

ABOUT MARY MCDONALD



Mary is a lifelong resident of Knoxville, Tennessee. She is the youngest in a large family with a mother who played the piano by ear. Committed to teach her children to read music, her mother schooled some of the older children using an old piano method book, but after they left the piano, it was five-year-old Mary who would slip onto the bench and play the music she'd heard her siblings playing. She never looked back and today her extraordinary natural gifting and her exuberant personality have carried her into the hearts of people in congregations all across the country. Whether engaging in passionate worship songs, fun gospel settings, uplifting, spirited originals or simply applying a fresh treatment to existing hymns, Mary's heart for ministry is to assist others in drawing closer to the throne of grace.

No stranger to glass ceilings, her energy and charisma served her well when she became the first ever woman President of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference. But whether serving as accompanist for the Tennessee Men's Chorale, her local church, or receiving prestigious composition awards for artistic merit like the John Ness Beck award, her desire remains the same,



"to give God glory for the songs He has allowed me to compose. He alone, is the true Creator behind my pen." Communicating the reality of Christ is the foundation to which all else is subservient.



In 2011, after serving as sacred music editor for The Lorenz Corporation in Dayton, Ohio for more than twenty years, Mary answered a new call. She resigned her position in order to serve the church in a different way. Now she takes her tremendous passion and love for music making directly to churches as an independent artist. Since then, she has been in constant demand in churches across the nation for Composer Weekends. In addition, Mary serves as host for many of the top Choral Music Dealer conferences in the country, where ministers of music gather to hear and bring back new choral music to their congregations.



"I want my legacy to be that I lit up every room I walked into; that people felt better after being around me than they did before we came together. The world will take care of belittling them and whittling them down to size. I prefer to be an encourager, a motivator, and to bring a smile and ray of sunshine and hope to their day. That's how I want to be remembered, both through my music and my life."

Maybe Mary's calling card should read something like this, "She said, yes" because Mary McDonald always says, yes—yes to any door she feels that the Lord is opening to her. Her desire is to be obedient to the One she loves best—her Savior.

When Mary isn't out sharing her music, she and her husband, Brian, a Knoxville architect live a quiet life. They have been married for 36 years; have two married children and four grandchildren, who they are rather passionate about. Nothing gives them greater joy than observing their every move. She says of them, "we sing, we laugh and we live life!"

