NEW RIVER BIO

The voice of Gospel Music Hall of Fame member Karen Peck Gooch is unmistakable. Karen, with her popular trio New River, has enjoyed five Grammy Award nominations, as well as six Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association. It is safe to say that the Dahlonega, GA, native and her musical family are living their dream.

The musical team of Karen Peck & New River was formed in January of 1991 when Karen teamed with her husband, Rickey and her sister, Susan Peck Jackson to form the group. Karen had already made a name for herself, serving as beloved Soprano for the popular Rex Nelon Singers for a decade. During that time she earned her first GMA Dove Award, as well as her first of 11 consecutive Singing News Fan Awards for Favorite Soprano.

Much success has followed the popular vocalist since the formation of Karen Peck & New River. Over the years, the musical team has shared the Gospel through song around the world, traveling throughout the US and Canada, as well as Mexico, Honduras, Israel and Europe. The group is regularly featured on the popular Gaither Homecoming Video Series, which airs around the world.

A leader among the Southern Gospel Music industry, Karen has served on the Board of Directors for Abraham Productions, an events’ promotions company that promotes multiple Christian music cruises and concert events each year. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern Gospel Music Association, including two terms as President. She was the first woman to be named President of the SGMA. Additionally, she has served as keynote speaker at multiple women’s conferences, and in 2012 was named the recipient of the Susan Unthank Memorial Award, presented by AbsolutelyGospel.com, honoring women for major contributions to Southern Gospel Music. Karen also serves as co-host of the weekly television program, Gospel Music, USA, which showcases many of the leading names in Southern Gospel Music.

In 2012, Karen was afforded the opportunity to transition from music to movies when she enjoyed a feature role in the hit film, *Joyful Noice*, appearing with Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah. She was the lead singer on the popular song from the movie soundtrack, “Mighty High.” In 2014, she followed up the appearance with a role in *Redeemed*, staring Ted McGinley, Grant Goodeve and Teri Copley.

Amid the personal success Karen has enjoyed, New River has been equally blessed with countless honors and accolades, including many radio hits, which have soared up the Southern Gospel Music airplay charts. Karen Peck & New River has enjoyed 19 Number One hits, including Four Days Late, which was named Song of the Decade for 2000-2010 by The Singing News Magazine. Many of these hit releases were either written or co-written by Karen, including “Daddy’s Home,” “I Am Blessed,” “I Wanna Know How It Feels,” “Finish Well,” “Pray Now,” “Gotta Be Saved,” “On The Banks Of The Promised Land,” “Revival,” as well as “Hope For The Nations,” which the group performed in Roatan, Honduras in the summer of 2017.

Over the years Karen Peck & New River has evolved to become a complete family affair, as Karen and Rickey’s daughter, Kari, as well as their son, Matthew are full-time group members. In addition to Karen’s sister, Susan, Grant Gibson, the newest addition, completes the talented vocal group.

Karen Peck & New River has evolved throughout the past three decades, and has firmly established a place at the forefront of Southern Gospel Music, yet the Gospel Music Hall of Fame member refuses to rest on past laurels. New River continues to deliver a progressive sound that is distinctive yet remains true to the traditional styling that has made them a fan favorite. Collectively, they are more committed than ever to continue to share the message of the Gospel through song and yes, it is safe to say that Karen Peck & New River is committed to living their dream.