

CITIZEN WAY | HILLSONG YOUNG & FREE | AUSTIN & LINDSEY ADAMEC

# CCM

A TRIBUTE

*Joey Feek*

1975-2016

APR 01, 2016

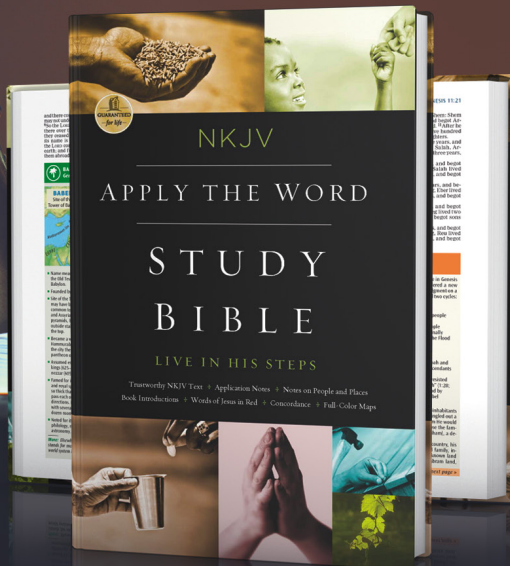
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## From the Editor

## Joey Feek Tribute

Just weeks before her battle with terminal cancer ended, we had the privilege to interview Joey and Rory Feek, and be reminded once again, that "Whoever believes in Him will live, even though they die."



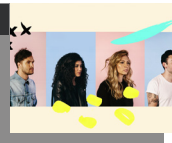
## Citizen Way

Unwavering in their initial mission and message, Citizen Way's rebirth claims that their future is now.



## Hillsong Young &amp; Free

In this online only piece, **CCM Magazine** catches up with the newest—and youngest—branch of Australia's Hillsong Church. Stay tuned to CCMmagazine.com for this feature story!



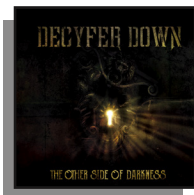
## Austin &amp; Lindsey Adamec

After the highs and lows of separate careers in the biz, this husband-wife duo have now combined forces to birth their debut release, and a rekindled love for making music.



## Reviews

Phil Wickham, Bethel Music, Decyfer Down + more!



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**Christ, use me** | In my letter from *CCM Magazine's* last edition, I took the opportunity to challenge all of us to fully live in Him. I'm not sure we could publish a better example of this, than to share the legacy of **Joey Feek**.

Whether you have been tuned into *CCM's* website or social channels—or directly to **Joey + Rory's** blog, ***This Life I Live***—there's more than a great chance you know or have been following the Feek family story. In an earlier blog entry Joey's husband, **Rory Feek**, eloquently talked about living for Him:

"It's hard for me to feel slighted, when I know that the career that Joey and I have had ... you can't be in awe of an amazing road that God leads you down, and then be any less in awe of a corner that He has you turn. I think in the end... the good and the bad, He just wants us to give it to Him. And so we do." (for this, and the Feek's full story, please go to [ThisLifeILive.com](http://ThisLifeILive.com)).

If you're reading this, like me, you have a pulse. If this kind of response to personal tragedy doesn't fire you up to immediately rush out and live for Him, please go to the doctor. We are honored to publish one of Joey's last interviews in the following pages of our April 1, 2016 issue. As we remember her life—and focus on her family's faith—let's always ask, "Christ, how can You use me on earth, today?"

Blessings,



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Sparkman'.

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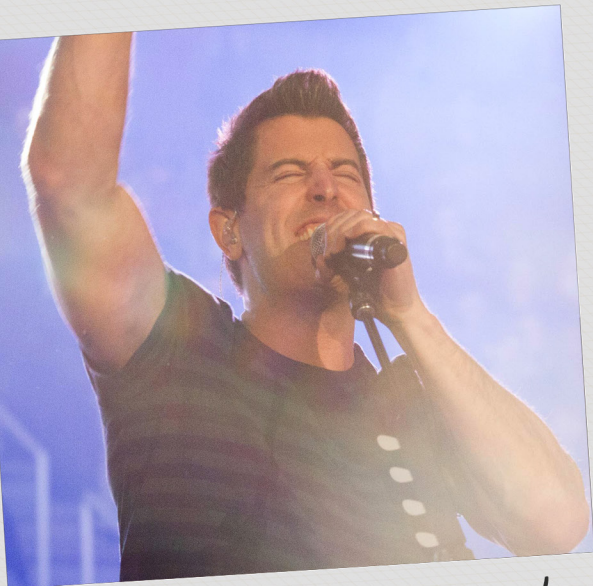


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# OUT & ABOUT

apr. 1, 2016



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A man and a woman are smiling and embracing each other in a field. The man is wearing a white shirt and blue overalls, and the woman is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The text "Soey Seek" is overlaid in a large, white, cursive font.

# Soey Seek



# Joey + Rory

## 'He Needs Me Singing Up There'

BY ANDREW GREER

More than any other medium, music yields a unique power to transcend time and space. The most studied-up scholars and brainiest scientists fumble to explain just why music is so important to us. Think about it: what other creative channel can so instantly and poignantly connect us with the past, framework our present, and move us toward the future?

Even in the twenty-first century frenzy of mass media, something as simple as a melody can halt our dizzying pace, engage our senses and transport us to another moment and place. A certain song can muster up the aroma of fresh-baked bread and grandmother's kitchen. One single phrase can stir up the nervous thrill of a first love, and that first kiss. The turn of a fiddle or pulse of a piano can sting our heart with the remembrance of a loved one who died too tragically, too soon.

Music's composition may be mysteriously intangible, but its' effect is intensely palpable.

**Editor's Note:** This feature was written and scheduled prior to Joey Feek's death on March 4, 2016. It is published in its original format in honor of the undying influence Joey's life has made in the lives of millions of people across the world. And in full assurance she is now fully alive in Spring. *"Whoever believes in Him will live, even though they die."* (John 11:25b CEB



## JOEY + RORY

In the midnight of our darkest circumstances, when we are rendered speechless by pain and grief, music gives us a fresh language to formulate our prayers. When life's listless heartaches shroud our faith in doubt, music shoulders our confusions with hope, utilizing the universal beauty of melody and rhyme to permeate our anxious hearts with a big-picture perspective. When we are at the end of our rope and we have exhausted our solutions, music opens our eyes to eternity. And eternity opens our hearts to God. And God changes our lives forever.

Perhaps this is why music is so—well...spiritual? It seems, to me, God has infused music with Himself. He's all up in the mix. And this never seems truer than when humming a hymn.

GRAMMY-nominated country music duo, **Joey + Rory**—whose second faith-based release, ***Hymns That Are Important To Us* (Gaither Music Group)**, simultaneously topped four Billboard music and video charts the week of release—seem to agree.

### HUM A HYMN

*Through the storm, through the night / Lead me on to the light / Take my hand, precious Lord / Lead me home ... – “Take My Hand, Precious Lord”*  
(from *Hymns That Are Important To Us*)

A marriage-turned-musical partnership, **Joey and Rory Feek** understand first-hand the power of a hymnal. Igniting a flame of faith in the hearts of their followers, the matrimonial musicians designated the track listing of their latest recording almost exclusively with historic hymns of the Christian church as a way to vocalize the hope

## JOEY + RORY

their spiritual beliefs have instilled in their hearts while living out a series of disheartening events that have transpired in the couple's personal lives, captivating Americans' compassionate attention, over the past couple of years.

On February 17, 2014, Joey and Rory gave birth to their firstborn child, a girl, **Indiana "Indy" Boon**. A few weeks later, doctors confirmed a diagnosis the Feek's had suspected: Indy had Down Syndrome.

In May 2014, barely three months later, during a routine visit to her gynecologist, doctors discovered a mass on Joey's cervix. A few days later, tests confirmed the diagnosis doctors had suspected: at 38 years of age, Joey was fighting cancer.

Through comprehensive surgery, doctors believed Joey's cancer had been eliminated. But less than one year later, the cancer returned with a vengeance, initiating an unanticipated battle with Stage 4 cancer.

In a matter of months, the cherished couple, whose downhome demeanor and rural farming lifestyle had amassed an entourage of grassroots followers through a best-selling musical career and their hit **RFD-TV** series, *The Joey + Rory Show*, found themselves in a whirlwind of doctor visits, diagnoses' and decisions. Though the response from family and followers was immediately and overwhelmingly supportive (the public has been piped into the details as they unfold through Rory's widely read blog: [thislifeilive.com](http://thislifeilive.com)), the disease's merciless invasion of Joey's body proved that, even for a family frame-worked by faith, cancer is tough.

For Joey, hymns became a lifeline.

“I think a lot of times, when we don’t know what to say, when you don’t know what to pray, you don’t know how to even begin, that’s where, for me, these hymns have come into play so much,” Joey said during a recent sit-down conversation with Gospel music pioneer, **Bill Gaither**, explaining the impact of hymns in the midst of her sobering sickness. “Sometimes you just don’t know what to do, but to pray. And sometimes just getting started is hard. But that’s where these hymns [take over].”

With infant Indy in tow, the soft-spoken songstress began an arduous path to healing through chemotherapy, radiation and extensive surgeries at expert cancer treatment centers in Chicago and Atlanta, as well as continued nutritional science honed through she and Rory’s organic food farming skills. For Joey and Rory, the hope was cancer might merely be a pit stop on the long road of life they intended to travel together.

“Together Joey and I have learned what ‘for better or worse’ really means,” Rory stated in *Hymns & Stories*, a deluxe **Cracker Barrel Stores**-exclusive edition of the CD with extended liner notes. “And even more than that, we’ve learned what it means to truly trust God with all our hopes, our dreams, and especially our fears.”

For words to express these fears that flooded her mind, and yet the faith that anchored her heart, Joey once again turned to hymns to sing out her silent grief.

“I remember waking up—it was about two days after my surgery—in the middle of the night,” recalled Joey in a recent press statement released by Joey + Rory’s record label. “I’m hooked up to every



machine possible, and out of complete thankfulness that I came through, I remember having the strength to sit up enough, my hands just elevated over my head, and I sang [the hymn], *'I need Thee / Oh I need Thee / Every hour I need thee.'*”

“And I needed Him every hour. And I still do to this day. There are days that are just hard. [This song] has got us through so much at every hour that we needed Him. He continues to watch over us and take care of us. People every day who don't have cancer, who are dealing with trials or family issues or whatever it might be, we need Him. And when we think that we can get by on our own, we're so wrong.”

### MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

*If you needed me / I would come to you / I would swim the sea / For to ease your pain ...* – “If I Needed You” (from ***Country Classics: A Tapestry of Our Musical Heritage***)

Before they were topping charts with remakes from America's beloved hymnbook, The Feeks were mesmerizing country music fans with their love story-turned-recording artist career.

As a working Nashville songwriter, Rory had been writing songs recorded by household names like **Kenny Chesney**, **Blake Shelton** and **The Oak Ridge Boys** when Joey Feek first laid her eyes on him at a “songwriter's round” at Music City's infamous **Bluebird Café** in the early 2000's. According to Joey, the attraction was instant.

“From the first song Rory sang, I fell head-over-heels,” the then-single singer remembers, having just relocated from her hometown of Alexandria, Indiana to pursue her own dream of making music

onstage. “I didn’t even know him, but something inside me said, ‘You’re going to marry that man.’ God put us together, and He knew exactly what He was doing.”

As fate, or faith, would have it, in 2002, after only four months of dating, the fast-falling couple said, “I do.” And overnight the newlywed couple became a household of four with the inclusion of Rory’s teenage daughters, **Heidi** and **Hopie**. But several years in separate professions would pass before Joey and Rory would marry their musical talents for good.

As Rory’s songwriting career continued to gain momentum, Joey’s aspirations of becoming a country singer in the old-school traditions of childhood influences like **Dolly Parton** and **Loretta Lynn** dwindled. So when a mutual friend suggested the pair partner up to audition for **Country Music Television’s (CMT) *Can You Duet?***—a televised talent competition searching for country music’s next big act *a la American Idol*—Joey was sold. Rory was scared.

“We didn’t have a television at home,” Rory remembers, “and the last thing we wanted was to be on one. [But] our friend said, ‘Trust me, what you guys have is special. It’s the real thing.’”

“I wanted to say no. [Joey] knew that one of my biggest fears was being in front of people in a setting like that. But I also knew that if we got on the show, the world might get to hear my wife sing, and it would be worth it. So I looked at my bride and said, ‘Yes.’”

Thus, Joey and Rory once again became lifetime partners. This time, on stage.

## JOEY + RORY

Filmed in Nashville, the couple placed third on the series, subsequently landing Joey + Rory a record deal with famed **Sugar Hill Records**, spawning a string of successful country-bluegrass-folk records and earning the fan-favored duo a **2010 Academy of Country Music** (ACM) award for Top New Vocal Duo.

In 2012, due to their growing album sales and public profile, RFD-TV launched *The Joey + Rory Show*, affording the duo's rapidly growing legion of fans a weekly glimpse into the couple's compelling rural lifestyle. An instant hit, the series—now in its fourth season—is filmed on the Feeks' farm in Pottsville, Tennessee, in a barn on a soundstage constructed by Rory specifically for the show. Airing in over 40 million homes each week and attracting thousands of fans to the farm for live tapings each year, the show has created a frenzy of media attention, cementing a place for the kind-hearted pair in millions of Americans' hearts seemingly overnight.

So when recording a new album coincided with the return of Joey's cancer, the determined songbird had no intentions of letting disease deter her from sharing the sacred songbook that had most influenced her music, and changed her heart, with the world.

"It was early in the spring [2015] when we started talking about the record," Rory remembered in a recent press release. "We began recording it in a studio in Nashville early in the summer, just after [Joey] recovered from her first big surgery in Chicago. She championed it. With all she's gone through, a few things changed, but that record was not gonna' stop. So we recorded in between her treatments. She [sang] her vocals in hotel rooms, at our house, wherever and whenever she felt up to singing."



## JOEY + RORY

With the help of producer **Joe West** (Jimmy Wayne, Emmylou Harris), Rory completed the recording, pairing his beloved's convicted lead vocals with gentle harmony lines sung by Rory and their daughter, Heidi.

"[Hymns] have met generations of people at their moments of need, which is incredible," Rory explains. "As a songwriter, we're moved that someone will sing along with one of our songs, but imagine them singing along with one of our songs in one hundred years. That's pretty special."

With the same tenacity that compelled her to record a full-length album in the midst of taxing treatments, Joey insisted on rounding out the project by coupling the audio recording with a live visual experience so fans would not only hear her and Rory's personal faith, but could see it, worked out publicly through the out-loud singing of these hymns' unwavering truth.

Last fall, with Joey weak from treatments administered at a cancer treatment facility in Atlanta, the couple performed what would become their final concert in the old barn, on their farm, at home in Tennessee. A DVD companion piece for Hymns, the tender couple also sat down for the camera to talk about their family, their career, the impact of cancer and comfort of hymns, and most importantly, exercising their faith in the middle of a devastating disease.

The day after filming, Joey and Rory returned to Atlanta, only to find out the cancer was defying treatment and there was nothing more the doctors could do.

“I think Joey wants to capture the words and music of her childhood,” Rory said, thinking through his wife’s desire to complete this project in spite of the cancer riddling her body. “The music that she goes to when she needs comfort. The music that makes this beautiful, tragic, crazy life somehow make sense, I think she wants to capture this music so we can take it home with us.”

### WHEN I’M GONE

*You’ll lie down in our big bed / Dread the dark and dread the dawn/  
But you’ll be alright / On that first night / When I’m Gone ...*  
– “When I’m Gone” (from *Hymns That Are Important To Us*)

Life is not simple. Without our permission, circumstances change, leaving us bewildered with the side effects of sickness, disheartened in the aftermath of tragedy and piling up under the details of a funeral.

When dealing with life’s tougher stuff, our feelings often sway between joy and sadness, contentment and fear. We Google solutions, some definitive prescription for what ails us, but when research and logic fails to provide answers, we return to our knees—praying for eyes to see through the blind spots of disease, and illness, and cancer. Once again, we attempt to surrender to all the things we fight to understand, but simply cannot comprehend.

I suppose this is the meaning of faith. To let go of what we do not presently know in hopes of something lasting, something eternal, to be revealed along the way.

Through the poignant public sharing of their story, Joey and Rory have been the first to admit they are sad, and hurt, and confused as to how and why cancer is defining their story. “More than anything, I felt like I failed at something,” Joey vulnerably revealed to *The Tennessean* in November, explaining how the finality of cancer in her life impacted her psychologically. “I thought I did everything, but God decided for me that my job of singing for people down here is my legacy, and He needs me singing up there. That’s how I look at it.”

“With tears in her eyes and mine, Joey held my hand and told me that she has been having serious talks with Jesus,” Rory confided in a blog dated January 9. “She said she told Him that if He’s ready to take her, she’s ready to come home.”

Through homegrown mealtimes, soft-spoken musings on camera and online, the kindest of guitar pickin’ and sweetest songbird grinnin’, the every day life of Joey and Rory has become a part of our every day lives. More than *Billboard* positions, or heartfelt blogs, or faith-filled recordings, the gracious couple’s authentic expression of faith throughout their midnight hours has gifted us with an real life example of what it means exercise faith in the darkest of scenarios—of what it means to truly live with hope.

And now we shoulder up in their sorrow in some small effort, a token of our appreciation, to express that, though we can’t know exactly how it feels, we do know how bad it hurts.

“It’s hard for me to believe that there will be life after this cold, hard winter. And I think Joey knows that,” Rory soberly wrote on his blog on February 4. “So thin and gaunt, and more frail than ever, my wife



## JOEY + RORY

is sowing her seeds. Putting down roots in the soil of our lives and hearts. Getting us ready for something that we can't see right now. Something she might not even get to see at all. Spring."

Though Joey may not see the tulips bloom or hear the redbird sing this year, like the earth under winter's hibernating blanket, she, too, is on the verge of a new season. How fitting, then, that she and Rory have invested her final hours in these springtime songs, this catalog of tunes that has for centuries revived the most desolate of souls with rays of hope.

*Hymns* is not just a chance to say goodbye. *Hymns* is Joey and Rory's way of preparing each other, their family, their fans—all of us—for new life.

And so we wait, Joey and Rory, together with you...for Spring. [CCM](#)

A full-page advertisement featuring three men standing against a plain, light-colored wall on a wooden floor. The man on the left is looking upwards and to the left, wearing a dark blazer over a white shirt and dark jeans. The man in the center has a beard and is looking down, wearing a grey zip-up sweater and dark jeans. The man on the right is looking directly at the camera, wearing a dark blazer over a black t-shirt and dark jeans. The text "CITIZEN WAY" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

# CITIZEN WAY

# Citizen Way – From Day One To 2.0

Unwavering In Their Initial Mission And Message,  
Citizen Way's Rebirth Claims That Their Future Is Now

BY CAROLINE LUSK

Most musicians who have released their sophomore projects attest to the pressures of recording a follow-up album. A pressure that's particularly high, especially when debuts turn successful—it's the best kind of paradox to be in. **Citizen Way** knows it well.

Following their breakout self-titled project in 2013, they've seen radio success rarely enjoyed by a debut artist. "Should Have Been Me" and "How Sweet the Sound" are firmly woven into the fabric of today's Christian music listener's soundscape, the upbeat pop sound and solid lyrics encouraging and challenging people around the world.

Needless to say, they set the bar high.  
God set it higher.

What Ben Calhoun, lead vocals, and fellow band mates never anticipated, were the tests-of-faith, the extraction of new and intensified emotions as husbands, fathers and men of God—all of which inevitably found their way into lyrics, hooks and melodies.

"These songs tell the emotions we've been through," says Calhoun. "They are songs that came out of real life and I think at times we're all kind-of stupefied how the Lord will use us and our messes to turn them into something powerful and joyful."

## *Citizen Way*

That is the heart behind their latest offering—joy through trial, power through weakness. It's been their message from the start and comes together nicely, and appropriately, with new project title—***Citizen Way 2.0***. “This is a new season of life,” adds Calhoun. “We’ve been raised to life again. We’ve been renewed.”

While the record resonates with positive, bright intonation and feel-good poppy hooks that stay with you all day, the songs were not all birthed from happy places. In fact, it was the loss of life that set the tone for the entire project and the band itself.

In 2015, Calhoun and his wife faced the greatest trial of their lives and a parent's worst nightmare—the loss of a child.

“We were pregnant and were told that the baby wouldn't survive,” Ben recalls with a broken voice. “We decided to wait for the baby to come. I remember holding him and feeling so blessed for that opportunity. We were blessed that we had the opportunity to fight.”

The miscarriage of baby **Jeremiah** challenged the Calhoun family in ways they had never experienced before. At times, the anger and confusion threatened to overtake them, but it was in the moments of greatest despair that they began to feel the love of God and the hope of Jesus more tangibly than ever. Through their friends, their church, and those who surrounded them—they listened, allowed them to cry, and fervently prayed for the family.

“We had to go through it,” says the lead singer. “You have to deal with it or you'll lose your joy forever. **Psalm 34:18** says ‘The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.’ Those verses came alive for us in a new way. There were people around me

## Citizen Way

who may have said nothing, but held us or walked with us. There was a community of believers who carried us and helped us remember words and truths we needed to hear. I was able to trust and lean on that and through it, trust and lean on God.

“The song ‘When I’m With You’ came out of that trial, specifically the miscarriage,” Calhoun continues. “I am living proof of the truth of that verse. Jesus met us where we were—He hurt and healed with us.”

Perhaps most striking about that song in particular, given the source material, is how positive and truly happy it sounds.

“I don’t want to sing songs that remind me of things that are sad. I want to sing songs that remind me of the joy we have in Jesus,” says Calhoun. “That fact is that my son is with Jesus. Every day that I sing this, it brings me a little closer to my Savior, and that is joyful to me.”

It’s not a formula, but a philosophy that has undergirded the band’s music from day one—sing about joy, plant it in scripture, and wrap it up with a great hook.

“That was the goal from the beginning and probably will be in many ways throughout our career,” says Calhoun. “Songs like ‘Revival’ came out of that same idea. He’s come to give us life and that’s truth that I still need to remind myself of daily.”

Those truths aren’t only resonating within the band; fans across the country are taking to Citizen Way 2.0 much the way they took to Citizen Way the first time around—in droves! As part of the all-star ***Rock and Worship Road Show***, they joined friends like **Jeremy Camp**,



## *Citizen Way*

**Mandisa, MercyMe and Newsboys** filling up arenas up and down the highway.

“We’re a bit of a family on wheels,” admits Calhoun. “We have had so much fun together. A lot of the artists played basketball together. [Jeremy] Camp’s been so good to us. One night, I was just overcome with emotion, and Mandisa stopped to cry with me. It was so much fun serving the Lord and lifting up the name of Jesus together.”

Together is the name of the game for Citizen Way. You might even say 2.0 begins with together...especially given the change-up in the band roster.

“One of our band members needed more time for family and had to step out,” shares Calhoun. “But this is a new family...a new creation. We’ve been really strengthened by this process. There was a purpose and point to the pain and to this record. What we wrote...what I wrote, were things that I needed to say and pray because I couldn’t find peace any other way.”

As he and the band came together and found peace with each other, their thoughts gave way to ideas and lyrics and, soon enough, songs—songs like, “Bulletproof.”

“I had the title in my notes from church and saved it for a long time,” reveals Calhoun. “I thought it’d be such a cool title, thinking about the armor of God. We came into the studio and wrote it in one day. One of the writers had been having a tough time and was so excited by the end of the day. We felt like it was a special song from day one.”

## *Citizen Way*

Other songs emanated from similar sources—a note here, a voice memo there. But at the end of the day, they all come down to a central point: the freedom and joy we have in Jesus. For Ben and the rest of the band, it's a message that they're not only building a career upon, it's one for which they are making sacrifices. Yes, their songs are feel-good, but the lifestyle of an artist places demands on families that require a lot of prayer, patience and diligent balancing.

"I have to make sure my wife and I are on the same page," says Calhoun. "I'll ask her if she's thriving. If not, my goal is for us to find a way to help her thrive. This lifestyle is hard and you have to be called to it. You're not called because you're talented. You're talented because you're called. I was miserable at a desk job. My wife will tell you...she didn't like being married to me when I had a typical 9-5 job. It's not because I'm a musician, but because I wasn't operating within the strengths God gave me."

Intentionally, Calhoun and the rest of Citizen Way put their wives and their families first, with Calhoun's students not too far behind. For eighteen years, he has taught music and music business at **Judson University** in Chicago. With the goal of building and fostering a community of artists, he has helped the school open three recording studios, a record label, and a publishing program.

"My parents were teachers. I've spent years recruiting kids from all over the country to walk with Jesus and to write songs about Him. Ultimately, I'd like to have a songwriting master class," says Calhoun.

For the moment, however, with a recent move to Nashville—Calhoun, his family and the band are focused on music, ministry and making the

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most out of every opportunity they have to celebrate each other and the life they've been given.

"As a band, we support each other," says Ben. "We're family. It's what you do whether you like it or not. We do it together because we love each other and enjoy being together. We want to champion the name of Jesus and have fun doing it. The ultimate goal is that listeners will walk away knowing beyond a doubt that Jesus loves them."

Be it album one, two or number forty-seven, that's a sentiment that will stand for all time. [CCM](#)

## ***“When we first looked into Medi-Share as a healthcare solution we were a bit skeptical—***

*the costs were so low, we thought, are they really going to support our family? Since then we’ve come to the conclusion that for us, there is no other option.*

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—Tonya and Mark



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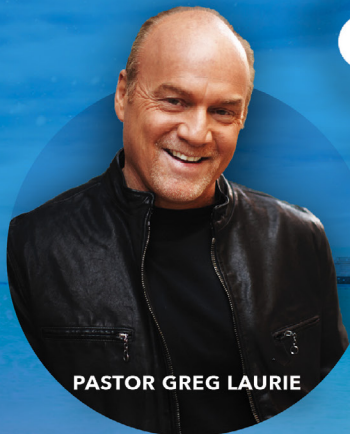
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MATTHEW WEST

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# AUSTIN & LINDSEY ADAMEC





# Q&A w/Austin & Lindsey Adamec

BY MATT CONNER

Making music is nothing new for **Austin** and **Lindsey Adamec**. Before their current gig as a dynamic new worship duo on **Radiate Music**, the husband and wife team were steeped in careers of their own—Austin as a singer-songwriter, Lindsey as a member of **1 Girl Nation**. With their commitment to the local church and passion for God's presence, their focus on worship represents best their artistic hearts.

***CCM Magazine:** You guys both came from different bands/groups before you came together. Can you tell that having that experience has affected the music you make together?*

**Lindsey Adamec:** Musically, we actually went back to the heart of why we even started this ministry altogether, and that's just being in the presence of God and worshipping Him for who He is. We've definitely gleaned tons of experience from life on the road apart, but if anything has influenced this new music, it's what God is doing in our home church in Jacksonville [Florida]. Believe it or not, the first time we met was on stage at a local worship event in town celebrating what God was doing in our schools. We're just getting back to where it all started. Before label deals and tour opportunities, it's been a continual longing for the presence of God that has propelled us.

***CCM:** Having a dynamic as a husband-wife duo has obvious advantages, but are there aspects of making a career of this together that surprised you?*

## Austin & Lindsey

**LA:** You know, one of our favorite parts of getting to make music and work together—aside from spending time with your best friend all the time—is writing. It's crazy how our hearts are so intertwined in the Spirit and how God really gives us the same ideas and words at the same time to confirm a new creative trail. The ability to hear God's voice clearly seems to be directly related to the quality time that we get together and in the Word. It's pretty obvious when we haven't had this—you wouldn't want to be around us! *[Laughs]*

***CCM: The category of worship music is becoming more and more saturated with each passing year. What are the marks of your music that set it apart?***

**Austin Adamec:** Whether it's Christian music or mainstream, people are desperately searching for authenticity right now, and that's all we want to bring to the table. Our new venture together is all about celebrating a life in the presence of God. We could talk about what defines us as an artist and what makes us "special," but at the end of the day, Jesus is the One who defines us and gives us our worth. This music is really just about the victories we've seen over the last year all because of the power of God and the declaration of who He is.

***CCM: You mentioned your local church. Do you consider that important with what you're doing musically?***

**AA:** We wouldn't be where we're at today without our local church. They're everything to us! We have found that there is no way to pour into others when you're not rooted and consistently being poured into by mentors and godly people who know the Word of God. We say all the time that the church has saved us in so many ways, including our

## Austin & Lindsey

marriage. We wouldn't be making this music without the impact it's had on us.

***CCM: Does that also create some tension in being able to travel?***

**LA:** Our church is priority and everyone knows that. It's such a beautiful thing when you put the church's needs above your career. You end up finding out that the church can be your greatest fulfillment of joy. Every event we now play out on the road is completely backed by our church family and saturated in prayer.

***CCM: What else is on the horizon for you guys in 2016?***

**AA:** You can expect more music very soon, touring and who knows what else God has in store. Right now, we are just being obedient to opportunities He brings our way as they come!

***CCM: More than anything else, what do you want people to take from your music?***

**AA:** We have found that there's nothing more satisfying and wholesome in life than saturating yourself constantly with the presence of God. It literally brings life to our mortal bodies as **Paul** writes in **Romans 8**. One of the best ways to channel His presence into our lives is through music, and we've spent endless hours searching the Spirit of God for anthems that would remind our hearts of His unfailing love that never leaves us or lets us go. **CCM**

PHIL WICKHAM

C  
P W  
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CHILDREN OF GOD

# REVIEWS

apr. 1, 2016

AVE it ALL  
*live at Bethel church*



CITY  
ZEN  
WAY

2.0

A&LA  
AUSTIN & LINDSEY ADAMEC

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## REVIEWS

**PHIL WICKHAM**

***Children Of God***

(Fair Trade)

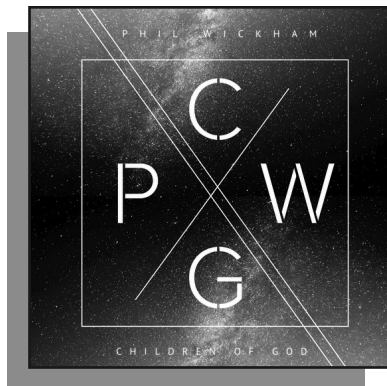
FOR FANS OF:

*Shawn McDonald, Leeland*

WE LIKE:

*"Starmaker (High Above The Earth)"*

★★★★



Popular recording artist and worship leader **Phil Wickham** recently lost the very thing he's most known for: his vocal ability. A risky surgery to repair his vocal cords left Wickham wondering if he might not sing again and what means for his identity. The end result is a renewed sense of his spiritual identity in Christ, and a wellspring of new songs on ***Children Of God***. "Your Love Awakens Me," the lead single, is a powerful pop refrain that directly speaks from his harrowing experience.

On "Better Than Life," Wickham "gives it all to God" as he learns that God's love is better than any other pursuit. "Starmaker (High Above the Earth)" is bound become a congregational favorite with its interesting slant on the greatness of God. Wickham's learned lesson is a welcome truth for all of us.

—Matt Conner

## BETHEL MUSIC

### ***Have It All***

(Bethel Music)

FOR FANS OF: *Brian Johnson,*  
*Steffany Gretzinger, Amanda Cook*

WE LIKE: "Thank You"

★★★★



The newest worship set from **Bethel Music's** all-star community of songwriters, ***Have It All***, leans heavily upon themes of surrender and commitment set to the familiar polished worship sound for which Bethel has become globally known. With familiar favorites like **Steffany Gretzinger, Amanda Cook, Brian** and **Jenn Johnson** alongside new faces, *Have It All* wields its variety well on this loaded 16-track release.

Highlights are hard to pick since the entire release is worth your time. "Faithful to the End" and "Thank You" are powerful worship declarations. The stirring invitation of "Heaven Come" and the excellent "Mercy" also stand out. This collection does what Bethel Music always does: connects the created to the Creator in inspirational ways on each release.

—Matt Conner

# REVIEWS

## CITIZEN WAY

2.0

(FairTrade Services)

FOR FANS OF: *Imagine Dragons,*  
*Sanctus Real, OneRepublic*

WE LIKE: "Set It On Fire"



Get ready for an onslaught of anthems as **Citizen Way** turns in its second long player, which finds the guys even more seasoned than the first time around following three years of tireless touring. Indeed, songs such as "Elevated," "Bigger" and "Set It On Fire" are nothing short of epic, just begging to be sung in a stadium thanks to their towering choruses, monstrous hooks and trendy alternative pop sensibilities.

Yet even amidst the party of spiritually sound positivity, Citizen Way turns introspective at times, most notably on "When I'm With You," a song that finds front man **Ben Calhoun** finding solace in Psalms after the heartbreaking miscarriage of his son.

—Andy Argyrakis



# REVIEWS

## AUSTIN & LINDSEY ADAMEC

### *Austin & Lindsey Adamec*

(Radiate)

FOR FANS OF: Bethel Music,  
All Sons & Daughters

WE LIKE: "Maker of Miracles"

★★★★



Both **Austin** and **Lindsey Adamec** made music on their own terms before deciding as a husband-wife team decided to proceed together as a worship duo. Austin was a singer-songwriter and worship leader, while Lindsay was a member of **1 Girl Nation**. Together, they bring their considerable vocal talents to bear on an exciting debut EP that fits nicely alongside popular staples in the genre.

"Walk on Waves" and "Maker of Miracles" are the most notable tracks of the five songs on this self-titled EP. Both are powerful, polished anthems, the latter of which features the familiar refrain from "Power in the Blood." **Radiate Music** has a real potential hit on their hands, even as congregations will enjoy raising theirs in response to this moving set of songs.

—Matt Conner

# REVIEWS

## DECYFER DOWN

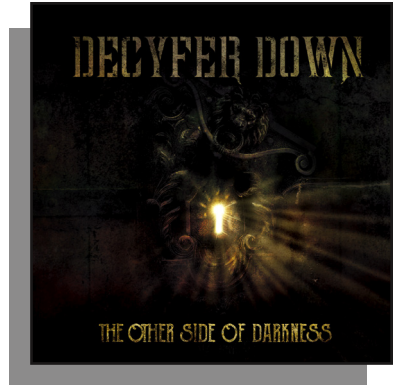
### *The Other Side Of Darkness*

(The Fuel Music)

FOR FANS OF: Disciple, Red,  
Soundgarden

WE LIKE: "Burn Back The Sun"

★★★★



Now that **Decyfer Down** has seven chart-topping tunes, three major label best-sellers, plus GRAMMY and Dove Award nominations under their belts, the veteran rockers are finally at a place of making music entirely on their own terms. ***The Other Side Of Darkness*** comes after more than two years on hiatus, but the band appears all the more recharged and ready to unfurl this no nonsense, comfort zone-shattering collection.

Whether it's fist-pumpers such as "Nothing More" and "Anchor Me" or the acoustically-framed "Burn Back The Sun," Decyfer Down makes a bold, authentic and endlessly compelling case that God's love can truly trump any degree of darkness

—Andy Argyrakis

## NINE LASHES

### ***Ascend***

(BEC/Tooth & Nail)

FOR FANS OF: *Muse*, *Imagine Dragons*

WE LIKE: “Christ in Me”



The theatrical pop/rock flavor of



popular acts like **Muse** and **Imagine Dragons** are right in line with the new album from **Nine Lashes**, entitled ***Ascend***. Its style and substance follows the growth pattern exhibited on Nine Lashes’ sophomore LP *From Water to War* after the band’s debut, *World We View*. The band’s expanded modern rock palette brings arena-ready tracks like “Heartbeats” and lead single “Galaxy” to the mix. These two are definite pillars on the album as well as obvious live favorites.

“The Chosen Ones” feels a bit close to typical worship fare, but the striking synth backdrop of “Glorious” shows how imaginative such vertical lyrics can sound. “Christ In Me” takes things a step further with a resonating message and memorable build almost sounds a bit like **Paper Route**. It’s a strong ending for another solid release from Nine Lashes.

—Matt Conner



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