

INTRODUCTION



“Stronger Together”

More than ever before there is a need to praise the Lord. There is a need to call upon the name of the Lord our God, not just in the sanctuary, but in the streets of this great nation. The name of the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised.

We are stronger together when we come together to praise the Lord. We are stronger together when we lift our voices, singing and making melody in our hearts unto the Lord. We are stronger together when we continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that acknowledge His name.

This project is designed to inspire and include all the great song writers of the body of Christ. It is our desire to speak the word of God in song as it falls from the heart and hands of those blessed to be in the body of Christ.

— Robert DeNorris Darby



ROBERT DENORRIS DARBY

Robert DeNorris Darby is a Preacher, Poet, Producer and Publisher. Robert is married to Sandra DeAnn Darby, and they have five children, and two grandchildren.

As a minister of the Gospel for over thirty years, Robert has been blessed to minister to congregations in Alabama and Tennessee. He has proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ in several states, as well as several countries. (Such as Jamaica, and the Marshall Islands).

As a U.S. Navy veteran he has travel around the world to places in the Caribbean, South America, Africa, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

His hobbies include traveling and songwriting. Robert has written and tabulated over 500 songs for worship. He has written, recorded, and produced over 500 other songs for choral groups. Many of these recordings can be found on YouTube.

(www.poetreebook.com)



Michelle Young is a professional singer, songwriter, and musician who enjoys being creative. Besides her two solo albums (the first being featured in the Billboard book *The Billboard Guide to Progressive Music*), she has performed on others' recordings in a range of genres, and has toured in Europe recording and singing with some of the industry's best talents.

A published poet and fiction writer as well, Michelle served on the board of the Chattanooga Writers' Guild as website designer, and then as vice-president. As a fine artist, her paintings have been on display in gallery shows, and her artwork has been used on several book covers for poetry collections and writing anthologies.

Michelle is a teacher at heart and has taught mixed media art, knitting, voice lessons and songwriting (almost ten years at Music Instruction Studios), and most recently, Lego Robotics, typing, and website design for Michaels Homeschool Academy. She appreciates the opportunity to lead singing at ladies' church events, teach Bible lessons in Ladies' Bible Class at East Ridge Church of Christ, and help teach L2L Leaderettes song leading.

Having written hymns for years, Michelle has published a mini-hymnal titled "Songs and Hymns for Him" (© 2011). She likes to help other hymn writers by arranging their hymns into SATB form ".... because it gives them an opportunity to share their hymns with others in hopes they will get sung."

Michelle and her husband Corey Green live in Chattanooga, TN, and enjoy traveling and watching movies together.



Roy McKinney, Jr.

Regarding music, maybe one should call me a “late bloomer.”

I was born on July 4, 1941, just in time for WWII, and across town my future wife, Mary, was about to celebrate her first birthday on July 5. Mary grew up in a musical family, her father a symphony cellist and herself destined to study the violin. I, however, was the kid in the fourth grade Flutophone concert who was obviously “taking it” and identified as such by the stranger seated next to my mother. (I really wanted to play the drums -- loudly.)

I majored in Art in college, and Mary and I married between my junior and senior years. After Army service and work for a defense contractor in New York and Vietnam, we returned home where I became a researcher in a health insurance claims department. I also had an art gallery downtown and was active in the Army Reserve until military retirement.

As I followed in my father’s footsteps as a church song leader, (leading by ear, tapping foot and crossed fingers), I also became drawn to the classical guitar. Then I had my only formal instruction, six months of study with a brilliant young musician. But he left for London to study with the greatest guitarist of the time. I blundered on my own for a few years and quit, discouraged.

My serious phase of music involvement began in my 70s, with meeting fellow church member Michelle Young, professional singer, composer and teacher of voice and composition. Michelle and I collaborated on some of my early works, and as I gained more confidence and independence, she became an advisor, critic and sounding board – a priceless mentor.

My musical interests include lyrics from ancient Christian writers as well as my own poetry, experimenting with unusual rhythms, dynamics and staccato, counterpoint singing between individual voice lines, and adaptation and modification of classical and folk melodies. I also like the challenge of setting verbatim Bible passages to music. I may never hear my music sung, but it is my small offering to God and His church. I trust God hears it.



JOHNNY JACKSON

Johnny is a former Industrial Engineering Tech, in which field he holds a BS from Tennessee Technological University, and an Accountant, in which field he holds an MBA from the University of Tennessee. He is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve where he served 28 years with active-duty periods during the Viet Nam and the Desert Storm conflicts.

Johnny has been a member of the Lord's church for more than 60 years. He grew up in Warren County and worshipped at the Ivy Bluff congregation where he first began to lead singing. Johnny and his wife, Sally and their newborn son, Paul moved to Chattanooga in January, 1971. They began worshipping at East Ridge congregation where Johnny has been a deacon since the early 1970s. Their family grew by one more son, Tip, in 1972. Johnny has led congregational singing at East Ridge for more than forty years and has assisted other congregations with song leading throughout the Chattanooga area.

Johnny also sings with the Chattanooga Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and the Choo Choo Chorus, as a hobby.



FRED MATHIS

Fred Mathis (December 10, 1931 - September 18, 2021) was an active member of the East Ridge Church of Christ. Fred was captain in the U.S. Army Intelligence Division. He retired as the vice-president of sales at Southern Cellulose, Inc.

He graduated from Birchwood High School. Fred excelled in basketball while in school. He graduated from MTSU with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. Fred loved to play Golf.

Brother Fred was an avid song leader. He served as an elder and a deacon. He loved to teach bible class. Fred was a poet who loved to write. He wrote and composed several hymns. He taught himself to play the organ.

Fred and his wife Fran were married for 62 years. They have two boys David (Julie) and Dan (Karla) Mathis.



HYMN WRITERS AND COMPOSERS

Thanks!

Special thanks to all who in some way contributed to this labor of love.

Thanks to God for our creative nature, and desire to share these song of praise.

Thanks for all the prayer and praise received from our dear friends and fellow saints.



Except A Seed Die

(Johnny Jackson, Michelle Young)

We're Going Home

(Robert DeNorris Darby, Michelle Young)

Fortify The Family

(Robert DeNorris Darby, Michael Houston)

In The Word Of God

(Robert DeNorris Darby, Johnny Jackson, Michelle Young)

I Will Follow Him

(Robert DeNorris Darby, Sandra DeAnn Darby)

Jesus Is Lord

(Robert DeNorris Darby, Sandra DeAnn Darby)

I Will Be True

(Fred Mathis, Robert DeNorris Darby, Michael Houston)

Faith To Move Mountains

(Roy McKinney, Michelle Young)

Only You Know

(Robert D. Darby, Michael E. Houston)

The Vine

(Roy McKinney, Michelle Young)

The Lord Is Mine

(Roy McKinney, Michelle Young)

"Singing His Praises"

Featuring
Hymn Writers

From the

East Ridge Church of Christ

A Blessing In My Life

1

Robert DeNorris Darby

Robert DeNorris Darby

1. You came a - long when I was down.
2. Now I have time to walk with You.
3. For with your grace you lift - ed me.

Con - fi - dence was to the ground.
Now that I can talk with you.
And with your words helped me see.

I did not know where I was bound.
There's noth - ing else am, I want to do.
Just who I am, who I should be.

You're a bless ing in my life.

A Blessing In My Life

Chorus:

You are a bless - ing, Lord, in my life. You

are a bless - ing in my life.

You made me whole. You touched my soul.

You are a bless - ing in my life.

A Fellowship

2

Robert DeNorris Darby

Robert DeNorris Darby

1. It's been a while since I've seen your face.
2. You bring the greens, and I'll bring the dip.
3. Walk in the Light, for He is the Light.

I miss your smile in this ho - ly place.
Let's join our hearts in a fel - low - ship.
Let's show our love through dis - ead and strife.

I rec - om - mend, we stop for a - while.
You bring the drinks, and I'll bring - the - chips.
It was His blood, the blood of the Lamb.

All of our dif - fer - ences to rec - on - cile.
Let's come to - geth - er for - a - fel - low - ship.
Let's have fel - low - ship with the Great I Am.

A Fellowship

A fel - low - ship. A fel - low - ship.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps: F# and C#). The melody in the top staff starts with a quarter note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, and G4. The second measure contains a half note chord of D4 and F#4. The melody continues with quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4. The bottom staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3 in the first measure, followed by a half note chord of D3 and F#3 in the second measure, and quarter notes G3, F#3, E3, and D3 in the third measure.

Come to - geth - er for a fel - low - ship.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The melody in the top staff starts with a quarter note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, and G4. The second measure contains a half note chord of D4 and F#4. The melody continues with quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4. The bottom staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3 in the first measure, followed by a half note chord of D3 and F#3 in the second measure, and quarter notes G3, F#3, E3, and D3 in the third measure.

Bring all your - friends, and you fam - i - ly.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The melody in the top staff starts with a quarter note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, and G4. The second measure contains a half note chord of D4 and F#4. The melody continues with quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4. The bottom staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3 in the first measure, followed by a half note chord of D3 and F#3 in the second measure, and quarter notes G3, F#3, E3, and D3 in the third measure.

Let's come to - ge - ther spir - it - u - al - ly.

The fourth system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The melody in the top staff starts with a quarter note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, and G4. The second measure contains a half note chord of D4 and F#4. The melody continues with quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4. The bottom staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3 in the first measure, followed by a half note chord of D3 and F#3 in the second measure, and quarter notes G3, F#3, E3, and D3 in the third measure.

After My God's Heart

3

Robert DeNorris Darby

Robert DeNorris Darby

1. God is not will - ing that I should per - ish or die.
2. You should seek the Lord our God, seek Him with your heart.
3. God is a spir - i - tual God. This He needs of you.

For He is pre - par - ing me, for é - ter - nal life.
Be the one who leans on Him, give Him all your heart.
That you come to wor - ship Him, in spir - it and truth.

So He sent His Son to die out on Cal - va - ry.
So let all the things you say, all the things you do.
For God is not will - ing that an - y man should die.

Mak - ing a way for all men, with my Lord to be.
May they bring glo - ry to Him, the one who loves you.
So He gave His Son for us, just to re - con - cile.

After My God's Heart

Chorus:

Af - ter my God's heart. Af - ter-my God's heart.

Lord, I pray I'll be a man, af - ter-my God's heart.

Man - y - men will fol - low You and some will de - part. -

But I choose to be a man af - ter God's own heart.