

The Greatest Gift



It's been said that a three-fold cord is not easily broken. That saying could easily describe the close-knit, musical trio of Wayne Patterson, Krys Smith and Mike Biasin, professionally known as The Greatest Gift. Experiencing one concert with these sold-out believers leaves the listener changed. Whether it's the tight harmonies, the emotive performances or the captivating songs, it's hard to know, but what is clearly apparent is their love for the One of whom they sing. It's the reason why this threesome has been recognized time and time again for

excellence in Gospel music. After releasing five albums, *Come Into His Presence*, *Fishers of Men*, *Let Us Rejoice Hymns 4 Him*, and *Closer than Ever*, they have received well over 200 awards for their music ministry. Clearly, The Greatest Gift is well on their way to becoming a household name.

Started by Pastor Wayne Patterson, the group's leader, lead vocalist and primary songwriter, and Mike Biasin, the keyboardist and vocalist, The Greatest Gift began over 20 years ago singing songs of praise in their home state of Maine. With the addition of female vocalist and flutist Krys Smith several years ago, doors began to open up for the The Greatest Gift.

After the release of the debut project, *Come Into His Presence*, and its follow up, *Fishers of Men*, their popularity grew and they began touring the East Coast. For their recordings, they've tapped some of Nashville's top musicians including Jim Riley (Rascal Flatts), David Northrop (The Oak Ridge Boys), Violinist Jenée Fleanor (Blake Shelton, Martina McBride), and producers Bill Watson of Nashville Traxx and Bob Catalano of Bobcat Studios. The CD's single, "The Lighthouse", caught the attention of fans with its moving melody and storyline. In summer of 2017, the song peaked at the top spot on the Southern Gospel Times Top 40 fan-based chart staying at #1 for 3 weeks in a row. This second CD positioned them as "ones to watch" in the industry.

Their third musical offering, *Let Us Rejoice*, released in 2017. Dubbed a praise and worship and evangelistic record, it was one of the trio's most intimate projects. Aimed at the lost, the goal of the record was to share the message of salvation. Now the group has released their fourth project, *Hymns 4 Him* and it picks up where *Let Us Rejoice* left off. At the request of audiences around the country, The Greatest Gift decided to record some of the church's favorite hymns including "Because He Lives", "How Great Thou Art" and "Just A Closer Walk With Thee". Taking classics and weaving their signature sound around these beautifully-penned tunes further solidified them as a force to be reckoned with. *Hymns 4 Him* precedes their next release, *Closer Than Ever*, scheduled to drop in early 2019.

The Greatest Gift is one of the busiest groups in Christian music. Last year alone, they performed almost 200 shows. The combination of a jam-packed touring schedule and an impactful music ministry has caught the attention of the Christian music industry. One of the most celebrated acts in

the sacred genre, in 2017 and 2018 alone, the trio netted dozens of awards. In March 2017 and March 2018, The Greatest Gift took home 33 awards at the North American Country Music Association International including #1 Video of the Year (for "The Lighthouse"), Gospel Band of the Year, Gospel Vocal Group of the Year, Gospel Song of the Year (for "Lay Down Like a Lamb"), Most Promising Video of the Year, Most Promising Album of the Year (for *Let Us Rejoice*) and Instrumentalist of the Year. As individuals, they were recognized as well; Mike won Instrumentalist of the Year, Wayne won Gospel Male Vocalist of the Year and Krys came in third for Gospel Female Vocalist of the Year.

Also in 2017, they walked away with Pine Tree State Country Music Association and Down East Country Music Association Awards for Gospel Vocal Group, Gospel Band, Gospel Song of the Year and more. That same year, they won the Akademia Music Award for #1 Christian/Gospel Song of the Month for four months in a row. In 2018, they returned to the Down East Country Music Association and took home 15 awards including Adult New Gospel Vocal Group of the Year, Most Promising Vocal Group and Most Appropriately Dressed Vocal Group. Wayne Patterson was honored as Adult New Gospel Male Vocalist of the Year, Adult New Gospel Male Entertainer of the Year and Most Appropriately Dressed Male Entertainer. Mike Biasin was a standout receiving an award for Rising Star Adult Traditional Gospel Instrumentalist and Krys Smith was recognized as the Adult Traditional Gospel Female Vocalist of the Year and Adult Traditional Gospel Female Entertainer of the Year. Also in 2017 and 2018, they reached millions of souls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through several nationwide television appearances. Not one to rest on their laurels, The Greatest Gift is prepping the release of their first live action music video in 2018.

What The Greatest Gift has accomplished has far exceeded any dreams any of them had. Wayne Patterson says, "When the Lord is behind something, it's like a locomotion that can't be stopped! Our excitement is still as if it were the first day we started. We can't wait to see what the Lord has next."

Written by Andrea Williams of Tehillah Enterprises