PSGMA HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT TERRY SIMPSON / GABRIELS INTERVIEW



Julie Sloan - Historian

Being the father of a more recent recipient of the PSGMA Hall OF Fame (Randy Simpson), his father, Terry Simpson, was inducted into the PSGMA HOF back in 2011.

Keystone Quarterly (KQ): When did the Gabriels get started?

Terry Simpson (TS): Jim Bailey had a passion for gospel music and a big idea to start a southern gospel group. This idea persisted, so he acted. Jim convinced George Jumper and Edd Nickle to embrace his dream and it worked, and in 1968 The Gabriels (the name means God is my strength) was born.

KQ: What was the motivation behind starting the Gabriels? Who were the original members of the Gabriels?

TS: Now it was time to become fishers of men and cast a wide net to catch some Godly men to round out this quartet; men whose desire was to lift their voices and praise the Lord.

That list looks a little like this -

1968 – 1. Jim Bailey (lead singer & guitar)

1968 – 2. George Jumper (tenor singer)

1968 – 3. Edd Nickle (bass singer)

1968 – 4. Gary Eckman (baritone singer)

1971 – 5. Terry Simpson (piano player)

1971 – 6. Nevin Crum (lead singer & guitar)

1972 – 7. Denny Yohn (bass guitar)

KQ: When was the Gabriels' last event? Who were the final members of the Gabriels? What was the last concert, and where? Singing in a traveling Gospel group has had to take a strain on you and your family, simply from a time consumption perspective. What can you share with Keystone Quarterly and our readers on how you survived and overcame the challenges, if any, associated with singing this long, and on the road?

TS: The last concert performed by this lineup was in September 2020 at the Churchtown Church of God in Boiling Springs, PA. Members left standing at that time were George Jumper, Edd Nickle, Gary Eckman, Nevin Crum and Terry Simpson. The Gabriels had traveled the highways and byways for over 50 years. This was made possible with the support of their wives and families. However, top of that list is the way God lead them as they traveled the roads together as a group. God wrapped His loving arms around them and kept them safe as they traveled so many miles over the years.

KQ: If you were to pick the top 3 achievements resulting from the Gabriels, what would they be?

TS: We experienced exhilarating events along the way that still exist in our memories, even in our old age!

1. The Pennsylvania Nights Concerts held in Harrisburg, Lancaster and Clymer, where numerous Pennsylvania gospel groups gathered together to praise God.
2. The all night sings in Dillsburg, PA at the King's Kids Camp, hosted by The Jacobs Brothers. This all night extravaganza was always jam-packed to full crowd capacity, as well as all the top gospel artists of that time.
3. The privilege to sing in thousands of churches and venues, and seeing people's faces light up upon hearing the songs of faith and salvation was truly priceless.

KQ: Of all of the groups, both nationally known and regionally known that the Gabriels shared the stage with, which ones have been most memorable?

TS: Well, that would be a long list, as The Gabriels were honored to share the platform with so many great gospel groups down through the years - The Kingsmen, The Hoppers, The Cathedrals, The Hemphills, The Eastmen, The Watchmen, The Jacobs Brothers, The Couriers, Blue Ridge Qt., Jerry & The Goffs, The Lewis Family, Dixie Melody Boys, The Torchbearers, The Keystones, The Downings, The Blackwood Brothers, Wendy Bagwell & The Sunlighters, JD Sumner & The Stamps, Dominion State Qt., and so many others.

KQ: How has prayer impacted the decisions and focus of the Gabriels, and give a couple of examples of how God answered specific prayers involving the Gabriels?

TS: When our prayers went up, blessings came down. God was our constant companion. We prayed for lives to be changed, and for souls to be saved and God used our ministry to do just that. We would pray that everyone that heard our songs would hear the message of each song and be filled with God's love.

KQ: Since the Gabriels have been successful for all of these years, what motivated you to end the Gabriels,

and what year did they end?

TS: After recording 10 albums, and at times traveling as many as 175 concerts per year, we were sidelined by the COVID epidemic in 2020. As time marched along, we did age, and age does have a tendency to lessen your energy levels; it hinders voice clarity, and traveling is much more fatiguing. We sadly disbanded. But our desire to serve God has never faltered. We just redirect our efforts in other areas.

KQ: Tell us some about your tours; what are some of the greatest events that took place? What are some of the challenges with singing away from home?

TS: We were nicknamed as "weekend warriors". Even though we traveled into NJ, VA, OH and other areas, we made it a point to return home every night. After concerts, our bus driven by me, was headed homeward bound, making it possible to kiss our wives, hug our children, and sleep on our own pillows. This also made the challenges of balancing singing and home life a little easier.

KQ: What advice do you have for young Christian singers who want to form a Gospel group, and follow in the footsteps of the Gabriels, or other Gospel groups?

TS: Foremost, be sure this dream is Christ centered, and a calling of God. Pray with your loved ones and determine if they are on board with it as well. Selection of group members is also crucial, making sure that cooperation, desire, and common beliefs and goals are of one same mind. If not, the tests your group will encounter during travels can sever a group and ministry.

KQ: What challenges or opportunities do you see for Southern Gospel music going forward? How does Southern Gospel music capture a younger audience in order to preserve the genre in the future?

TS: I wish the young people of today could really hear the terrific message and the close vocal harmony that southern gospel music songs encompass. If they could gain the mastery of this music genre, they would be hooked for life. We must pass down this great music to our children,

grandchildren, and great grandchildren, so they can hear and understand how important is it to carry these great gospel songs forward into the future.

KQ: How long have you been involved with the Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association (PSGMA)? What are your plans for the future?

TS: I have been engaged with Southern Gospel since the onset of The Gabriels', when I joined them in the early 70's. I myself was honored by the PSGMA in 2011 by being inducted into the PSGMA Hall of Fame. I was thrilled to watch all the original members of The Gabriels follow with the same honor -

George Jumper: 2011

Nevin Crum: 2014

Gary Eckman: 2017

Edd Nickle: 2017

Nowadays, I enjoy attending my son's (Randy Simpson's) concerts. My son Randy, who has been singing almost 40 years, was also inducted into the PSGMA Hall of Fame in 2021.



Southern Gospel Music has been a part of my life for over 35 years. Currently I am the lead singer for 2 groups, March Forth Quartet and Heaven 4 Shore. I also have a Solo Ministry

I am a Charter member of the PSGMA.

I am a member of PSACF (Pennsylvania State Assoc. of County Fairs)

I am available for Concerts, Revivals, Church services, Fairs, etc

I'm looking forward to sharing the Word through Music in 2024 and into 2025.

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SCHEDULE

March 4th Qt, Heaven for Shore and FLOYD FOSTER

Group Key Code: M4Q=March Forth Quartet , H4S=Heaven 4 Shore FF= Floyd Foster

Date	Time	Event Location	Group Key	City	Stat
Sep-24					
Sat. Sept 21	6:00 PM	Holly Fehr Memorial Concert	Good News Church	FF, M4Q	Mechanicsburg Pa
Sun, Sept 22	10:30 AM	Why at the Well	H4S		Mechanicsburg Pa
Sat. Sept 28	6:00 PM	Goldsboro Church Of God	FF		Etters Pa
Sun, Sept 29	1:30 PM	Silver Spring Personal Care	FF		Mechanicsburg Pa
24-Oct					
Sun, Oct 13	9:30 AM	Logania Church of God	H4S		Duncannon Pa
Sun, Oct 13	5:30 PM	Kennedy Valley Church of God	FF		Landisburg Pa
Fri, Oct. 18	2:30 PM	Willow Valley Glen	H4S		Lancaster Pa
Sat, Oct 19		TBD	H4S		
Sat, Oct 20	9:30 AM	St.Matthews By The Sea	H4S		Fenwick Island De
Thurs, Oct 24	2:30 PM	Rockhill Mennonite Home	FF		Sellersville Pa
Nov-24					
Sun, Nov 3	3:00 PM	Crisfield Wesleyan	H4S		Crisfield Md
Sat, Nov 9	6:00 PM	Vineyard Outreach	H4S		Shirleysburg Pa
Sun, Nov 10	10:30 AM	Vineyard Outreach	H4S		Shirleysburg Pa
Sat, Nov 16	5:00 PM	St.Paul's UMC	H4S		Greensboro Md
Sun, Nov 17	9:45 AM	Bloomery Church	H4S		Federalsburg Md
Mon, Nov 25	7:30 PM	Willow Valley North	H4S		Lancaster Pa
Dec-24					
Sun, Dec 1	11:00 AM	Revere Free Methodist Church	FF		Uledi Pa
Thurs, Dec 5	10:00 AM	Manheim Brethren in Christ	FF		Manheim Pa
Sat, Dec 14	5:00 PM	Why at the Well	H4S		Mechanicsburg Pa
Sun, Dec 15	9:30 AM	Logania Church of God	FF		Duncannon Pa
Thurs, Dec 19	2:30 PM	Silver Spring Personal Care	FF		Mechanicsburg Pa
Fri, Dec 20	6:00 PM	Good News Church	FF		Mechanicsburg Pa
Sun, Dec 29	1:30 PM	Silver Spring Personal Care	FF		Mechanicsburg Pa
Tues, Dec 31	7:00 PM	New Year's Eve 1st Church of God Comm. Bldg	H4S		Mechanicsburg Pa

Just Look To Jesus



Floyd Foster

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