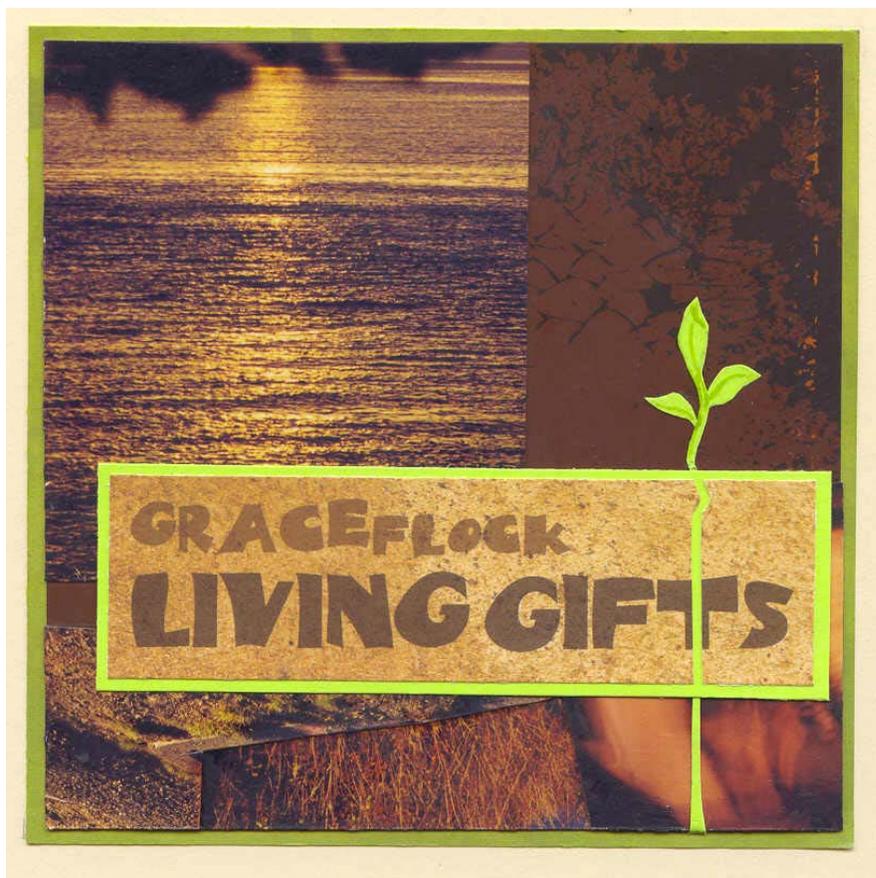


Living Gifts from the Inside

GraceFlock

Lyrics, Contributing Artists, and Composer
Comments for the "Living Gifts" CD by GraceFlock



Watch

And the nations will be fearful seeing all these things take place.
Roaring seas and rumbling mountains; shaken pow'rs of earth and space.
Watch for signs in the sun and moon. Watch and see the Branch of David come full bloom!

**Watch, children, wait! For the Kingdom of our Lord is near.
Take heed, children, hark! If your faith is firm you need not fear.
Look up, children, hush! And see the Son of Righteousness appear.**

Revel in the new horizon. Put away your mortal cares.
Anticipation is all around us. Earth is wrapped in heav'n's affairs.
Spring is coming very soon, and we will see the Branch of David come full bloom! **(Chorus)**

Behold the days are drawing near for the houses of Judah and Israel; therefore **(Chorus)**
The King of Kings is coming soon. The glorious Branch of David comes full bloom!

© 1984 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Vocals: Penny Kahley, Christie Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz
Electric Guitar: Frank Trembley
Bass: Shane Beard
Piano: Christie Pederson
Drums and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfusz

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)

Watch is an anthem used in the advent season to herald the coming of the Messiah, written in 1984 at the University Lutheran Chapel in Norman, OK. The words are based on Luke 21:25 and Jeremiah 33:14-16. In Luke, Christ tells his disciples, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring." Although it sounds foreboding, the text also brings great promise when Christ says, "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." The Jeremiah text says, "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land."

There are two descant phrases by the soprano which draw upon these texts and are designed to be a voice calling in the distance, "There shall come forth a branch from Jesse's root filled with the spirit." and "And his delight shall be in his obedient faith in the Lord." Listen for that voice in the song and in your life!

Sacrifice

Father, I confess to you all my sins today.
My thoughts too often dwell apart from your holy way.
My words don't proclaim your love or sing of you with praise.
My deeds don't profess a life of light, truth, and grace.

Sacrifice. My Lord paid the price. Sacrifice. Paid for my sins. Sacrifice.

Father, please forgive my sins; accept this humble plea.
Forgive me for the way I've sinned by thought, word, and deed.
Thank you for the precious gift of peace; our Lord, the Christ.
The blessed one who gave himself as a sacrifice. **(Chorus)**

My thoughts will live in you each day. My words will sing to you in praise.
My deeds will grow within your grace. For I know that my redeemer lives! **(Chorus)**

© 2005 by Gary A. Pederson

Lead Vocal: Gary Pederson
Vocals: Christie Pederson, Kathy and Lans Rothfus
Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson
Electric Guitar: James Callison
Bass: Del Boland
Drums and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfus
Violin: Karla Dietmeyer

Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)

Sacrifice is based on the traditional confession and forgiveness that I grew up with as found in the 1958 Service Book and Hymnal (...we have sinned against thee by thought, word, and deed) and 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (...we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed). It is so easy to make this statement of confession each Sunday in church without really comprehending what we are stating. What thoughts, what words, and what deeds are we confessing? In rattling off these three words, do we truly grasp the extent of our sins and how great a price was paid for forgiveness of these sins? The first verse elaborates in more detail our failings in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We pray for forgiveness to God, as Jesus was the blessed sacrifice that paid the price for our sins. And because we know that He lives, our thoughts, words, and deeds will live and grow in God!

The violin solo was written for Karla Dietmeyer who builds the movement within the song from confession and forgiveness to action as we know that our Redeemer lives.

From the Inside/A Flame

"This people honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.
In vain do they worship me with human-made priorities."

O, Lord, hold us, mold us from the inside. Wake us, shake us from the inside.
(Mend us, tend us, make us, take us, wake us, shake us from the inside.)
O Father, sanctify our hearts. O Father, sanctify our hearts.

For in the daily struggle for our subsistence we get consumed in our persistence
And these little lights we shine may not be the lights of your design.
May the works of our hands and the thoughts of our minds
Be true reflections of love you want us to shine. **(Chorus)**

Like a blanket of flowers on a stone-strewn field,
Good deeds can hide stone hearts like a shield.
The purpose in all we do must come from a heart with love in view.
Let your Son show the way unto pure, loving hearts.
Our hearts are restless until they rest in you. **(Chorus)**

A fire that lights no pathway home or warms no lonely, shivering bone
Is just a flame in name alone.

© 1997 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Lead Vocal: James Callison, Lans Rothfusz

Vocals: Gary Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz

Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson, Lans Rothfusz, Frank Trembley (arpeggios and fills)

Bass: Del Boland

Drums and Organ: Lans Rothfusz

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)

From the Inside/A Flame is a medley of two songs that confront the issue of hypocrisy among those who profess to love God. It's a tough message to hear, but it is Christ who spoke it first, in Mark 7:5-8: "So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, 'Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?' He replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.'"

In *From the Inside*, James Callison sings these paraphrased words of God as written by Isaiah. I respond with the plea from all of us hypocritical sinners for redemption and renewal. *A Flame* contains one of my favorite phrases in any song I've written. In fact, the phrase IS the song and, in my opinion, says it all! Professing to be a Christian without actively loving (serving) others is like being a flame with no heat or light. Don't be a flame in name alone! The song was written and first performed in the summer of 1997 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Merced, CA.

Eyes of Hope

(Dedicated to Bethel Lutheran Church, Biloxi, MS, and all affected by Hurricane Katrina)

Lord, life is shown in the eyes of your people. A port to view within the soul.
Eyes that speak with no sound forthcoming, knowing yet not being told,
Feeling with no hand to hold.

**Let us see eyes of peace, eyes of wonder, eyes of joy, eyes of surprise.
Let us see eyes of hurt, eyes of forgiveness, eyes of pain, and eyes of love.
But never again, Lord; this I pray, never again let us see eyes without hope.**

Tragedy is said to bring the best out. Said to bring focus to life's quest.
But look in the eyes, the eyes of your people. Lord, give us hope, give us rest.
Lord, give us hope that you know best! **(Chorus)**

Lord, bring back; please bring back, bring back the eyes of hope.

© 2005 by Gary A. Pederson

Lead Vocal: Gary Pederson

Vocals: Miriam and David Beecher; Cheryl, Laura, Karl, and Karla Dietmeyer; Penny and Sara Kahley; Christie Pederson; Kathy, Lans, and Preston Rothfusz; Ginnie Weber

Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson

Bass: Del Boland

Percussion and Synthesizer Strings: Lans Rothfusz

Recorder: Kathy Rothfusz

Recorder solo written/arranged by Lans Rothfusz.

Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)

In late September 2005, a group of volunteers from Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran traveled to Bethel Lutheran Church, Biloxi, MS to help with disaster recovery after Hurricane Katrina. Though the devastation was immense, it was not the physical destruction that affected us most. It was the faces of the people - the survivors who had lost everything and had no emotion left. We called it "storm face" or "eyes of no hope". They had no idea where to go, what to do, or how to go on living their lives. I still see their eyes. After communion at a Bethel Lutheran evening service, I wrote some thoughts on the back of an offering envelope with a stubby little pencil. I carried the envelope back home and wrote this song the next day, October 1, 2005, which is exactly one year ago tonight at the CD release concert (Oct. 1, 2006).

This song is a prayer to God that we never see eyes without hope again. Eyes are so expressive. You can see love or joy easily in someone's eyes. And you can see hurt and anger also in their eyes. You don't need words; the emotions are plain to see. After Biloxi, we pray to God to let us see emotions, any emotions, rather than eyes without hope. We pray to God to bring back the eyes of hope to those suffering through this and other tragedies.

Hear My Cry, O God

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer.
For where'er I am, I cry to you; cry to you for help.
My heart is faint O God, faint and overwhelmed.
Lead me to your rock towering and safe.

**So I will ever sing praises to your name. I will ever sing.
So I will ever sing praises to your name day after day.**

O God my refuge, strong and high above.
Forever will I live sheltered 'neath, sheltered 'neath your wings.
Blessings you have giv'n to those who praise your name.
And so I vow to praise you ev'ry day. (Chorus)

Send your loving kindness to guard and watch for me. Send your truth and steadfast love.
And I shall live forever before my God. And so I vow to praise you ev'ry day. (Chorus)

Hear my cry, O God. Sing praises to your name.

© 2001 by Gary A. Pederson

Lead Vocals: Gary Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz
Vocals: Lans Rothfusz
12-String Guitar: Robin Merriman
Electric Rhythm Guitar: James Callison
Electric Lead Guitar: Frank Trembley
Piano: Christie Pederson
Drums and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfusz

Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)

Hear My Cry, O God is based on Psalm 61, a psalm of David. This psalm states how weak we often feel and how we cry to God for help no matter where we are. So often we get overwhelmed in our daily lives. But God will lead us to safety. God is our rock, our strength, and our refuge. He will shelter us under his wings. As he was a rock for David, he is also a refuge for us. So how should we respond to our God who hears our cry? We respond by singing praises to his name every day. And as the song fades out, we still cry to God; but we remember our vow and continue to sing praise to his name every day.

In church, the congregation sings the ending back and forth between male ("Hear my cry, O God") and female ("Sing praises to your name") voices. One of my favorite memories of this song was seeing a husband and wife facing each other and singing the ending directly to each other. It was the sort of joy and interaction that we as composers hope to achieve with our music.

Live to Give in Love

I am rich, I am strong, I am wise, I belong. One more rung, one more score;
Bring it on, I want more. So I can justify my life. I live to love my life.

Everything I have, everything I gain is a gift of love and still I complain.
What is mine, it is yours. What is yours, I have no right to retain.

I must live to give in love. Help me live to give in love. I must live to give in love.

Every gift I have, everything I know; Can I trust enough to let it all go?
What is mine, it is yours. What is yours it is not a prize for show. **(Chorus)**

In this world of "what I want." Let me see the "what I need."
In this world of "what I want." Help me stop the stain of greed. **(Chorus)**

© 2004 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Lead Vocal: Lans Rothfusz

Vocals: Penny Kahley, Karen Pahl, Christie and Gary Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz, Mark and Sue Summers, Ginnie Weber

Acoustic Guitars: Lans Rothfusz, Gary Pederson

Electric Guitars: James Callison, Frank Trembley

Bass: Del Boland

Drums and Synthesizers: Lans Rothfusz

Violin: Karla Dietmeyer

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)

This is our "rock opera" piece in the album (with apologies to Styx, Queen, David Bowie, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and other theatric influences in my life). It asks and answers the eternal question, "What is important in life?" and hammers home the difference between wants and needs. The song was influenced by my work in providing Servant-Leadership training for my employer, the National Weather Service.

The song opens with synthetic instrumentation and the distorted voice of a singer who is self-centered, materialistic and entirely un-Christ-like. Once the singer makes his profession of greed, the scene changes to a voice of one acknowledging how wrong that first person is. (By the way, that first person is us!) The mantra of the song, which we are well-served to repeat daily, is "In this world of 'what I want,' help me see the 'what I need.' In this world of 'what I want,' help me stop the stain of greed." That mantra builds and builds like the unending chaos in our lives until, with an explosive, confessional cry, the self-centered materialist screams to God for help! The piece ends with the one-word answer to the question posed earlier.

The shining artistic parts of this song are Karla Dietmeyer's scorching violin riffs during the bridge and Karen Pahl's alto descant soaring over the clamor.

Sing to the Glory

**Sing to the glory of the Lord, Hallelujah. Sing to the glory of the Lord, Hallelujah.
Sing to the glory of the Lord, The glory of the Lord.**

Moses sang to the Lord, "My strength and song. Praise him for he triumphed gloriously."
And David sang his psalm, "In all the earth, O Lord, how majestic is your name."
Why don't we proclaim and praise his holy name?
Sing with glory to the Lord most high! **(Chorus)**

Why just sing when the babe's in Bethlehem, with angels and shepherds to join in?
Why just praise his name at Easter morning dawn, as the 3rd day he rose from the grave?
Why don't we proclaim and praise his holy name?
Sing with glory to the Lord most high! **(Chorus)**

The glory of the Lord.

© 2002 by Gary A. Pederson

Lead Vocal: Gary Pederson
Vocals: Christie Pederson, Kathy and Lans Rothfus
Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson
Electric Rhythm Guitar: James Callison
Electric Lead Guitar: Shane Beard
Bass: Del Boland
Drums and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfus
Flute: Sara Kahley
Congas: Mark Summers

Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)

Sometimes you have an idea for a song, but you need some assurance to know if it really works or not. My dilemma with this song was what I asked my wife, Christie, "Do Lutherans sing to the glory of the Lord?" Maybe a really stupid question, but Lutherans are not the most expressive of denominations. We are better known for quiet reverence than loud "Hallelujahs". However she assured me that singing to the glory of the Lord was a good thing for all! As David (Psalm 8:1) and Moses (Exodus 15:1-2) sang their songs in glory to the Lord, we too can sing to the glory of the Lord, Hallelujah! We don't have to only sing with the angels at Christmas or when Jesus rose from the dead at Easter. We can sing to the glory of the Lord anytime, Hallelujah! God's glory is around us every day, so why don't we proclaim and praise his holy name a little more often than twice a year? Sing to the glory of the Lord today!

Here I Stand

**Here I stand on the rock of Scripture. Here I stand as my faith demands.
No command of any other power can condemn me, for here I stand.**

Here I stand before you now a joyful sinner casting off all these chains I find on me.
The joy of your salvation is the grace I don't deserve.
I found the truth, the truth is you, and you have set me free. **(Chorus)**

Living out a faithful life is so amazing. What I do in the world can satisfy.
Still I find I'm powerless to earn what I need most.
It came to me on Calvary the moment Jesus died. **(Chorus)**

© 2003 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Lead Vocal: Penny Kahley

Vocals: Christie and Gary Pederson, Kathy and Lans Rothfusz

Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson

Electric Guitar: James Callison

Bass: Del Boland

Drums and Organ: Lans Rothfusz

Violin: Karla Dietmeyer

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)

Here I Stand is a celebration of the life of Martin Luther. Anyone who knows Lutheran history will recognize several musical references to his life. The song starts with an audio reenactment of the posting of the 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany. The phrase "Here I stand" was spoken by Luther at the Diet of Worms where he was being tried for heresy against the Catholic church. His "stand" was on the truth of scripture. The recurring message within the song is that salvation is given to us only through the grace of God - a central tenet of Luther's teachings. The violin finishes the song with a variation on *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, a hymn by Martin Luther. *Here I Stand* was written for GraceFlock and is played regularly on Reformation Sunday in honor of the great reformer.

Think About These

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
Whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious.

If there's anything worthy of praise. If there's anything worthy of praise.
If there's anything worthy of praise. Think about these.

What you have learned and received, what you have heard and seen.
Do what you have seen in me and the God of peace will be with you. **(Chorus)**

Think about these.

© 2002 by Gary A. Pederson

Lead Vocal: Gary Pederson
Vocals: Christie Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz
Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson
12-String Guitar: Robin Merriman
Electric Guitar: James Callison
Bass: Del Boland
Alto Flute: Kathy Rothfusz
Drums and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfusz
Congas: Mark Summers
Flute solo written/arranged by Lans Rothfusz

Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)

We praise a lot of things these days. We praise movie stars, winning touchdowns, good grades, beautiful looks, bravery in the face of danger, soaring voices (idols?), and so on. We use our own judgment every day to determine what things are worthy to be praised. But what is truly worthy to be praised?

Think About These is based on Philippians 4:8-9 which tells us which things we should think about praising. How often do we praise these things - truth, honor, justice, purity, loveliness, and graciousness? We have heard a lot in our lives and we have learned a lot in our lives. But do we truly understand what should be important? This song repeats the phrase "think about these" again and again to help us focus on what really should be worthy of our attention.

The thoughtful nature of this song is emphasized with the beautiful alto flute solo written by Lans Rothfusz and played by Kathy Rothfusz.

Mercy Brings Me Home

I have fallen, I have stumbled on the stones I set in my way.
I am guilty, but you never turned your loving gaze from me.
In the quiet moments I consider what I've done.
Lord, I have forsaken my complete redemption given through your Son.

**But mercy brings me home. Your mercy brings me home. Your mercy brings me home.
And when I kneel before my Father's open door, mercy brings me home.**

I am weary as the evening sky descends and settles on me.
I am trying but the focus fades away so easily.
In the quiet moments I can hear a dying breath.
Lord, I have forgotten your undying mercy in my Savior's death. **(Chorus)**

In your name I bow my head, confess my sins, forgive those who seek peace.
As your servant I can do no less than this and grant their full release.
For I know that I desire the same peace within my sad and sinful heart.
Who am I to deny anyone seeking a new start? **(Chorus)**

© 2005 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Lead Vocal: Ginnie Weber

Vocals: Miriam and David Beecher; Cheryl, Laura, Karl, and Karla Dietmeyer; Penny and Sara Kahley; Christie and Gary Pederson; Kathy, Lans, and Preston Rothfusz

12-String Guitar: Robin Merriman

Piano: David Beecher

Drums, Bass and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfusz

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)

Mercy Brings Me Home is my personal confession of sins past, present and future. I have fallen short of the model of Christ and, no matter how hard I try to follow that model, my sins get in the way. I know I am not alone. This song often moves me emotionally when I consider all I have done to make Christ turn away from me, yet he doesn't. Therefore, I complement the song with the irrepressible joy of forgiveness one can only find in the unconditional love of Christ. The song is intended to remind me (and you) that, as Jesus said, we are always welcomed into our Father's arms no matter how low, far, or unreachable we may feel we are.

The song's bridge is based on Matthew 18:21-35 in which Peter asks Jesus how often someone should be forgiven. Jesus responds with the parable of the lord and the repentant but unforgiving slave. How can we ever hope to be forgiven if we are unwilling to forgive others? What a wonderful accessory to love: Forgiveness!! Can there be anything more freeing than the knowledge that we are forgiven because of Christ's love for us? Can there be anything so powerful as to forgive others because Christ forgives us? I don't think so. Listen to the penitent sinner joyfully singing, "I am forgiven..." What joy! What mercy!!

Serve On!

Within the walls of my contentment I hide my face, I leisure there.
Falling for my own deception, I claim I have no gifts to share.
How wrong can I be? You showed the way, Lord, now help me serve on!

The fog of all my proud achievements obscures the truth and captures me.
Reaching for my next indulgence, I model my society.
Christ, my heart renew. You came to serve and called me to serve on!

**Serve on with my prayer, with my praise, with my presence.
Serve on with my gifts, with my gold. Let me
Serve on with my time, with my trade, with my talents.
Serve on with my friends, with my faith in action. Serve On!**

Serve on with my hands, with my heart, with my honor.
Serve on with my life, with my love. Let me
Serve on with my song, with my soul, with my Savior.
Serve on with my food, with my faith in action.
Serve on with my tools, with my tears, with my treasure.
Serve on with my smile, with my sweat. Let me
Serve on with my words, with my warmth, with my witness.
Serve on with my fire with my faith in action. Serve On!

© 2004 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Lead Vocal: Lans Rothfusz

Vocals: Christie and Gary Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz

12-String Guitar: Robin Merriman

Electric Guitar: James Callison

Bass: Del Boland

Violin: Karla Dietmeyer

Horns: Chris Eckhardt, Clay Jackson, Sean Wetli (trumpet), Brandon Rothfusz (trombone)

Piano, Drums and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfusz

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)

Our congregation probably has never had more fun listing ways we can serve God. *Serve On!* was written in response to the perceived need for a contemporary song about stewardship. It challenges us to break through our complacency and serve God and each other with whatever gifts we have been given. Do you think you have no gifts to give? You're wrong! Serve On!

Serve On! was also written at the time Karla Dietmeyer had joined GraceFlock and was written to showcase her prodigious talents. Her contributions to the "flair" of the band cannot be overstated. Karla, you have blessed us beyond measure. Thanks are due to Karl Dietmeyer for repeatedly inspiring (OK, pushing) me to write an arrangement for horns on this song. Kudos to Sean Wetli for his leadership in getting the horns organized and performing in one afternoon of amazing recording.

Joyful Noise - Part 2

© 1984 by Lans P. Rothfus

Acoustic Guitar: Lans Rothfus

Electric Guitar and Bass: Del Boland

Flute: Kathy Rothfus

Drums, Percussion, Synthesizers: Lans Rothfus

Giggles (at 9 months): Brandon Rothfus

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfus)

Joyful Noise - Part 2 is just that - a song of pure joy, written at the University Lutheran Chapel, Norman, OK, in 1984. It is intended to reflect the absolute joy one can only feel in knowing the freeing love of Christ. *Joyful Noise - Part 2* was written well before the birth of Brandon Rothfus (in 1993), but I could not help but capture the joy of a 9-month old child giggling with pleasure and include it in the song. This song was originally recorded on my album "Joyful Noise", but was digitally remastered for this album with superb bass and electric guitar work added by Del Boland.

The top question asked about the *GraceFlock* album so far is, where is *Joyful Noise - Part 2*? It has been written, but will have to wait for a later album. How's that for marketing?

The Lost One

There's a shepherd who had a hundred sheep, but one strayed away into the wilderness.
So he left the ninety-nine alone 'til he found the one he lost
And he called the neighbors all to rejoice.

**He was dead but now he's alive. He was lost but now he's found.
So make merry and be glad. Let the angels sing for joy
For the lost one who now is found.**

There's a father, a father had two sons, and one left for the wild life spending all he had.
But he came back, unworthy, to repent. And the father leapt for joy
Make a feast and let us all rejoice. **(Chorus)**

There's a sinner who eats with the Lord and the Pharisees cried out. So the Lord replied,
"There is great joy in heaven above for one sinner who repents
Then for ninety-nine righteous ones". **(Chorus)**

You were dead but now you're alive. You were lost but now you're found.
So make merry and be glad. Let the angels sing for joy.
You're the lost one who now is found.

© 2002 by Gary A. Pederson

Lead Vocals: Christie and Gary Pederson
Vocals: Kathy Rothfusz
Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson
Bass: Del Boland
Violin: Karla Dietmeyer
Cello: Laura Dietmeyer
Drums and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfusz
Percussion: Mark Summers
Violin and cello duet written/arranged by Lans Rothfusz.

Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)

Jesus told many parables in words that applied directly to the people of his day. Luke 15 contains several parables such as the lost sheep, the prodigal son, and the sinner who repents that are highlighted in *The Lost One*. All of these stories have the same ending; rejoice for the one who was lost is now found. The angels sing in heaven over one sinner who repents as the shepherd rejoices over the lost sheep that was found and the father rejoices for the prodigal son who returns. Jesus spoke in parables, but these stories relate directly to us today. And the last chorus makes this story personal. It is no longer a song about a few Bible stories. When we sin and repent, we are the lost one who is now found. So rejoice and be glad as the angels sing for joy - you were dead, but now you're alive; you were lost but now you're found. You are the lost one who now is found!

Soli Deo Gloria

There is one and one alone. One Divine Essence which is God the Father.
King Eternal without form. Infinite in wisdom, goodness, and pow'r.

**Praise the name Jehovah. Praise Him, Yahweh.
Praise the Lord Messiah. Praise the one and only King and we sing:
Praise the Sole Redeemer. Abba, Father.
Praise the King of Glory. Praise the Ruler over ev'rything. Soli Deo Gloria!**

The Designer of all things, that have been and are now and in time will be.
Maker of the worlds unseen and Preserver of all goodness we see. **(Chorus)**

© 1998 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Lead Vocal: Lans Rothfusz
Vocals: Christie and Gary Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz
Electric Rhythm Guitar: James Callison
Electric Lead Guitar: Frank Trembley
Piano, Synthesizer, Bass, Organ, and Drums: Lans Rothfusz

Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)

Soli Deo Gloria was written in 1998 for the praise band at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tulsa, OK, as a way to bring Lutherans into the universe of contemporary music heard on popular Christian radio stations. The song is based on Martin Luther's 1st Article of the Augsburg Confessions, which for some can be rather dry reading. The song was written to make those important writings more real and relevant for us today.

The Latin words "Soli Deo Gloria" mean "to God alone be the glory" and the initials S.D.G. are found at the end of many of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach - the greatest Lutheran composer of all time. The song was written poolside on a family vacation in Merced, CA. Can you tell?

By Faith

**Faith is belief in hope, trust in things not seen.
By their faith, our fathers pleased their God.
Faith is belief in hope, trust that what we see,
Is prepared for us by the word of God.**

For by faith, Noah built an ark upon the ground,
When God told him of a flood to be.
And by faith, Abraham obeyed the call of God,
And his children were as sand grains by the sea. **(Chorus)**

For by faith, Isaac was offered up to God,
And Joseph told of what was to come.
And by faith Moses brought his people through the sea.
By faith, walls of Jericho fell down. **(Chorus)**

Faith conquered kingdoms, closed mouths of lions.
Brought justice, quenched the raging fire.
By faith, some would prophesy, dead were brought to life.
Martyrs were saved by their faith. **(Chorus)**

© 2004 by Gary A. Pederson

Lead Vocals: Christie Pederson, Kathy Rothfusz, Sue Summers

Acoustic Guitar: Gary Pederson

Electric Rhythm Guitar: James Callison

Electric Lead Guitar: Frank Trembley

Bass: Shane Beard

Violin: Karla Dietmeyer

Drums, Piano, Organ and Synthesizer: Lans Rothfusz

Percussion: Mark Summers

Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)

Faith is often hard to describe. What would be your definition? Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". This says it all to me. I believe in hope, so I have faith. *By Faith* is based on Hebrews 11 with many examples of how the people of God have acted by faith throughout all of the history within the Bible. If you had to summarize faith within the entire Bible in one chapter, Hebrews 11 would be it. Just think about some of these examples of faith - a ship built on the ground awaiting a flood, an old man having a son and soon numerous descendents, a sea parting upon command, walls of a city falling down, mouths of lions closing, and so on. These things were not seen in advance. They probably seemed crazy at the time. But our fathers and mothers in the Bible had faith. They believed in things that were not yet seen. They believed in hope and they believed in God. By faith.

God Knows Everything

I must have been only 7 or 8 sittin' on my Daddy's knee
Askin' tough questions 'bout creation and how things came to be.

"Why was it wrong to pick apples from that one forbidden tree?"
"Who ever heard of a talkin' snake and why did he make 'em eat?"

He said, "One day you'll understand the meaning of these things.
God knows all about the nature of man. God knows everything.

**God knows everything about us. God knows everything.
He knows our hearts and when we are untrue.
God has the power to make a change and that he'll certainly do
But it's up to us to do our part, too.**

Now I'm much older with a family of my own.
I still have questions even though I'm grown.
But I know The Word is based on faith and conclusions are foregone.
I know that Jesus died for us and I know right from wrong. **(Chorus)**

There's no question 'bout the blessings and, yes, I do believe
There's more in heaven than man can conceive. **(Chorus)**

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Lead Vocal: Lans Rothfusz

Vocals: Jamie and Roger Callison, Amelia and Lilly Merriman, Rachel Moore, Christie Pederson, Louissa Pfundt, Stephanie Pike, Kathy and Preston Rothfusz, Michelle Yarmolinsky

Acoustic Guitar, Banjo, Drums: Lans Rothfusz

Electric Guitar (Lead and Rhythm) and Bass: Del Boland

Composer Comments (Del Boland)

God Knows Everything was intended as a fun song with a message. While the song structure and words are simple, the overall message may not be immediately clear. The overall message is to trust and serve God. The song presents several basic tenets of the Christian faith while addressing a few potential obstacles that may prevent others from joining the church. Hopefully this is done in a generalized, whimsical, and non-threatening way. First and foremost, it presents the omniscient power of God with particular emphasis on the fall of man. Secondly, it represents how faith may be a difficult challenge for those who are either not connected to the church or in their spiritual infancy. The first lines of the last verse should provide comfort to those who may mistakenly believe that one must be without sin and full understand God as a prerequisite for joining the church. We are all sinners and we will not fully understand God until we've entered the kingdom of heaven. Finally, before running wild in the streets with the knowledge of God's grace and mercy, our responsibility to serve God is addressed in the last line of the chorus.

Recorded and Produced in the Rothfusz home studio. Mastered by SoundLAB.
CD artwork by Marquita Schneider Foster. Artwork digitizing by Mac McLaughlin.

"Living Gifts" is for all who seek to strengthen their personal connection with Christ. GraceFlock encourages you to share the messages within the CD with those who need to hear it. 10% of CD proceeds will go to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Biloxi, MS and to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Services. The balance of proceeds will go to congregational outreach for Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church.

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- 1 Watch (4:35)
- 2 Sacrifice (3:50)
- 3 From the Inside/A Flame (5:01)
- 4 Eyes of Hope (5:19)
- 5 Hear My Cry, O God (3:48)
- 6 Live to Give in Love (5:17)
- 7 Sing to the Glory (3:39)
- 8 Here I Stand (4:11)
- 9 Think About These (4:02)
- 10 Mercy Brings Me Home (5:25)
- 11 Serve On! (4:12)
- 12 Joyful Noise - Part 2 (3:32)
- 13 The Lost One (4:11)
- 14 Soli Deo Gloria (3:54)
- 15 By Faith (3:45)
- 16 God Knows Everything (3:54)