

Mark Bishop

Mark Bishop has been sharing his music with audiences and Gospel Music fans for nearly twenty years. His musical roots trace back to summer evenings spent on the front porch with his family, sharing the day's events and whiling away the hours singing song after song. It was during these idyllic evening gatherings that Mark and his family began forming the musical foundation that would bring them to the forefront of Southern Gospel music.

During their career, The Bishops (Mark, his father Kenneth, and his brother Kenny) enjoyed enormous success, with twenty-five recordings that produced twenty-seven Top 40 songs, including twelve Top 5 songs and three Number 1 songs. The Bishops also received numerous awards from their fans and peers in Southern Gospel music. Much of The Bishops distinctive sound could attributed to the instantly recognizable voice of Mark Bishop.

In time, Mark developed into one of the most promising and prolific songwriters in Southern Gospel music. He has written ten, Top 10 songs including: "Reach The World;" "When Jesus Is All That I Have;" "For Every Cross, There is a Crown;" "Great Things;" "When You Change Your Mind," and "You Can't Ask Too Much of My God," which was named the "Song of the Year" by the Southern Gospel Music Songwriters Association in 1997. In addition to The Bishops, Mark's songs have been recorded by The Kingsmen, Brian Free & Assurance, Amy Lambert, Allison Durham Speer, and many others. Church choirs across America have performed his songs. Mark's compositions have been performed on TV on programs such as *In Touch with Charles Stanley*, *The Word Today with John Hagee*, *The Grand Ole Opry*, *The Bill Gaither Homecoming* series, and others.

In addition to his singing and songwriting abilities, Mark has also been recognized as a skillful producer. His creative touch is evident on The Bishops' recordings. In 2000, the GMA (Gospel Music Association) honored Mark with a DOVE Award for producing *Kentucky Bluegrass* by The Bishops which was named the "Best Bluegrass Gospel Album of the Year" by the GMA .

Upon the retirement of The Bishops in 2001, Mark was encouraged by his friends, family, and peers to continue to use the gifts and talents God had given him. After much prayerful thought and counsel, Mark began a new chapter in his life and launched a solo career. "I know that God has a plan for my life that includes music. My passion for writing and performing Gospel music is still very much alive and vibrant. I love this music; I love these people, and as long as God allows, I'm pressing on."

Mark quickly gained momentum from the formidable legacy of The Bishops. Since the commencement of the new solo ministry, Mark has enjoyed tremendous support from pastors, promoters, his booking agency, his record company, radio, and Southern Gospel music fans. Each of his first five radio singles reached the Top 20 radio charts. "Jesus Can Lift You Up" from his debut solo release *Faith, Family, & Friends* was the Number One song on the *US Gospel News* Top 100 chart in November 2002. In October 2004, "Can I Pray for You" became Mark's first Number One in *Singing News Magazine*. In April 2005, the second single release from that same recording, "I Got Here as Fast as I Could" also reached the #1 position on the radio charts. He has

performed on many of the industry's top concerts and high profile events. Churches across the country have been blessed by Mark's performances and have discovered that a concert with Mark is indeed an uplifting event. His voice is instantly recognizable and familiar to fans of Southern Gospel music everywhere; his beautifully crafted songs are encouraging and insightful; his presentation is multifaceted, endearing, and has something for everyone.

When not performing, Mark can be found at home in Irvine, Kentucky with his Carolyn, and their daughters Courtney and Haley, where their life centers around their home church and their daughters' school and athletic activities.

Mark records exclusively for Sonlite Records. To schedule Mark Bishop for your concert or church event, contact The Harper Agency at 615-851-4500.

www.markbishopmusic.com