

CE NewsNotes



Summer 2021 • Vol 40 The Ministry and Activities of **CHRISTIAN EDITION**, A Men's Chorus



Making Music Again

By Michael Spencer,
Director/Accompanist



On March 8, 2020, Christian Edition flew home from singing for our Maranatha friends in Chattanooga, Tennessee. As we parted company, going our separate ways from the airport, we didn't realize that it would be nearly a year before we'd be singing together again. The

pandemic lockdowns began less than a week later, and while we met for organizational purposes a couple of times, it wouldn't be until 2021 when we'd actually sing together again. During that time Calvin revealed his difficult decision to step away from traveling with the group due to his

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Director's Message

By Calvin Knipschild,
Founding Director



When our *CE NewsNotes* editor, Gayle Craig, asked me to share some of my memories from 40 years of directing and leading Christian Edition, it was like asking me to share who my favorite child is. What I will attempt to recall are the memories that really stand out, knowing, of course, I will forget many that are just as important.

Before I recount a few memories, I have to acknowledge that there would not have been a Christian Edition if my brother, Conrad, had not pushed me to start another musical group. Conrad

had sung for me for ten years in my first group, The One Way Singers, and he wanted me to direct him again in a musical group. He came up to me after church one Sabbath asking that if he got some men together, would I lead them in a song for our pastor on his birthday, a day on which he was also preaching. Knowing I never had more than half a dozen men sing in my church choir, I told him yes, but he had to have at least 16 men. He smiled and said, "Follow me." He led me back to the Dorcas room where exactly 16 men were gathered ready to sing. I now realize that it was not my brother

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Making Music Again, *cont. from page 1*

health. Please keep him in your prayers. As the group moved forward, we faced many of the complex issues regarding COVID-19 and singing.

An initial first rehearsal in February, entirely on Zoom, was predictably unsatisfying. The second rehearsal saw eight fully-vaccinated singers in our Riverside studio providing vocal support for the home "Zoomers." As more members gained full vaccination, we moved outside to the Azure Hills Adventist Church patio, where we could sing with wild abandon.



We finally met inside with most of the group on July 10 to work on our upcoming season's music.

We are optimistic about celebrating our 40th season of music in person over the coming months. We are grateful to be able to make music together, even as the future still contains

some uncertainties. We continue to pray for the requests that come in and ask that you keep our ministry's future in your prayers.

Director's Message, *cont. from page 1*

wanting me to direct the group of men, but the Lord calling a group of men to witness for Him through the power of music.

I also want to recognize many others who were instrumental in playing a part in the music ministry of Christian Edition. They are not listed in any particular order.

- The over 100 men who have sung with Christian Edition.
- The accompanists: Reba Knipschild, Linda Tapley, Debbi Hanson-Doyle, Mary Kay Becker, Fred Casey, and Michael Spencer.
- The wives and families that understood and supported the ministry of CE.
- The early years with Kay Larsen, Martie (Diaz) Logé, and David Logé helping to form the beginnings of the outreach ministry of Christian Edition.
- Jim Pedersen for obtaining permission to record songs used.
- Carole Derry-Bretsch for setting up the CE Facebook group, plus spending hundreds of hours promoting CE concerts week after week on social media.
- Nadine Robinson for providing sign language for "Daystar" performances.
- The behind-the-scenes support staff of Pat Knipschild, Kathy Miller, Susan Kunkle,

Tammy Rubio, Malisa Smith, Sonya Aceres, Brad Foster, Steve Clement, Sam Aleksic, Lori Spencer, Joyce and Richard Gutsche, Gayle Craig, and many, many more family members for supporting our ministry with thousands of volunteer hours.

- The donors who provided the offerings and funds to help Christian Edition travel to each location and make music recordings.
- The churches and congregations that welcomed us into their midst and allowed us to share God's love.

I saved the most valued influence in my life for last. It is my wife Linda. Without her strength, love, support, and belief in what Christian Edition was doing, I would probably have stopped directing this ministry much earlier. She sat by my side every summer helping me listen to thousands of pieces of music in order to find just the right song that would minister to those who heard it. The Christian Edition ministry owes so much to her. And so do I.

Below are some of my cherished and memorable activities from 40 years with Christian Edition. The following are not listed in any specific order.

- The Campmeetings across the country where the group sang.

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A Lesson in Christian Edition History, Part 1

By Paul Wilcox,
First Tenor



In 1981, Calvin had just completed 10 years of weekends and vacations traveling the United States, directing a mixed vocal group called The One Way Singers, and he was looking forward to relaxing and enjoying time with his family. However, his older brother, Conrad, who had sung with Calvin in The One Way Singers, had a different idea. He missed traveling and the opportunity to share God's love through music, so he hatched a plan to con his brother into directing another group. This time he decided that a male chorus would be enough different to intrigue his brother and get him to agree to direct another group. He contacted a number of his friends that he knew could sing and had them gather in the choir room of the Eagle Rock Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church in Los Angeles, CA, after church one Sabbath. Then, following the service, he talked to his brother, Calvin, who was the minister of music at the time, and asked him if he would be willing to direct a men's chorus as a birthday gift for the pastor, Jim Brown, who loved men's chorus music. Calvin was very skeptical that enough men could be rounded up for a men's chorus, since he was lucky to get five or six guys to sing in the choir. But he agreed to do it if, and only if, Conrad would get at least 16 guys together. Conrad smugly led Calvin to the choir room and introduced him to a group of exactly 16 men! Calvin was dumbfounded, but since he had agreed to direct the group under this condition, he proceeded to choose a song

and set up a rehearsal schedule. However, this was not the end of the scheme. In order to keep the birthday gift a secret, rehearsals were scheduled on Friday evenings when the pastor would not be in his office. When the designated day arrived, the name in the bulletin for special music was listed as Nivlac Dlihcspink (which is Calvin Knipschild spelled backwards). When the time came for special music, Pastor Brown looked around and then over at Calvin to see if he knew who this person was. Calvin shrugged so Pastor Brown stood up to begin his sermon. At that moment, 16 men stood up from the audience and proceeded to the stage where they surrounded the pastor at the podium and sang "Nearer, Still Nearer." Pastor Brown was thrilled and insisted that Calvin have the men's chorus sing for church once a quarter. Calvin grudgingly agreed to do it, but soon the chorus was invited to sing at other churches in the area, and thus the Eagle Rock Men's Chorus was born. During the first year or so, they were accompanied by Linda Tapley and Reba Knipschild, Calvin's mother. In 1982 Debbi Hanson-Doyle became the permanent accompanist.



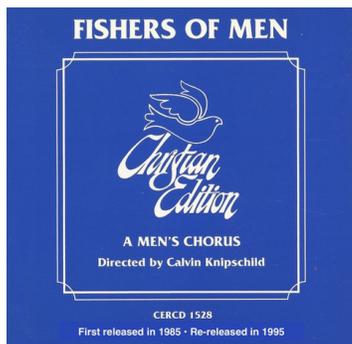
Back row, left to right: Mark Utter, Steve Carrizosa, Conrad Knipschild, LaMarr Proffitt, Alex Brown, James Lago, Thom Harder, Doug Clark, Calvin Knipschild.
Front row, left to right: John Vigil, Josh Mendoza, Don Phillips, George Swanson, Paul Wilcox, Fed Adlawan, Franklin Po.
(Not pictured: Bruce Powers)

From this humble beginning, God continued to bless the fellowship and ministry of the group. Calvin's philosophy that each song was a witness and should be sung to lead others to Jesus, had an even greater impact than his outstanding, God-given talent as a director. In addition to singing for other area churches, the Eagle Rock Men's Chorus was invited to sing for the 1983 Annual Music Christmas Concert at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown Los Angeles. The event was televised and soon men from

other churches joined the group and the decision was made to change the name of the group to be more inclusive. Members of the group were asked to submit suggestions for a new name and after a couple of weeks of throwing around various names, it was decided to adopt the name Christian Edition (CE). Sonny Ines (bass), who was the art teacher at Glendale Adventist Academy as well as Calvin's best friend, volunteered to design a logo for the new name. His expertise at graphic design was utilized for all of CE's subsequent program bulletins and recordings until his untimely death in 2006. Christian Edition again participated in the Annual Music Christmas Concert at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in 1984.



In 1985, Christian Edition was invited to take part in one of the early McDonald's Gospelfest events held at the Wiltern Theatre in Los Angeles, where they won second place in the competition for gospel music groups. That same year, CE was invited to sing at the General Conference Session of the Seventh-day

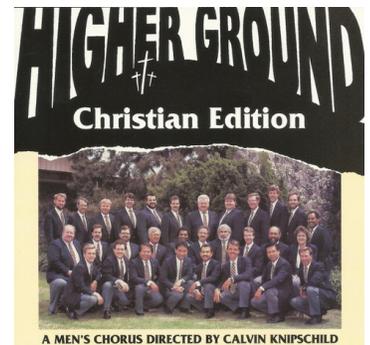


Adventist worldwide church held in New Orleans, LA, in the Superdome. They sang "Fishers of Men," a song that had been arranged especially for them by Jim Teel, who was a musician for the *Voice*

of Prophecy (VOP) radio broadcast. Later that year, Mary Kay Becker became the accompanist and CE ended the year by making their first recording with "Fishers of Men" as the title song. It was released in both cassette and 12" vinyl LP record format.

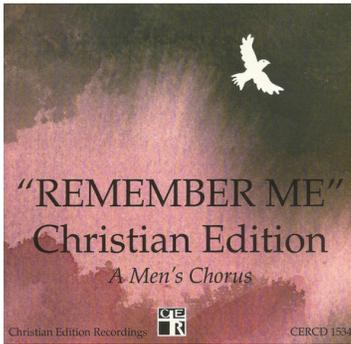
The hymnistic style of music used by Christian Edition was becoming well-known and they traveled throughout California and even to Las Vegas to present their music in various churches and other venues. CE began to make the prayer ministry that was so important

to them a part of their regular concerts. In 1986, CE was invited to participate in Festival Octavia in Loma Linda, CA, which was a series of Sabbath afternoon concerts held in the Loma Linda University SDA Church. At some point around this time, Arvella Schuller heard about CE and invited them to sing at the Crystal Cathedral, which they did once a year for eight consecutive years. In the summer of 1987, CE sang at the Central California Conference of SDAs for their annual campmeeting in Soquel, CA, and for a special program at the Voice of Prophecy headquarters in Thousand Oaks, CA. Christian Edition was well-known to VOP friends, since CE songs were being aired during their radio broadcasts. CE was also being featured on the *It Is Written* television program, and radio stations were playing songs from *Fishers of Men* and were clamoring for more. So, fund-raising, including a luau, commenced for a second album. CE chose Michael Spencer's special arrangement of "Higher Ground" as the title song of this new album, which was released in 1988 in cassette and 12" vinyl LP record format.



Christian Edition continued to schedule concerts about one weekend a month. They traveled mostly in Southern California but usually included a spring tour to Central and/or Northern California. The group's first compact disc (CD), *The Celebrated Sounds of Christian Edition*, was produced in 1990 by combining their first two albums. Each album has since been released separately but this was CE's first foray into the CD format. Also in 1990, they were invited to be back-up singers for Andy Williams' Christmas concert at the Wiltern Theatre. A Ten-Year Reunion Concert, held in the auditorium at Glendale High School in Glendale, CA, was the highlight of 1991.

In 1992, Fred Casey stepped up from singing second tenor to become the next accompanist when Mary Kay was expecting a baby and could no longer travel with the group. A third album,



Remember Me, was also released in 1992. Piano accompaniment was used exclusively on this release rather than the orchestrations featured on the first two albums.

Remember Me was released in both cassette and CD formats. About this time, the decision was made to redesign Christian Edition's logo to make it look more professional and up to date, in order to solicit support from corporate sponsors. The color teal was chosen to emphasize the modern look.

1993 found Christian Edition making ambitious plans for a ten-day tour on the east coast. The tour included Washington, DC, Potomac Campmeeting, Chesapeake Bay Campmeeting and a benefit concert to help the members of the Frederick SDA Church in Maryland restore their sanctuary, which had been devastated by fire. CE also spent a weekend in Arizona.

In March of 1994, Christian Edition experienced snow for the first time on a concert tour as they crowded sixteen concerts into a ten-day trip through Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. God's protection and power were evident throughout the busy tour. In the fall, CE was featured on *Hands Across the World*, which was part of the PlusLine Expo '94 held at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott hotel. The program was broadcast live via the Adventist Communication



Network and featured a variety of outreach projects interspersed with music provided by several local groups.

Christian Edition also began work on *Bound for the Kingdom*, its fourth



album, which was released in 1995 in both cassette and CD formats. In spite of spending far too much time in airports due to canceled flights, CE enjoyed a delightful tour to Colorado in the spring of 1995. The friendly reception more than made up for the frustrating travel issues. A warm welcome in both weather and hospitality characterized the August 1995 tour to Georgia and Tennessee. CE sang to over 1,000 Christian educators in Gatlinburg, TN, and were also featured by the Atlanta Music Guild at a concert series held in the Cathedral at Chapel Hills.

In 1996, Christian Edition spent a wonderful weekend in Florida. While there, Calvin was reunited with his first voice teacher, John Thurber, who had a major impact on Calvin's life and encouraged him to see music as a ministry. 1996 also included tours to Northern California and the Pacific Northwest and CE celebrated its 15th anniversary with a concert at the Hall of Liberty in Forest Lawn - Hollywood Hills.

Work also began on a fifth album, *Daystar*, which was released in 1997 in both cassette and CD formats.



1997 saw Christian Edition tour Colorado again where they sang for the chapel service at Focus on the Family world headquarters in Colorado Springs. On this tour they experienced an incredible evidence of God's protection while traveling. They were coming in for a landing at Denver International Airport and were just seconds from touchdown when the plane suddenly and unexpectedly made a sharp roll counterclockwise with the wing nearly perpendicular to and only a couple of feet off the ground. Miraculously, the pilot was able to correct the roll and they immediately touched down. One of the members, Al Perry (baritone), who was a pilot, was white-knuckled and blanch-faced and said, "There is no way a pilot could have made that correction that quickly." Everyone was very sober, thankful, and reflective as they

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Sharing 40 Years of Favorite Songs

For this 40th Anniversary newsletter, it was pretty evident that we did not have any past concerts to report on because the most recent concert prior to COVID-19 was nearly 18 months ago. So, our accompanist, Michael Spencer, gave an assignment to the singers and support staff – tell us your favorite CE song, and why. Following is a compilation of how the members responded.

Calvin Knipschild - Director

One of our songs that had a profound impact on me was “Bow the Knee.” While on tour in Kentucky in 2004, Michael and Lori Spencer found out that their son, Justin, had died in a tragic accident while on a mission trip in Peru. Michael and Lori flew home immediately, and we didn’t see Michael for several weeks. But on our next scheduled concert weekend, Michael was there to play. During the song “Bow the Knee,” I looked over at Michael and saw tears streaming down his face onto the piano keys while he played. That scene has forever been an inspiration to me whenever we perform “Bow the Knee.” Earlier, in 2002 we sang for Dr. James Dobson in Colorado at Focus on the Family. We were asked to perform the worship service for their employees. The guest speaker was Lisa Beamer. We were all standing behind the stage waiting to go on. We began singing “Bow the Knee” as a warm up, but didn’t know the entire song yet. While we were singing, Lisa Beamer heard us and started crying. She asked us to perform the song at the end of her talk, but we weren’t able to that day because we hadn’t memorized it all yet. She came over and said the song was so moving because it gave meaning to what she was going through after losing her husband the year before. During the 9/11 attacks, Todd Beamer was the one who said “Let’s roll” while flying on a hijacked plane that then crashed near Pittsburgh. The song helped her to accept that sometimes we just don’t know or understand the reason why some things happen.

Another favorite song is “Jerusalem.” I heard the song first performed by The Hoppers. I immediately fell in love with it and wanted it to

be a Christian Edition song. I took it to Michael and played it for him. But, Michael said we didn’t have drums which was the driving force of the song. For several years Michael did not want to work on the song because he felt he couldn’t make it work. He surprised me one night at rehearsal by playing the drum part on the piano and asked what I thought. I told him I love it, it worked, and so he went on to finish the arrangement. It turned out to be one of our most requested songs. I later found out from Michael that the song was difficult to perform, especially at the end of the program when his hands would cramp up and his fingers would often bleed. I moved it up to the first half of the program after that, so he would be able to play it more easily. The message of “Jerusalem” is still one of my favorite messages in song.

While we were on tour in North Carolina one of our concerts was cancelled. At the last minute, the chaplain who had heard us sing earlier in the tour asked if we would come to a women’s correctional facility. He rushed through all the paperwork in two days getting permission for 21 guys to go to a women’s prison and put on a program. We were told to expect 12-15 prisoners to show up to a short worship service. But when we walked into the chapel, it was packed with about 50 women. Our program was to be a half hour long. During the program we sang the song “Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone,” and every one of the women stood up during that song and broke imaginary chains above their heads. We were told they would leave when the lunch bell rang, but instead they all stayed with the exception of a couple who had to serve lunch. The program went on for nearly an hour, and they missed their lunch that day to stay and talk and pray with our members.

Nadine Robinson came to a Christian Edition rehearsal one Friday night as a guest of one of the CE family members. During the song “Daystar” I noticed the guys looking away from me (which they are not supposed to do) and wiping tears from their eyes. I realized she was signing the song as they sang. From that point

on Nadine performed “Daystar” with us as often as she was able, and continued to do so even when she was confined to a wheelchair and on a respirator. Her adoptive parents, Fred and Kathy Miller, were faithful to bring her as often as her health would permit. One of her last performances with CE was at the Loma Linda University Church. At the end of the program people came down front to talk to her. I noticed a young man standing off to the side. He waited until everyone was done talking, then shared with her that he was intending to end his life that night, but for some reason he was compelled to come to the program instead. He told her, “If God can use you witnessing from a wheelchair, then he must have a purpose for me.”

Michael Spencer - Accompanist

Seventeen years ago, on a Wednesday morning in Paducah, Kentucky, my wife, Lori, and I received news over breakfast that our 17-year-old son, Justin, had died in a tragic accident on his mission trip to Peru. In the weeks, months, and years that followed, it seemed like “Bow the Knee” had been written just for us. As a great deal of time went on, I realized slowly that the song was not, in point of fact, just for us, but for everyone who faces cruelly inexplicable circumstances that require understanding beyond that granted to humanity. Like many other members, it’s hard for me to choose, but “Midnight Cry” is also very close to my heart for that same reason.

Henry Murray - First Tenor

Singing with CE for over 20 years and engaging in learning a long list of songs, I had the privilege of realizing the powerful messages embedded in these beautifully worded songs. They minister to many hearts across the world stage and people have been blessed to hear us sing them.

One of my many favorites from these songs is “It is Well With My Soul.” I always liked the words of the song way before singing it with CE. However, the impact of the song did not reach me quite as effectively and powerfully until the first time I heard it being rehearsed when one of our past bass members, Conrad Knipschild,

started to narrate a story about the author of the song. While the group hummed the tune of the song, I was intrigued as Conrad’s bass voice thundered the touching and heartrending story of Horatio G. Spafford, a Presbyterian layman from Chicago who had a very successful legal practice and was invested heavily along Lake Michigan’s shoreline. During the great Chicago Fire of 1871, he lost everything in one fell swoop. Just before this disaster, he lost his beloved son. If that wasn’t bad enough, the worst was yet to come. Wanting a vacation for his wife and four daughters in Great Britain, he sent them ahead on a planned trip, staying behind due to business delays. The vessel his family was on encountered an accident and sank in 12 minutes. Days later, Mrs. Spafford cabled Mr. Spafford these two devastating words, “Saved alone.”

At this point, I could hardly sing further as I had never heard this heartrending story before. My heart sank in disbelief, then it broke me emotionally after we started to sing the words of the song. I now understood what this brave, God-fearing man had written. It seems at this point he should be so angry or disappointed and harbor bitter reasons to pen a completely different set of words, but instead he wrote these humbling words, “When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, It is well with my soul.” I couldn’t believe the words of this song came from a man who had been through so much tragedy. But it didn’t take long for me to comprehend that with a strong faith and trust in God, one can be brought to this level of peace, to proclaim to the world, no matter what, that all is well with my soul.

I was immediately reminded of what Job said, during the time of his tragedies, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” (Job 13:15) I never viewed that song the same way again. It has now become the theme of my outlook on life, as well as my take on earthly possessions, acknowledging that the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Also, “the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof...” Therefore, I understand more clearly the importance for me to trust God completely and surrender my all.

Rob Peterson - First Tenor

As others have said it is impossible to choose one song. Circumstances change and God speaks through different songs to get us through. One phrase that always hits me every time I sing it is from "Bow the Knee." The phrase "Don't forget we live by FAITH and not by sight" reminds me that no matter what is going on in my life today, God is constant. All he asks us to do is to believe in Him. Have faith in His faithfulness. In that single phrase God touches my heart every time.

Francis Recalde - First Tenor

It is hard to pick just one song. I could very easily have my own "made to order" Please Sing album of favorites. However, I would say that "Bow the Knee" and trusting the one who holds the key to eternity and the promise of "When the Kingdom Comes" are two powerful songs that never fail to remind me that our troubled earthly life is but temporary, for love will make a way!

Paul Wilcox - First Tenor

I think my favorite song is "It Is Well with My Soul." The words of the song are a reminder that no matter what we are experiencing, whether our lives are trouble-free or full of pain and suffering, like Horatio Spafford says, it can be well with our souls. I also especially loved Conrad's rendition of the story behind the song, which he performed with such feeling and perfect timing.

Fred Miller - Second Tenor

"We'll Cast Our Crowns at His Feet" makes me think of what heaven is going to be like! The song also reminds me that the crown we'll get is not because of anything we do to deserve it, but because of what Jesus did. And that merits our unending praise.

Dick Sample - Second Tenor

My favorite song is "Jerusalem." It was the first new song introduced after I joined Christian Edition and the middle section from "The Holy City" stirs deep emotions from my childhood. Every time we sing it, I cry tears of joy as those happy memories resurface.

Dennis Shogren - Second Tenor

Picking a favorite Christian Edition song is like choosing your favorite grandchild. I have two. My first "most favorite song" is "Jerusalem." When I was young, approximately pre-teen through early adulthood, I accompanied my father when he sang for church services in Oregon from Corvallis to Roseburg. Dad had an amazing tenor voice! One of the songs Dad sang was "The Holy City." (Yes, I could actually play it in those days.) So, every time we sing "Jerusalem," those memories come flooding back to me when we hit the bridge section. Every single time! My dad is 90 and doesn't sing solos any more, but I still hear him in my head when we sing "Jerusalem." My second "most favorite song" is "Reason Enough." The message speaks directly to my heart, especially the phrase "When I took Your grace for granted, I was granted even more." There is no phrase ever written that describes my walk better than that. Simple words, a simple melody and profound theology. His grace has conquered my hopelessness. Forever.

Mickey Smith - Second Tenor

I like the song "Ten Thousand Angels" because it speaks to the fact Jesus could have stopped it all and called the angels to intercede, but He chose to die for our sins. In addition, I like that the man who wrote the song, Ray Overholt, said that the song he wrote led him to the Savior and he became a Christian.

Darryl Wheeler - Second Tenor

While it is hard to pick just one, I think the one song that means the most to me is "God Wants to Hear You Sing." When things are not going well in my life this song really picks me up!! I can remember trying to choke through those words and notes with tears running down my cheeks yet making it through and feeling better by the end. When we sing through the tough times, I think we open heaven for more blessings.

Chris Klebba - Baritone

We were asked to put ink to paper and tell our favorite Christian Edition song. "Why?" Because, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "It is Well With My Soul" knowing "Jesus Paid it

All." "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" and look forward to the "Midnight Cry," a land of "No More Night," where I can "Bow the Knee" and know "My Heart's Desire" has come true. That pretty much sums up my favorite(s)!

David Mitchell - Baritone

"Bow the Knee" is such a beautiful musical reminder of our need to daily seek Him. Plus, Calvin and I regularly must fight back tears as we share it with those we hope to bless. I am so grateful that the Lord created tear ducts!

Chris Sheridan - Baritone

While there are so many CE songs that touch me and cause me to tear up, "Bow the Knee," captures the calm that God's love has brought Diane and me. "When you don't understand the purpose of His plan" and "lifting our eyes to heaven" deliver the comfort that things will work out by trusting in Him.

Keith Smith - Baritone

"Be Ye Holy" was the song I heard as I was coming out of another men's chorus situation. When I heard that song from Christian Edition for the first time, I was immediately struck by the reverence and harmony of it. I said to myself, "Who is that singing? I would really like to be part of a chorus like that!" That song ALWAYS reminds me of what the ministry of CE means.

Craig Vendouris - Baritone

My favorite CE song is "We'll Cast Our Crowns at His Feet." It speaks to an incredible moment after all the years of waiting, when we have finally reached heaven and received our new name and a crown of glory. But then we cast the crown at the feet of Jesus as we feel unworthy of the honor. The words are amazing and tell of such a great moment in time...

*our joy complete, in His presence sweet
eternity's greatest privilege will be
casting our crowns at His feet.*

Gary Gifford - Bass

I like "Hide Me Behind the Cross" because the song reminds me that when people look at me

with my many faults and sins, my desire is for them to see the cross and the righteousness it provides. It provides for me to not be seen, but to be hidden behind the cross. Sorry, I couldn't pick just one, so my second favorite is "Jesus Paid it All." This song reminds me that there is nothing I can do to earn, purchase, or work my way to salvation because Jesus paid it all!

Walter Nelson - Bass

Some 25 years ago one of my members asked a friend from another denomination to sing for one of our church programs and he sang "The Midnight Cry." He had a marvelous baritone voice and excellent vocal control, but what moved me beyond that was the message of that beautiful and hopeful song. I was so moved by it that I invited him to sing it as our special guest for our island-wide convocation on Oahu. Since then, it grows in my appreciation every time I hear it sung, and no one sings it with more passion and power or hope and expectation than CE! It epitomizes the message of the blessed hope and the focus of our faith. It thrills us with all the victories, joys and promises of the second coming of Christ, and reminds us every time we sing it that this glorious event is closer than it was the last time it was sung. It is unquestionably one of my favorites.

Patrick Wolfe - Bass

Early on in my time with Christian Edition, I remember when I was learning the song "Gentle Like You." We were in Phoenix and short on basses, so I felt it was important to learn it well. I rehearsed it over and over in my room, and the words became very meaningful to me during this concentrated practice. God wants us to be humble and to be like Jesus so he can love others through us. He promises to help us in life through our dark times. When we love others like God loves us, people can know God as their hope and strength.

Sam Aleksic - Chief Financial Officer

My favorite song is "Reason Enough." The Spanish guitar and the words really speak to me. "You have walked me through the valley of the shadows dark and low." Also, "You have shown

me endless mercy" when I did not deserve them. God has shown me such abundant mercy that there is no way I can deny or not believe in Him.

Gayle Craig - CE NewsNotes Editor/Photos

I was at the Eagle Rock Church 40 years ago when the men sang their first song, and have followed CE's ministry of nearly 200 songs since then. It is very difficult to choose a favorite when so many of the songs have special meaning. But, I think my three favorites that I could listen to over and over again are "Bow the Knee," "Daystar," and "Jerusalem." "Bow the Knee" speaks to me because there are so many things that happen in life that we won't understand until we get to Heaven. "Daystar" has the most beautiful melody, but even more it tells me that God is always with me and that I can be a witness for Him. And, finally, "Jerusalem" is such a powerful song and was often the conclusion of our concerts. But, even more so, the words are part of my daily prayers to "walk God's streets that are golden and to run where the angels have trod."

Malisa Smith - Tour CD Sales

When you have been a support staff member for as long as I have, it is hard to come up with a favorite song out of the hundreds Christian Edition has sung over the years. However, I would have to say that my very favorite song is the "Daystar" duet sung by Rob Peterson and Paul Wilcox, especially in prior years when Nadine Robinson used to do sign language for it during the concerts. And then "Jerusalem," "No More Night," and "Midnight Cry" are right up there at the top of my favorites list.

Lori Spencer - Concert Site Assistant

Three songs go hand in hand for me: "Bow the Knee," "God Wants to Hear You Sing," and "Midnight Cry." During spring break of 2004 my children, Justin and Jillian, both went on a school mission trip to Peru while Michael and I were on the road with Christian Edition in Kentucky. Jillian came home, but Justin did not. When bowing the knee out of desperation I am reminded that God wants to hear me sing no matter how high the waves crashing around me

are. I can hardly wait for the day when Justin, along with the rest of us, will finally be going home at the sound of the "Midnight Cry!"

Director's Message, cont. from page 2

- The General Conference sessions every five years where we could meet our fans from around the world.
- Reading the thousands of prayer requests we received and praying for each person.
- Sitting on the back row of the Eagle Rock Church talking with HMS Richards Jr. and sharing ministry outreach ideas.
- The Alaska and Caribbean cruises CE sponsored, but especially getting to hear Karl Haffner speak every day.
- Recording the Family Reunion videos and singing on stage with so many icons of Christian music and sharing stories with them.
- Performing with Del Delker, Sandi Patty, Ralph Carmichael, and Steve Green.
- Having 3ABN, LLBN, *Family Radio* and *Safe TV* promoting our ministry around the world.
- Performing at Mt. Hermon Christian Conference Center for seven years.
- Performing at the Crystal Cathedral for eight years.
- Being invited to perform at St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Church in Rancho Cucamonga.
- Bruce Powers' mother coordinating the opportunity for CE to perform at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

I know I am forgetting so many other memorable events, but the point I want to make is that all these events centered around individuals and that is what the ministry of Christian Edition is all about. In the next issue of *CE NewsNotes*, I will be sharing memorable moments along with other members of the group.

Now as I step down from traveling with Christian Edition, I pass the reins on to its new director, Michael Spencer. And I ask that you, the fans and supporters of this ministry, keep him and all the Christian Edition family in your prayers.

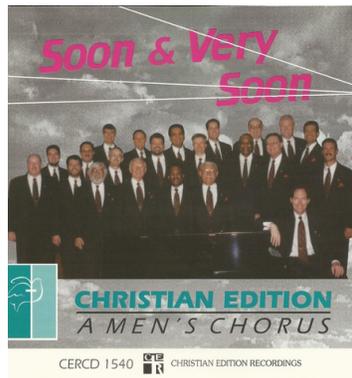
A Lesson in CE History, cont. from page 5

disembarked the plane. CE also saw a change of accompanist as Michael Spencer took over from Fred Casey, who was moving to Florida.

In 1998 Christian Edition was invited to sing for the National Day of Prayer in the Russell Senate Building and on the lawn in front of the White House as part of an east coast tour that summer. This year was also the first gathering of the Family Reunion musicians in Loma Linda, CA, sponsored by the *Voice of Prophecy* radio broadcast. CE was invited to participate in this video recording and the ministry was introduced to a whole new audience as a result.

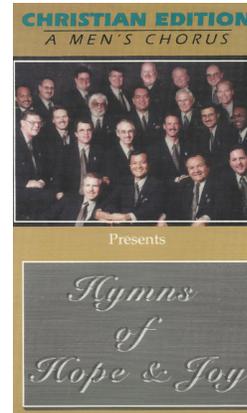
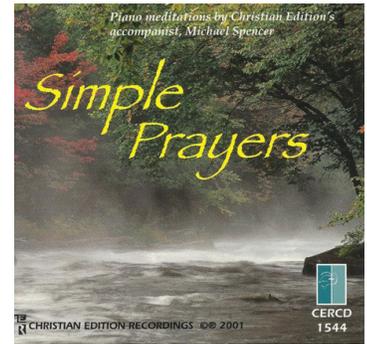
1999 was a busy year with another Family Reunion video recording, this time at the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga, TN, which produced three videos. Christian Edition also sang for the Easter Sunrise Service at Mt. Rubidoux in Riverside, CA, traveled to Frankfort, IL, to tape some programs for Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and to Arkansas to sing for the Cowboy Campmeeting near Gentry, AR. In 1999, CE also received an Angel Award for a public service announcement they participated in for *Safe TV*.

In 2000, Christian Edition released its sixth album, *Soon & Very Soon*, again in cassette and CD formats. CE was also invited to perform in a "Millennium Concert" with Steve Green at the Loma Linda University SDA Church.



2001 found Christian Edition again on tour to 3ABN and the Cowboy Campmeeting. They also released their seventh album, *Kids of the Kingdom*, a children's album,

in cassette and CD formats, and their eighth album, *Simple Prayers*, an album of piano meditations by Michael Spencer, their accompanist, also in cassette and CD formats. *Hymns of Hope & Joy*, CE's first video, was also released in 2001 in VHS format



only. CE also participated in another Family Reunion videotaping at the Adventist Media Center located in Simi Valley, CA, honoring 55 years of music ministry by Del Delker, contralto and soloist for the *Voice of Prophecy* radio broadcast ministry. CE ended the year by celebrating its 20th anniversary with a reunion

concert at the Loma Linda University SDA Church. This concert featured quite a few former members who gathered from various corners of the US as well as one member from Singapore. Three former accompanists also participated. At the end of the intermission, Michael Spencer was scheduled to accompany the next song. But he had gone to the back of the auditorium to check on the video production crew and suddenly realized that he was supposed to be starting the intro to the next song. So he ran down the aisle, slipped into the piano seat and carried on as if nothing had happened. This was all caught on video and immortalized on CE's second video release, *The 20 Year Reunion Concert*.

Look for Part 2 of Christian Edition's history in the next issue of CE NewsNotes.



Calendar

CONCERT TIMES OR LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 GUIDELINES. PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM A CONCERT BEFORE TRAVELING LONG DISTANCES. (SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HAS BEEN ABBREVIATED TO SDA.)

AUGUST 2021

- 14 Saturday 11:15 A.M. Special Music**
Calimesa SDA Campmeeting
 391 Myrtlewood Drive
 Calimesa, CA 92320
 (909) 795-9741
- 14 Saturday 4:00 P.M. Concert**
Calimesa SDA Campmeeting
 (See above)
- 21 Saturday 9:00 / 11:30 A.M. Special Music**
Azure Hills SDA Church
 22633 Barton Road
 Grand Terrace, CA 92313
 (909) 825-8611
- 21 Saturday 4:00 P.M. Concert**
Azure Hills SDA Church
 (See above)

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 17 Friday 6:30 P.M. Concert**
Adventist Community Church of Vancouver
 9711 N.E. St. Johns Road
 Vancouver, WA 98665
 (360) 696-2511
- 18 Saturday 11:40 A.M. Concert**
Pleasant Valley SDA Church
 11125 S.E. 172nd Avenue
 Happy Valley, OR 97086
 (503) 648-2248
- 18 Saturday 7:00 P.M. Concert**
Sunnyside SDA Church
 10501 S.E. Market Street
 Portland, OR 97216
 (503) 252-8080

CE NewsNotes Newsletter

To receive our newsletter via email, please send your name, email address, and zip code to info@christianedition.com.

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40th Anniversary Concert Sunnyside SDA Church

On Sabbath September 18, 7:00 PM, at the Sunnyside SDA Church in Portland, Oregon, Christian Edition will present its 40th Anniversary worship service honoring our founding director, Calvin Knipschild. Though he is no longer traveling with the group, the group is traveling to him to celebrate 40 years of music ministry. Join us as we sing some old songs, some new songs, and share memories of our times together on this rich spiritual journey.

*Thank you
 for worshipping with us!*

CHRISTIAN EDITION MEN'S CHORUS

Founding Director
 Calvin Knipschild

First Tenors
 Weldon Allen
 Henry Murray
 Rob Peterson
 Francis Recalde
 Paul Wilcox

Second Tenors
 Fred Miller
 Russ Nelson
 Dick Sample
 Dennis Shogren
 Mickey Smith
 Darryl Wheeler

**Director /
 Accompanist**
 Michael Spencer

Baritones
 Chris Klebba
 David Mitchell
 Bruce Powers
 Chris Sheridan
 Keith Smith

Basses
 Leonard Fletcher
 Gary Gifford
 Gary Mattison
 Walt Nelson
 Patrick Wolfe

CE NewsNotes

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