

FRONT YARD WORSHIP

A Songwriter's Guild Magazine

Love Inc

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The Editor

Oikeo Music Inc is a guild of songwriters, singers, musicians, and artist's as well. Maybe some members or subscribers to our magazine aren't sure exactly what a guild is, or does. I thought it might be fun to give a bit of European, historical background that might bring insight to all of us.

Historians call the times we live in Modern Times, which actually began with the Renaissance. This began in Italy when a few writers chose to write their literature in the Italian language instead of Latin which took power from the church and aristocrats thus bringing knowledge and education to the common man. The Renaissance was an amazing period of genius in our world's history. The word renaissance means "rebirth" and it refers to a time when European scholars, called humanists, were rediscovering ancient Greek and Roman writings, new scientific laws, new forms of art and literature, new religious and political ideas, and new lands including America. However, the most distinctive feature during this time period was the value and appreciation given to writers and artists.

The writings during this time period brought to light a new conception of life and freedom, a more joyous expression in art, and a boundless play of human feelings encompassing our sense of beauty and intellect. During these times, every town in Europe boasted trade members of associations called craft guilds. By the 14th century there were more than 50 guilds authorized by the local government, sometimes chartered

by the King. This was the era of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. Because a guild was valuable and important in the community and to the King, there were rules and regulations. (One note of interest is that the guild rules provided for care of their own sick or needy and required them to take care of their widows and orphans.) Sometimes crafters, artists or musician could become members based on the degree of skill. Sometimes a membership was very hard to obtain because it was passed along through inheritance. Guilds required standards on the quality of articles made or sold. After all, the King was a client! For example, a weavers' guild required a certain number of threads to the inch in cloths they crafted.

These people literally gave their entire lives to becoming excellent in their craft. A young man would be bound out by his parents to an employer and had to pass an apprenticeship to qualify as a member, usually seven years. This master fed and clothed him and when his seven years were up he became a journeyman working for wages. Guild organizations were full of these loyal, talented and determined craftsmen and artisans. Therefore, they were powerful and had great influence in city government.

Here are a few questions we must ask ourselves today. What should our guild mean to our churches, cities, and government? How can we better represent our King, Jesus Christ, as we craft the life changing songs and art that comes from a holy life given

to
our
master? Why don't we consider carefully how we throw together a song or worship service? Why don't we take greater care to becoming meaningful in our churches and communities' understanding that this is a lifelong commitment and a privilege? Are we crafting anything worth handing down to our children and their children? Do we have a standard that we are setting in place, not because we are perfectionists, but because we understand the power and privilege of our craft?

OK, loosen up a little bit. We aren't perfect, but we can strive for the beauty and reflection of God in everything we do. And we must at Oikeo Music Inc.

Melissa Saulnier



Rosanna Fiorazo



God began my earthly story in Toronto Canada. I was born into an authentic Italian family, and the short of it is that no one ever gave me hope or encouragement to develop my voice or follow my heart. Though the longing was there, the confidence and faith didn't come until years later, though I did try to use my talents singing at weddings and receptions. In my twenties, I moved to the Los Angeles area and worked around musicians at a recording studio to keep a flicker of the dream alive.

Five years later I came to know Jesus Christ and put my faith in Him, though I still had to learn how to do that! Since then I've been blessed to sing with worship teams at various churches and God helped me develop both my talents and my confidence. I branched out on my own in 2003 and finally recorded some of the Christian songs I had written. The response from people shocked me! God actually chose me to be a vessel of healing through my music and it is still a privilege to sing, play, and write for Him. I'm currently

patching together pieces of songs for a future recording, Lord-willing, but here's what I'd like to share from my heart today:

Quite often the Lord brings to mind several people who were instrumental in leading me to the Lord. I hope to make an impact on someone's life like they did in mine. God strategically placed people in my life who would in turn pray for me to really know Jesus in my heart. In the '90's, I was living in a 12-unit apartment building in North Hollywood, CA, and one of my neighbors was a man named Kirk. He lived there for a number of years, and had one day decided to move south to Hermosa Beach, which was quite a ways away from the valley where I lived. One day before he moved away, he asked me when I was going to start hanging around with people of integrity. I had been hanging around a woman who used to live in our building and had shown herself to be a false friend over and over. His words to me cut like a knife and I never forgot them. Not long afterward, I did receive the Lord, and one day saw Kirk when I was driving through the old stomping grounds in the valley. I yelled out my car window with excitement, "Hey Kirk! I got saved!" He just stood there on the corner of the street a bit stunned.

The following is a part of a recent email he sent me.

“Ro,
You are my favorite “God” story. God had me pray for you all the time and I didn’t want to. I didn’t have “quality” faith then. God would make me pray for you but I would pray things like “God, I know this will probably never happen but could you touch Ro’s heart”. That was about it. Never more than a sentence or two. But God persisted and I was the son that said he wouldn’t go into the field to work but would change his mind and go anyway. I didn’t have the faith but I did obey.

The day God led me to stand on the corner of Laurel Canyon and Moorpark Ave, not even knowing why I was standing there was a telling day. When you drove by and yelled out that you had become a born again Christian God instantly replayed for me every one of those pathetic prayers I had prayed for you in an instant. It was amazing. They all flashed right before my eyes.

Then he spoke to me as clear as he ever has. Not in an angry way or accusing way but gentle, loving, powerful and firm all at the same time. God simply said “See what I can do even with those prayers”. And I knew what he meant by “those”. They were weak at best



and rebellious at worst but I was still a baby in that area so God showed me grace.

Every time I wonder if my prayers are having any affect he brings you to mind. Who would’ve known all those years ago what God had in mind and that my gifting would be prayer and that I would

be leading the intercessory prayer group at my church today. God is amazing. The revelation is that it is obedience that counts, and not the level of faith I think I have - because obedience is the evidence of faith. Even if that faith is as small as a mustard seed God can work with it.”

This story is part of who I am and who I want to be at the same time. I just wanted to remind you that even when you think you have no faith at all, God hears your prayers. Because other people prayed, I am now writing songs and ministering through my music to the brokenhearted. What an amazing turn of events that has taken place in my life! Prayers don’t have to be long to be heard by our God. Kirk’s prayers were short, to the point, and I know his heart was in the right place when he prayed them. God heard him and as a result, I became a part of His eternal Kingdom.

Imagine what you and I can do when we really set out to pray for someone from our hearts! I encourage you to pray for anyone and everyone that crosses your path. No one is beyond hope! Is anything too hard for the Lord? You may be surprised who you see in heaven, and I’m sure I will be too.

~ In His Amazing Grace,
Rosanna

Too BIG



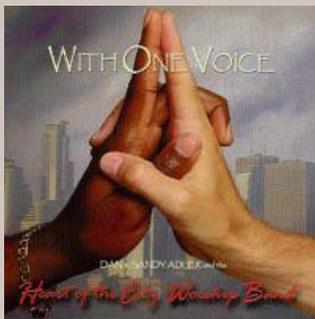
CMS

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Last Summer I wrote a song for their “Sound Off” youth initiative called “It’s About Time” that Oikeo featured recently. If you and your church or worship band aren’t already involved in initiatives that minister to the poor, I highly recommend this ministry as a starting place. I’m hungry for Jesus to say to me that when He was hungry and naked and homeless and imprisoned, I, as one of His sheep, found Him and served Him as an act of worship as I ministered to the poor.

www.heartofthecity.org



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totality that is greater than what we can each do on our own. This is Love In the Name of Christ.

Having witnessed the vitality of the mature Love INCs in Michigan, I yearn for this in our Greater Twin Cities area. I yearn not because I want more social impact programs but because I want to model Jesus, to present Jesus as Lord and Savior to those we reach, and to enfold them into healthy church communities where they can receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Love INC is not a humanist good works program, but an outreach in the name of Jesus Christ that models His love.

Julie Zuehlke is the director of care ministries at Crystal Evangelical Free Church in New Hope, MN, and serves as chair of the development committee for Love INC Twin Cities West Central.

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Rosanna Fiorazo

Haven't You Heard..

“I hope these songs give you a glimpse into the Father’s heart because He loves and cares for you.”

**Available at
www.RosannaFiorazo.com**