

CE NewsNotes

winter 2007 | Vol 17 The Ministry and Activities of **CHRISTIAN EDITION**, A Men's Chorus



Gospel Singer Sandi Patty and Christian Edition in concert.

In Concert with Sandi Patty

You know how you look forward to a big event such as Christmas or a birthday? That was the same feeling we had once CE found out that acclaimed Christian singer Sandi Patty agreed to sing with us on September 9. We rehearsed until we knew every note perfectly.

The arrangement was for us to sing a set of songs, followed by Sandi Patty singing a set, and then we would sing two songs together.

When the day finally arrived, we nervously went into the La Sierra University Church to warm up. We met her soundman, Rob Ranahan, and pianist, Steve Potts, both wonderfully nice people. We were scheduled to sing first, so we went on stage to warm up with her pianist. As we started to sing our first song with her, "Praise

Medley," she joined us just as the song was beginning. It was a thrilling moment, and that was just the warm-up. The song started, and all of us were singing. About halfway through the song, she stopped singing and looked up at us while we continued. She smiled and closed her eyes as she listened. She was pleased enough that she didn't even practice our second song with us. We weren't sure if this meant she was comfortable with us or that she had already given up hope. Nevertheless, it was a thrill to sing just a little bit with her, and the big stuff was still to come.

Before each performance, we meet backstage and have prayer. Sandi was kind enough to join with us. We held hands and, at the end of the prayer, one of our members who

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Director's Comments

Acts of Kindness

In John 13:34 we read the last instruction Jesus gave to His disciples: "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you..." and then Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples."

The owner of a drive-through coffee business was conducting business as usual one morning when something different happened. A customer came through and paid for his coffee, but also for the coffee of the person in the car behind him. The driver of that car was so surprised and happy that he in turn paid for the coffee of the person in the car behind him. This act of kindness continued for over two hours, and thus 27 people passed on this one kind and caring act.

It really isn't hard to do something nice is it? Today, why don't you show someone, somewhere, that you are a disciple of Christ. It could start an action that may change a person's life, and so on, and so on, and so on...

— Calvin Knipschild



Christian Edition accompanist Michael Spencer, Christian Edition Director Calvin Knipschild, Gospel Singer Sandi Patty and Sandi's accompanist Steve Potts.

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was standing next to her proudly proclaimed, "I'm never washing this hand again!" Everyone had a big laugh.

It was finally time to begin. We arranged ourselves on stage, and the music for "Praise Medley" began with Sandi coming from backstage. The energy was suddenly and unexpectedly off the chart. For all the years I've been singing for the Lord, I've never encountered the energy we experienced at that moment. It was like fun and praise were multiplied a thousand times over at that instant. None of our rehearsing had prepared us for this experience.

The song went very well, and an extremely enthusiastic crowd roared their approval as the song ended. Sandi left the stage but not the sanctuary as CE sang for the next 40 minutes. Once we finished, we took our seats and Sandi sang for the next 50 minutes. Our program ended by Sandi and CE singing together the great old Christian hymn "How Great Thou Art." What an amazing experience that was, every bit as wonderful as the open-

ing song. The crowd asked Sandi to come back out for an encore and she obliged, singing two songs. The second song, the old Louie Armstrong classic, "What a Wonderful World," was a surprise, but the lyrics were changed to make it an homage to God's creation. We hadn't prepared to sing anything else with her, but on a whim Sandi pointed to us on the chorus and invited us to sing with her. She did it again after the second verse, and again after the third, but with a twist. She asked us to add harmony, something we all love to do. It came out perfectly, and a lasting image for many of us will be seeing Sandi throw her head back, close her eyes, and relish the moment with us. As far as spontaneity goes, this was as good as it gets.

Sandi was gracious enough to stay afterwards and sign autographs and take pictures with everyone who wished to do so. It was a wonderful way to end the night and to see what a genuine person she is. While the power of God worked through her that night, and we were fed, we also got to see her as a real

person, and we greatly enjoyed that about her.

The whole evening, while fun beyond belief, was also a tremendous spiritual blessing. CE was greatly impressed with how spiritual the entire worship program was that night. Sandi showed us a very human side to a very public person. She loves the Lord, and it comes through loud and clear in her music and comments.

CE has been privileged and blessed with many amazing opportunities. This one was definitely at the top of the list. We don't know if we'll get to do this again, but for one night at least it was an amazing night of praise with an outstanding musician who has committed her life to singing for our Savior.

— Craig Vendouris

CE NewsNotes

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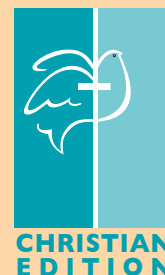
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CHRISTIAN
EDITION
A MEN'S CHORUS

Welcome! to the new Christian Edition, A Men's Chorus, website. As we start our 27th year of music ministry, on behalf of all of us associated with Christian Edition, I want to thank you...

[home](#)[contact us](#)[schedule](#)[prayer ministry](#)[newsletter](#)

Christian Edition, A Men's Chorus

[about us](#)[what's new](#)[photo gallery](#)[giving](#)[store](#)

Website Has a New Look

Have you ever wondered who the plastic surgeon in the group is, or perhaps the real estate broker or dentist? We know many of you have because these questions have come to us at the end of most concerts. Well, now you can go to christianedition.com and see our website's newest feature, "Meet the Members," and find out about each of the singers and soon the non-singing members too.

And you will also be able to play excerpts of every song on every one of Christian Edition's 11 CDs. We have instituted a new method of payment for our recordings and videos to streamline the purchasing process on our new website. We now accept PayPal in addition to secure credit card payments.

Starting with the current Winter 2007 issue, *CE NewsNotes* will be on the website in color. Because

of our wonderful 21st-century technology, from now on you will receive an email notification when a new *CE NewsNotes* is available. You will then be able to forward the email to others and/or print the newsletter and share it with friends or family. (We know you have heard this before, but with rising postage costs, it is just becoming prohibitively expensive for a self-supporting ministry to mail out thousands of newsletters.)

So, if you wish to receive the email notification of the latest newsletter, you may do so in one of two ways: 1) go to christianedition.com and enter your email address as requested; or 2) enter your email address and name on the form below and mail it to us in the envelope provided.

If you don't have a computer or online access and still wish to continue receiving a copy in the mail, you **must** complete the form below with your name and address and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

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Thanks

Northern California Trip

Throughout the day on Friday, June 29, the members of Christian Edition began arriving and checking into the Los Gatos Lodge in Los Gatos, California. In groups of two or three (and sometimes 12), they headed to town for a late lunch or early supper. (I have a former co-worker who used to call this meal “lupper.”) The Christian Edition Board also gathered for their regular monthly meeting.

This would be my first official weekend tour with Christian Edition as the editor and photographer for *CE NewsNotes*.

On Sabbath morning, Christian Edition provided the worship service for the Campbell SDA Church congregation, and the church members provided a pot-luck afterwards. Then it was time to head on down the road to the Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center in Santa Cruz. What a beautiful campus! No wonder it is a favorite location of the CE members. The afternoon was spent taking photos, one of which you see at the top of this page and many others you will find on our new website and in other promotional materials. Check them out!



Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center provides a perfect backdrop for this group photo.

After a delicious barbeque dinner provided by Pastor Dave Talbot's conference center staff, Christian Edition took the stage for the fourth year in a row for the Saturday Concert & Sunday Worship Series and provided a 90-minute concert for nearly 1,000 attendees.



Singing at the Strachan 4th of July event.

Following a restful night and a tasty breakfast, we loaded into our cars and headed to Paradise. Our Sunday afternoon performance was held in the backyard of the home of Evelyn Strachan. Director Calvin first got to know Mrs. Strachan when he was just a 7-year-old boy. His parents had moved the family from Hawaii to Southern California, and Evelyn's husband,



Hostess Evelyn Strachan with Director Calvin.

Dr. Charles Strachan, became their family physician. Calvin remembers going to their home in the hills of Burbank, California, and learning to swim in their pool. It soon became a monthly tradition to head up to the Strachan home on a Saturday evening to swim, eat hot buttered popcorn, frozen fruit salad and chocolate popcorn balls. And once again, many, many years later, a lavish display of food was an important part of the Fourth of July party that Evelyn, her granddaughter and her great-granddaughter provided for her guests and the Christian Edition family before we said our goodbyes and headed out for the long ride home.

In spite of all the driving, by the end of the weekend I was feeling tru-

continued next page

CE Opens SDA Ministers' Retreat

On Sunday evening, August 19, Christian Edition provided a portion of the opening devotional for the Pacific Union Conference of SDA ministers' retreat at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California. The four-day conference was attended by approximately 750 SDA ministers from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah. The conference was designed for spiritual renewal, education and networking with other pastors from around the Union.

Participation in the opening session allowed Christian Edition an opportunity to visit with pastors from many of the churches where they have performed in the past. Nonetheless, nearly half of the pastors at the retreat were hearing Christian Edition for the first time, but hopefully not the last!

— Gayle Craig

Northern California

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ly blessed to be part of such a wonderful ministry. Christian Edition has been a part of my life for their entire 26 years, as I was in the audience when they first sang to Pastor Jim Brown and have attended many concerts and even toured with them a few times when they were going to my parents' or my best friend's hometowns. I told Calvin after the Northern California weekend that I was a CE "Lifer," and they will be seeing me wherever they go from now on!

— Gayle Craig



First tenors Paul Wilcox and Rob Peterson with Elder Tony Anobile, Secretary of the Arizona Conference of SDA, and Elder Jim Pedersen, President of the Northern California Conference of SDA, both former pastors of Christian Edition's home church, in Eagle Rock.

CE Goes to Boise

In June, CE was invited to sing at the Idaho SDA Campmeeting held on the campus of Gem State Academy in Caldwell. We spent a terrific weekend singing and fellowshiping with friends old and new in Idaho. CE sang four times, including a couple of songs Friday night and Sabbath morning, followed by a big concert Sabbath afternoon and another concert on Sunday morning. Sabbath was one of those rare times when we sang in a gymnasium, and we had a good time doing so.

Sabbath evening led to one of the more unusual CE moments we've had, but it's easy to see now that it was definitely God-directed. Calvin and Chris Klebba went to a late dinner at the Perkins Restaurant near our hotel. There happened to be another couple who entered the restaurant at the same time. Calvin had had his eye on a sticky bun since Friday and was looking at it again as he was waiting to be seated. Alas, he was not alone in his goal, as one of the other customers had the same

objective. For some strange reason, in an empty restaurant, they were seated at adjoining tables and began talking about that last sticky bun. The stranger let Calvin order it, saying that he was a pastor and was supposed to let others go first. Calvin told him he was the director of a gospel men's chorus, and before you knew it, they were scheduling a concert for September. (You will hear about this experience in the next issue of CE *NewsNotes*.) It was probably the strangest way to meet a pastor and set up a concert, and it became clear to us that this was not a chance meeting.

We concluded our weekend by singing for The Lakeview Church of the Nazarene in Nampa on Sunday morning. The pastor was very moved that we would even consider singing at his church, as most groups usually end up at the much bigger Nazarene church in town. It was a warm morning of fellowship and praise, and again gave us an opportunity to sing for God, wherever He leads us.

— Craig Vendouris

Remembering Joyce

Joyce Gutsche was editor of *CE NewsNotes* from 2002 until she passed away on April 22, 2007. Joyce and her husband, Richard, have been long-time friends of the Knipschild family and in 2001, when Richard was asked to help with the CE 20th Anniversary concert, they both became actively involved in the ministry of the group; Joyce as editor of *CE NewsNotes* and Richard responsible for group travel.

Traveling with CE took Joyce and Richard to concerts in California, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Washington. All the while, Joyce was taking pictures, writing, and encouraging the singers and their family members to write articles. She worked closely with the late Sonny Ines, who, in addition to singing bass, was CE's graphic artist and layout designer for many years.



VESTA JOYCE GUTSCHE 1936–2007

This was a happy and rewarding collaboration for both Joyce and Richard.

Joyce's last trip with CE was in March to San Diego for concerts at Bonita Valley, Paradise Valley and Escondido.



Upon her return home on March 3, she was admitted to the

hospital with a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer which, seven weeks later, took her life. Her tireless efforts, laughter and enthusiasm are greatly missed by all who knew her, especially the CE family.

Joyce loved everything about Christian Edition and was interested and involved in their ministry until the end. In planning her memorial service with Richard, she specified not only that she wanted CE to sing, but which songs, including one of their newest, "Jerusalem." Her wishes were granted and Richard stated that, "There's no way anyone can hear 'Jerusalem' and not want to be there!" We all look forward to again laughing with Joyce and praising God in "the city John saw."

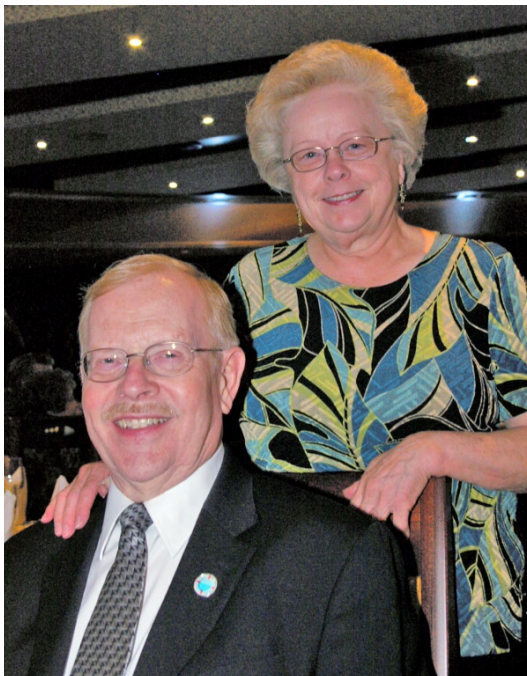
Remembering Joyce, Frank Rubio III, baritone, wrote the following poem. The accompanying picture was taken at a San Diego restaurant after the Paradise Valley concert.

— Richard Gutsche

Richard and Joyce on the Alaskan Cruise.

far right:

Russ Nelson, second tenor, Joyce, Frank Rubio, baritone; and their cheerful waiter.



If I Only Knew

(What I'm learning from Joyce's passing)

If I only knew it would be the last time
I would be there to share your day,
Well, I'm sure you'll have so many more
So I can just let this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow
To make up for an oversight,
And we always get a second chance
To make everything right, right?

There will always be another day
To say our, "I love you,"
And certainly there's another chance
To say, "Anything I can do?"

But, wait a minute, just in case
I might be wrong,
And today is all I get,
I would like to say how much
I love you
And I hope we never forget

That tomorrow is not promised
to anyone,
Young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance
you get
To hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow,
Why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes,
You'll surely regret this day



That you didn't take that extra time
For a smile, a hug, or a kiss.
And you were too busy to grant
someone,
What turned out to be their one
last wish.

So hold them dear TODAY!
Take time to say,
"I'm sorry, please forgive me,
thank you" or even, "it's okay."
And THEN, if tomorrow never comes,
You'll have no regrets about today.

by Frank Rubio, III

The distinguished performers of Christian Edition

DIRECTOR

Calvin Knipschild

ACCOMPANIST

Michael Spencer

BARITONES

Mephi Herrera

Chris Klebba

FIRST TENORS

Henry Murray

Al Perry

Rob Peterson

John Reader

David Taylor

Frank Rubio

Paul Wilcox

Craig Vendouris

BASSES

SECOND TENORS

Fred Miller

Josif Borovic

Russ Nelson

Leonard Fletcher

LaMarr Profit

Ken Holland

Mickey Smith

Vave Maneafaiga

John Thompson

Gary Mattison

Patrick Wolfe

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Merry Christmas!

What we could really use...

is your help with reducing the quantity of our mail. If you can receive **CE NewsNotes** via email, we can save substantial money in production costs. Those savings can go toward the CE music ministry. Believe us, it'll be so much better in so many ways! See page 3 inside for more info.

Check out our new website at
christianedition.com

Thanks so very much.



Calendar

All listed Christian Edition rehearsals are open to our friends and are held at Temple City SDA Church.

Times or locations may change. Please call ahead to confirm a concert before traveling long distances. (Seventh-day Adventist has been abbreviated to SDA.)

January 2008

- | | | | |
|--|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| 4 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 11 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 18 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 19 | Saturday | 11:00 A.M. | Concert |
| White Memorial SDA Church
401 N. State Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033
(323) 264-2170 | | | |
| | Saturday | 4:30 P.M. | Concert |
| Long Beach SDA Church
1001 E. Third Street
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 437-2805 | | | |
| 20 | Sunday | 8:30 & 10:45 A.M. | Concert |
| Redlands Church of the Nazarene
1307 E. Citrus Avenue
Redlands, CA 92374
(909) 793-2996 | | | |

February 2008

- | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|------------------|
| 1 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 15 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 16 | Saturday | 11:00 A.M. | Concert |
| Thousand Oaks SDA Church
480 W. Gainsborough Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 376-2961 | | | |
| | Saturday | 4:30 P.M. | Concert |
| Ventura SDA Church
6300 Telephone Road
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 642-5387 | | | |
| 17 | Sunday | 6:00 P.M. | Concert |
| First Evangelical Free Church
2801 N. Brea Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92835
(714) 529-5544 | | | |

March 2008

- | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|------------------|
| 7 | Friday | 7:00 p.m. | Rehearsal |
| 21 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 26 | Wednesday | 7:00 P.M. | Concert |
| Placerville SDA Church
6831 Mother Lode Drive
Placerville, CA 95667-8216
(530) 622-2446 | | | |
| 27 | Thursday | 7:00 P.M. | Concert |
| Paradise SDA Church
5720 Academy Drive
Paradise, CA 95969-4727
(530) 877-4454 | | | |
| 28 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Concert |
| Yreka SDA Church
346 Payne Lane
Yreka, CA 96097-3441
(530) 842-4536 | | | |
| 29 | Saturday | 11:00 A.M. | Concert |
| Mount Shasta SDA Church
P.O. Box 184
Mount Shasta, CA 96067-0184
(530) 926-2803 | | | |

- | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------------|
| | Saturday | 6:00 P.M. | Concert |
| Redding SDA Church
2828 Eureka Way
Redding, CA 96001-0221
(530) 243-1461 | | | |

April 2008

- | | | | |
|--|----------|------------|----------------|
| 5 | Saturday | 10:45 A.M. | Concert |
| Fairfield Community SDA Church
1101 E. Tabor Street
Fairfield, CA 94533-8011
(707) 426-6720 | | | |
| | Saturday | 6:00 P.M. | Concert |
| Lodi-Fairmont SDA Church
730 S. Fairmont Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240-4615
(209) 334-1844 | | | |



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