



*Sharing the compassion of Christ as a bridge to hope and healing
for those facing life's most difficult issues*

"Music is the language of the spirit"

– Bono

"Music gives soul to the universe"

– Plato

*"If I were the best writer in the world
I couldn't do what music can do"*

– Wendy Farley, Professor, Emory University

Music for the Soul is founded on two core beliefs:

- Jesus is the compassionate healer who loves us unconditionally and is always with us especially in our times of greatest challenge and darkest despair
- Music, especially as expressed in a song, is one of God's greatest gifts of communication.

We combine these core beliefs to create life-changing resources
that shine the light of Christ into the darkest places in our lives.

*"Music for the Soul uses songs to invite people in to their own story so they can begin the
healing process."*

– Rev. Michael Cusick

Christian author, counselor, and Founder of Restoring the Soul, Littleton, CO

What is the Need?

According to Christian counselor Dr. Gregg Jantz the next great wave to hit the United States over the next ten years is going to be depression¹ as people deal with issues such as addiction, abuse, disease, and loss.

Some ministries provide food to feed the hungry. At Music for the Soul we minister with food for hearts hungering for peace, understanding, self-worth, acceptance, and wholeness. In tackling life's toughest issues by sharing the love of Christ in a way that can be heard, remembered, and revisited we share the "food that endures to eternal life."²

The most important thing people need to know when they are going through a difficult time is that they are not alone. Our resources help the listener to feel known and understood – by others and by God.



¹ Dr. Gregg Jantz, Director of The Center, a Christian counseling center in Edmonds, WA

² John 6:27, NIV

Music for the Soul is also a gift to those in the helping professions.

"Not only does Music for the Soul provide companionship for hurting people, it also provides partnership to those who have the privilege of caring for others."

- Sharon Hersh

Christian author, counselor, & adjunct professor at Denver Seminary, Lone Tree, CO

Why Music for the Soul resources are so effective

We all build walls to shield ourselves from deep pain, guilt, and shame. Music seeps through the cracks in those walls and opens the heart so that the listener can receive a message of hope and healing.

Language is processed primarily in the left hemisphere of the brain and melody is processed in the right.³ A song connects the two, engaging the whole brain! That's what we mean when we say a song touches both "mind and heart."

As it turns out, trauma is also stored in the right hemisphere of the brain.⁴ That's what makes a song extraordinarily powerful in addressing emotional pain. Music also engages the limbic system of the brain where it is processed at the speed of light to "fast track" emotions.⁵ Therapists tell us our songs can accomplish in just moments results that would take months of talk therapy to achieve.⁶

Additionally, melody and rhythm are powerful memory devices. Singing a message of hope and healing increases the likelihood it will be remembered.⁷

How well do our resources work?

"I use Music for the Soul in both individual and group therapy with astounding results. It speaks directly to the hearts and souls of victims of trauma and their emotional pain."

- Victoria Kepler Didato, MA, LPC, LSW, DAPA

Director, Child Sexual Abuse Institute, Wooster, OH

We've received letters from people thanking us for saving their families - even their lives.

"Tonight I felt like ending my life. Then I found your website. I truly, truly needed you guys and you were there."

- Lisa, Sarasota, FL



³ This is Your Brain on Music, Daniel Levitan, Dutton 2006

⁴ Healing Trauma: Attachment, Mind, Body, and Brain, Marion Solomon & Daniel Siegel, Norton 2003 pg 14,15

⁵ This is Your Brain on Music, Daniel Levitan, Dutton 2006

⁶ Victoria Kepler Didato, MA, LPC, LSW, DAPA - July 20, 2015

⁷ <http://musicandmemory.org/music-brain-resources/current-research/>

How Do We Create Our Resources?

We believe we must treat our listeners with respect and compassion. In order for them to trust us with their hope we need to demonstrate that we understand their pain. That's why each project begins with countless hours of research including input from an advisory board of pastors, Christian therapists, and ministry leaders with expertise in the topic. We also interview many people who've lived through the issue at hand.

Creating content that deals thoroughly, incisively, and sensitively with complex issues requires a focused investment of time, energy, mind, heart, and prayer.

Once we have consensus the lyric content is the best it can be, then the recording process begins. We utilize world-class talent in every part of the process to achieve an end result of excellence that honors the listener - and God.

In so doing it is our prayer that these resources will meet people at their deepest point of need with life –changing, life-giving messages that share the transforming love of Christ.

We agree with Karl Paulknack who said:

"I'm not just an entertainer. I'm a lot closer to a paramedic, a firefighter, a rescue worker."

- Karl Paulknack, Concert Pianist, Boston Conservatory

Who is Music for the Soul?



Steve Siler, a multiple award-winning Contemporary Christian music songwriter, founded Music for the Soul in December 2001, and serves the ministry full time as its Creative Director.



Music for the Soul's organizational structure includes a board of directors, and an advisory board of therapists, pastors, and Christian authors.

To keep overhead as low as possible we outsource all production, marketing, legal, accounting, and advertising needs.⁸ We have a committed team of engineers, arrangers, songwriters, and musicians who work on each of our projects.

Distribution and Outreach

We believe the hope of Christ should be available to all, regardless of ability to pay. Churches do not charge admission. Food pantries do not charge for meals. Homeless shelters do not charge for beds. Accordingly, our website streams all of our content *free of charge* once expenses on a project have been paid.

This means our life-changing resources are available instantly to all, anywhere in the world. Those who wish to download our resources may do so for a gift of any amount, so ability to pay is no barrier. We also make physical copies available for sale.

Because our resources provide help on issues of a deeply personal nature we look to share them in as sensitive a manner as possible. We look to attract rather than to promote. We look to create pull rather than to push. In this way we honor the privacy of those we serve.

*"Music for the Soul is God's soul speaking to my soul.
It's not music written from us to God in worship, but music written from Him to us."*

*- Sue Foster
Christian author and counselor, Hemet, CA*

While some churches have Christ-centered counseling tools many do not. Our mission is to come alongside pastors and parachurch ministry leaders with focused resources that help support them in providing care for those they serve.

We look at the sharing of our resources as a stewardship issue. As such we are always looking for new ways to communicate with our potential end users.

Whenever possible we foster partnerships and licensing agreements with other organizations who wish to utilize our content. Revenue generated in this manner can be used to help develop more new resources and additional outreach opportunities.

"Spot-on powerful music CDs and DVDs; these well-produced projects speak healing to the pain we all experience at one time or another in our own families and circle of Friends."

*- Gloria Gaither
Gaither Family Ministries, Alexandria, IN*



⁸ Whenever possible we have these services donated in kind.

The patron / endowment model

In his article 'The Lost Art of Patronage' Charles Erlandson says that, "We as Christians must understand our calling to patronize the arts if we are ever to reclaim the domain of the arts for Christ and His kingdom."

Music for the Soul's goal is to be a forerunner in reclaiming that domain by creating resources which contain songs and other art forms such as storytelling, personal testimony, visual art, film, and dance that honor God in their excellence and truth telling.

If the body of Christ is to have music that speaks with deep meaning to the pressing issues of our time it is going to require the support of committed Christian patrons and endowments.

At Music for the Soul we regularly hear different forms of this question: *Do you have anything for people who...?*

It might be someone who has been a victim of abuse. It might be a family that has lost a child or someone with a family member who has an addiction.

We have the expertise and the will to do the difficult work of writing and producing these resources. What we need now are financial partners who will join with us to help create and share these life-giving, Christ-centered resources with those who need them.

If you're looking for an opportunity to create a legacy of transforming lives with the healing love of Jesus in this and future generation please prayerfully consider partnering financially with Music for the Soul!

"Music is God's best gift to man; the only art of heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to heaven"

- Walter Savage Lander





Goals

With your help, together we will

- Create an ever-growing catalogue of resources that meet the needs of hurting people everywhere.
- Bring the hope of Christ to those suffering with the most difficult issues of our time.
- Share the hope of healing through Christ with those who have been ignored or under-served.
- Enlarge the toolkit available to the pastoral, counseling, and medical communities.
- Share our resources in multiple languages.
- Establish an academy that teaches young Christian songwriters how to create songs that will speak to the next generation.

We pray that you will join us on this journey!

Thank you!

Steve Siler

Founder & Creative Director

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