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THE MAGAZINE OF
SUMMERLIN & BEYOND

MAY 2008



a lawyer's lyrics

Jay Young releases debut gospel album

BY PAULA MURPHEY
PHOTO BY DEBBIE PIERCE

He's an attorney by day and a Grammy-winning artist by "Knight" as a member of Gladys Knight's choir. Not a bad gig for Las Vegas resident Jay Young.

Devoted to his career as a partner at Marquis & Aurbach, Jay finds time for music. In 2005, he won a Grammy award as a member of the Saints Unified Voices choir for Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album. For six years, Jay has been recording and touring as a featured soloist with the choir.

Now, he's spreading the word about his solo compact disc debut, "One More Stone."

Q: HOW DID YOU GET INTO SINGING?

A: My father was a long-haul trucker. As a boy, I would go on the road with him, We would put in eight-track tapes and sing along with Johnny Cash. At the end of the day we'd roil into some honky tonk, and he'd put me up on the counter and I'd sing for our supper. The singing has been going on since then.

Q: HOW DID YOUR CD DEBUT COME ABOUT?

A: The project started out as a Christmas gift. My dad is the hardest person in the world to buy gifts for. I kept bugging him about what he wanted for Christmas, and finally he brought me a cassette tape and said, 'Fill this with music that you sing.' One year, my wife Julie and I decided to crank up the quality and go into the studio. We started giving the music on CD, so "One More Stone" grew out of that project.

Q: WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR "ONE MORE STONE?"

A: Luke 19. His (Jesus') disciples were praising him

loudly, and the religious leaders of the day demanded that Christ silence His followers because they were being blasphemous by saying He was the Son of God. The thought came to me that today somebody needs to be a "stone" and shout out about Christ. Than I thought, shouldn't I be that stone?

Q: WHAT IS IT LIKE WORKING WITH GLADYS KNIGHT?

A: It's a privilege- But it was pretty scary at first. I auditioned for her in an "American Idol" kind of experience. She has taken somebody like me, with no musical training and no ability to read music, and taught me a new style of gospel singing. It has really transformed the way that I look at music.

Q: TELL USA LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

A: I have four children: Drew, 17; Mitch, 15; Rachel, 10; and Tyler, the caboose, is 7. My wife Julie is the one with the real musical talent in the family. She has studied piano all of her life.

Q: HAVING LIVED HERE SINCE 1994, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE COMMUNITY?

A: Las Vegas has a heart and soul that few people on the outside really see or appreciate because of what I call the "garage door opener" syndrome. We pull up to our house, open the garage and go in, and sometimes don't see neighbors for weeks or months. But when you become involved in the community — you find the people here have a heart of gold.

For more information about Jay's music visit www.young4vr.com. ■