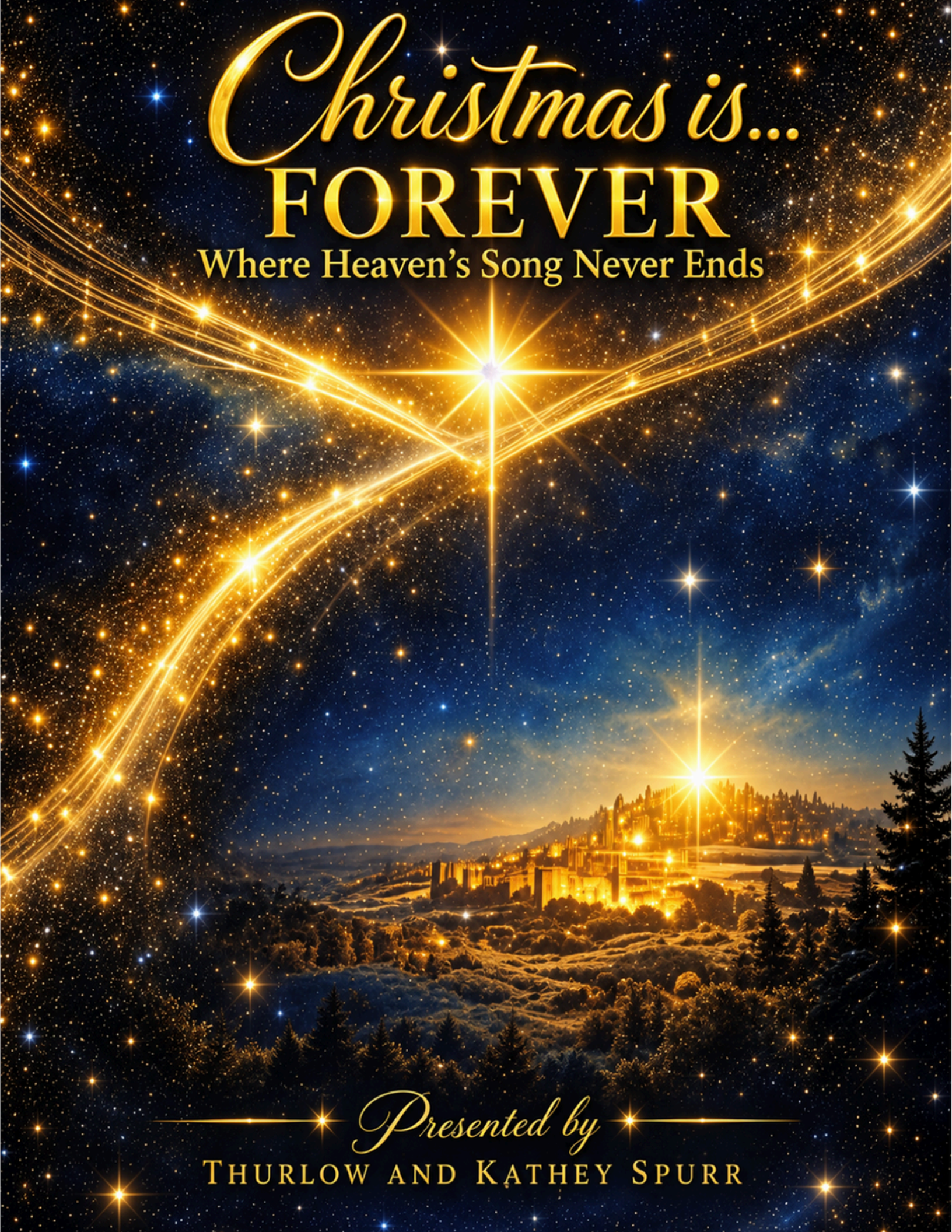

Christmas is...
FOREVER
Where Heaven's Song Never Ends
Presented by
Thurlow and Kathey Spurr

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Christmas Is...Forever! We are so grateful that you have joined us for this very special celebration.

This season marks Concert Ministries, Inc.'s, 54th consecutive year of sharing music, faith, and the message of Jesus Christ with audiences across the country.

For more than five decades, God has allowed us to serve through music and to work alongside remarkable singers, musicians, families, churches, and friends. Many of you have traveled this journey with us for years. Others are joining us for the very first time. We are thankful for every one of you.

This year also brought a very special personal milestone for our family and ministry. Miss Kathey earned her Ph.D. in Music Education from Liberty University. Her doctoral work reflects a lifelong commitment to music education, ministry, leadership, and the continued strength of faith-based performing organizations.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, our greatest desire remains unchanged. We want every person who enters this auditorium to experience the hope of Christ.

Thank you for being part of our 54th year. We pray that Christmas Is... Forever brings joy to your heart and reminds you of God's greatest gift.

With love and gratitude,

Thurlow & Kathey Spurr

ACT I



Winter Medley	The Cast featuring Blake Beckett, Stephanie Jessee, A.C. James & The Thurlow Spurr Singers
Celebrate the Season	The American Song Machine, featuring Blake Beckett, Bill Maginn & The Thurlow Spurr Singers
Parade of the Wooden Soldiers	The Cast featuring Santa, Harleigh Priest & Miss Kathey's Academy
Holly Jolly Christmas	The American Song Machine featuring A.C. James & The Thurlow Spurr Singers
All I Want for Christmas Is You	Miss Kathey's Academy featuring Julie Batman & The Thurlow Spurr Singers
Birthday of a King	The American Song Machine featuring Blake Beckett & The Thurlow Spurr Singers





ACT II CAST
In Order of Appearance

Ishmael, Jr.	Jack Edling
Miriam	Paula Ross-Durow
Prophet 1	Blake Beckett
Prophet 2	Terry Norris
Prophet 3	Jody Marvin
Gabriel	Barry Johnson
Mary	Kathey Spurr
Elizabeth	Sandy Howell
Joseph	Bill Maginn
Angels	Julie Batman Sandy Howell Stephanie Jessee
Shepherds	Blake Beckett Quran Karriem Thomas Karriem JJ Priest Luke Priest
Young Joseph	Allan Appiah
Young Mary	Brittany Appiah
Baby Jesus	Elsie Appiah

SYNOPSIS

'Specially for Shepherds takes place at the expanded Bethlehem Inn, five years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Once again, the Inn is filled with guests who have gathered to celebrate His birth and remember the life of the One who changed theirs forever. Some were connected to the night of His birth. Others encountered Him during His ministry and witnessed His miracles, heard His teachings, and experienced events they would never forget. Now they have returned with their children and families to share those memories and tell the story once again.

But this year, we begin the story much earlier—nearly 700 years before the birth of Christ, when the prophets foretold the coming Messiah. Mary and Joseph themselves take us back to the beginning, telling what happened as only they could—because they were there.

We hear of Gabriel's extraordinary visit to Mary, her questions, her faith, and her willing acceptance of God's plan. We follow Joseph as he faces his own questions and chooses faithfulness. And then we come to the fields outside Bethlehem, where unsuspecting shepherds are about to receive news that will change history. Together, Mary and Joseph lead us toward the night when centuries of promise became reality and the long-awaited Savior was born.

Come with us to Bethlehem. Hear the story from those who lived it, remember the wonder of that first Christmas, and discover why this part of the story is... *'Specially for Shepherds*

ACT II

Sound of the Round — The Company

'Specially for Shepherds — Composed and Arranged by Ralph Carmichael

Part I—The Prophets

Unto Us A Child Is Born (Isaiah 9:6a)	The Company
The Sign (Isaiah 7:14)	Prophet 1
The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6b)	The Company
A Great Light (Isaiah 9:2)	Prophet 2
The Prince of Peace (Reprise)	The Company
Shining Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)	Prophet 3
Prophet Trio	Prophets 1, 2 & 3
Unto Us A Child Is Born (Reprise)	The Company

Part II—Mary

Gabriel's Commission (Luke 1:26–27)	The Company
Greetings Mary (Luke 1:28)	Gabriel & The Company
Whatever Could He Mean (Luke 1:29)	Mary
He Shall Be Called God's Son (Luke 1:30–31)	Gabriel
He Shall Be Great (Luke 1:32–33)	The Company
Questions (How Can This Be?) (Luke 1:34)	Mary
Nothing Is Impossible (Luke 1:35, 37)	Gabriel, Mary & The Company
Here Am I (Luke 1:38)	Mary & The Townswomen
I Must Tell Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–41)	Mary
I Knew It (Luke 1:42, 45)	Elizabeth & Mary
Sing Out My Soul (Luke 1:46, 54)	Mary & The Company

ACT II

Part III—Joseph

I Can't Believe It (Matthew 1:18)	Joseph
Dear Mary (Matthew 1:19)	Joseph
Your Worries Are Through (Matthew 1:20–22)	Gabriel & The Company
The Sign (Reprise) (Matthew 1:23)	The Company
We Will Walk Together (Matthew 1:24)	Mary & Joseph
The Road to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1, 5)	The Company
Shining Bethlehem (Reprise) (Luke 2:4)	The Company
Unto Us A Child Is Born (Reprise) (Luke 2:6)	Mary, Joseph, Prophet Trio & The Company

Part IV—'Specially for Shepherds

A Light in the Sky (Luke 2:8–9)	The Company
Most Joyful News (Luke 2:10)	Angels
How Will We Know Him?	Shepherds & The Company
Just One Look (Luke 2:12)	The Company
Glory to God In The Highest (Luke 2:14)	The Company
I Found Him (Luke 2:16)	Shepherds & The Company
Glory to God In The Highest (Reprise)	The Company
I Choose Jesus	Bill Maginn & The Company
Amen	Blake Beckett & The Company



THE COMPANY

Jack Edling
Barry Johnson
Quran Karriem
Thomas Karriem
Tracey Karriem
Ashley King
Jody Marvin
Terry Norris
Bob Pickett
Hope Priest
Harleigh Priest
JJ Priest
Lauren Priest
Luke Priest
Vickey Priest
Rosemary Pursell
Paula Ross-Durow
Teresa Tone
Runette Travis
Robyn Sims





THE THURLOW SPURR SINGERS

Julie Batman
Blake Beckett
Sandy Howell
A.C. James
Stephanie Jessee
Bill Maginn
Kathey Spurr

PRODUCTION STAFF

Thurlow Spurr	Executive Producer; Director
Kathey Spurr	Co-Executive Producer; Director; Director, Miss Kathey's Academy
Bob Pickett	Producer & Director, St. Louis
Jim Priest	CMI Property Manager
Marc Bowyer	Audio Director
Rosemary Pursell	Deco Manager
Teresa Tone	Seamstress
Jill Duran	Lighting

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jan Calliston	Administrative Advisor Emerita
Vicki Spurr	Special Projects
Eric Jessen	Art Design
Wesley Howell	CPA
Brian Lucas	Bookkeeper
Anissa King	Marketing

MISS KATHEY'S ACADEMY STAFF

Vickey Priest	Academy Detroit Area Chair
Ashley King & Hope Priest	Detroit Dance Teachers
Rich & Tracy Weber	Academy St. Louis Chairpersons
Elayna Etuk	St. Louis Assistant Director
Sandy Howell	Orlando Music Teacher
Kassidy Harff	Orlando Dance Captain/Teacher
Joyanna Peterson	Choreographer
Gwen Bliss	Choreographer

THURLOW SPURR

Founder, Executive Producer, Director



Thurlow Spurr is legendary in the music industry. Spurr's innovation helped launch Contemporary Christian Music. Past President of the Gospel Music Association and a GMA board member for eight years, Spurr's personal handprint on the industry is still evident today. Thurlow has produced dozens of award-winning television specials and hundreds of daily and weekly television shows, including multiple times as musical director/conductor for the annual Dove Awards.

His well-known group, The Spurrlows, internationally acclaimed as 'America's Official Musical Ambassadors,' pioneered entertainment for corporate America by traveling and performing throughout the USA and around the world for more than 35 years. The Spurrlows became the first Christian singing group sponsored by the world's fifth-largest industrial corporation, the Chrysler Corporation, in a relationship that lasted six productive years and included more than 3,000 concert events.

The Spurrlows were the first of many traveling groups that Spurr created. As the first-ever Musical Director of Youth for Christ International, he created music for millions of teens worldwide. The dozens of musical groups he created became renowned for their ability to communicate and spread the gospel across the country and around the world. Those groups included First Gear, Common Ground, Garden Party, Dust, Crimson Bridge, Earth Opera, Pilgrim 20, Pride of Man, and Love's Distinction.

He provided the pattern and consultation for Cam Floria's Continentals, Roger Breland's Truth, Derrick Johnson's Regeneration, and Richard Roberts' World Action Singers. He has represented most of the Fortune 500 companies, as well as the Florida Department of Tourism, Busch Gardens, Disney, SeaWorld, Universal, The Bob Hope Special (NBC Television Network), The Readers' Choice Awards Show, and The Charisma 15th Anniversary Special. Thurlow Spurr has clearly made an incredible impact on the Gospel Music industry.

Spurr's live concerts have thrilled audiences in all 50 states as well as in North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Europe, the Caribbean, the British Isles, Europe, South America, Japan, China, and Finland. He was the first to bring Christian music into the Kremlin after the fall of the

Soviet Union, and under his guidance, one million Bibles were distributed in Russian, including a Bible for every desk in the Kremlin. At the request of the Israeli Government, Spurr produced and directed an international 600-voice choir in a three-day musical event celebrating the 3,000th Anniversary of Jerusalem. The Israeli Government also invited Spurr to return and create a musical program in Palestine's Manger Square for the historical Bethlehem 2000 celebration.

Internationally recognized, Spurr led the first American Christian musical group permitted to perform in North Korea. The Spurrlows, under Spurr's leadership, won first place in the Day of the Sun Music Festival, a competition held on North Korea's most important holiday.

Thurlow Spurr's impact on Gospel Music has been far-reaching. He has shaped the careers of many musical leaders in diverse roles worldwide, and his former students and employees hold prominent positions throughout the music industry. They are sound engineers, TV producers and directors, studio musicians, choir and worship leaders, record company executives, talent coordinators, film industry contributors, and notable figures across all areas of Gospel music. He has provided Booking and Management for Kathie Lee Gifford, Dino, Bobby Jones, New Life, and Larnelle Harris.

With his management, Spurr was instrumental in launching the career of CCM artist Larnelle Harris. Harris has enjoyed a career spanning more than five decades, earning five Grammy Awards, eleven Dove Awards, a Stellar Award, and the prestigious Silver Bell Award from the Ad Council for his involvement in the longest-running television ad campaign of all time. Thurlow combined Harris with Sandi Patty and Dino in a multi-city tour called The Big Three. The backup 200-voice choir, made up of singers from each concert city, gave people across the country a chance to be part of a large-scale, high-quality production while also supporting an evangelistic outreach.

His reputation for excellent music has placed him as Minister of Music at some of America's largest mega-churches. Spurr has served as Minister of Music at Salem Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; the First Church of the Nazarene in Detroit, Michigan; the Calvary Assembly in Orlando, Florida; and the Metro Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. At Metro Church, he created a musical series called Metro Band that remains available in print and on CD. He has additionally produced more than sixty record albums and created more than thirty choral books for church choirs.

Festival of Praise, an outreach program of Spurr's Concert Ministries Inc., was a cutting-edge, innovative musical training tool that was intended to lead churches and their congregations in praise and worship at the beginning of the dramatic change in liturgy. Integrated with dance and drama and rooted in scripture, the six musical books, recordings, and live concerts ran for ten years, leading thousands to a deeper understanding of genuine worship.

He used non-professional singers to form a traveling choir that toured for a few weeks each year. Festival of Praise left a lasting impression on church praise and worship by combining exceptional travel and life-changing experiences that impacted every participant, while providing ministry opportunities for ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

To reach musicians who did not have an opportunity to perform outside of their church choirs, Spurr developed the concept of regional choirs and established them in Orlando, Tulsa, Dallas, New York City, Houston, Ft. Lauderdale, Honolulu, St. Louis, and Oklahoma City. Spurr's commitment to this vigorous program made a spiritually significant imprint on each community.

In one of his latest endeavors, Spurr has created an incredible anthology of the world's most beloved and enduring music entitled The Thurlow Spurr Collection featuring The Music of Life. Arranged for concert piano and orchestra, the 12 CDs feature 150 timeless love songs, classical pieces, treasured hymns, Broadway hits, and patriotic and Christmas music. The Thurlow Spurr Collection is currently featured nightly on network Radiant TV.

Spurr serves on the board of ACTS Television Network. His award-winning television work on TBN and PTL is still played every year.

Spurr continues to produce music for the masses. For the past 50 years as president, producer, and director of the famed Michigan/Ohio/St. Louis 200-voice interdenominational, multi-generational, and multi-cultural Concert Choir, Spurr continues to further increase the impact of Christian music in America and around the world. Comprised of voices representing people from all walks of life, Spurr continues to generate sold-out crowds with his annual Christmas Concerts.

A man dedicated to working for the Kingdom of God. A man of great passion, known not only for his musical prowess, but also for his motivational skills, Thurlow Spurr continues to share his philosophy that 'an audience listens with their eyes.' He continues to captivate audiences worldwide with infectious enthusiasm for his craft, flair for dramatic stage direction, and dedication to a higher standard of excellence and presentation.

However, Spurr contends that his greatest accomplishment is personal. Today Thurlow lives in Orlando, Florida, and is happily married to Kathey, an accomplished vocalist, pianist, and constant companion.

KATHEY GRATZ SPURR

Co-Executive Producer, Director



Originally from Bluffton, Ohio, Dr. Spurr holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Music in vocal performance and a Ph.D. in Music Education from Liberty University.

Dr. Spurr is a powerhouse performer with over 40 years of experience in the entertainment industry. Her credits include national TV commercials, performances at top hotels, and appearances with legends like Bob Hope and Joan Rivers.

Her passion for the arts led her to establish Miss Kathey's Academy for the Performing Arts, where she is dedicated to developing and training godly character in today's youth. She is a true inspiration and role model for aspiring performers everywhere.

Plus, she's sweet but tough—the perfect performance coach to take your child's talent to the next level.

She has been a featured soloist in oratorios, operas, musicals, and contemporary Christian music. She has toured extensively throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia with the show group Common Ground, which frequently appeared on national television, in Las Vegas, and on several USO tours. She has made special appearances with Bob Hope, Roy Clark, David Copperfield, Danny Thomas, Johnny Cash, Phyllis Diller, Joan Rivers, and Jay Leno, and has sung for Presidents Ford and Reagan.

Miss Kathey's Academy for the Performing Arts began while Kathey was living in Nashville, where she taught private vocal and piano instruction. Kathey was also a studio demo singer and achieved success in commercial jingle work. She acted in national television commercials for Holiday Inn, Ladies Mennen Speed Stick, Century 21, Avon, and American Beauty Cosmetics, among others. Kathey also entertained at the Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel and the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville.

Kathey has been the Musical Director for City Road United Methodist Church in Nashville and has directed church choirs in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

She has conducted clinics in performance and acting techniques at colleges and universities around the country, including Anderson College in Indiana and Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma. She served as a voice teacher on the faculty at the University of Mobile in Alabama.

In 2012, with her husband Thurlow Spurr, she co-produced and directed 22 concerts with Grammy- and Dove Award-winning artists Sandi Patty, Larnelle Harris, and Dino.

In September of 2018, Thurlow and Kathey produced a TV pilot called 'The Larnelle Show!' featuring Larnelle Harris, whom the Spurrs have managed and booked for Larnelle's entire 50-year career. Kathey also sang in the backup group called 'Friends' that was highlighted on the show.

Dr. Spurr is co-producer/director of the CMI Concert series Christmas Is... She also sings with and directs The Thurlow Spurr Singers. The group includes seven prolific, extremely talented musicians. Together, they produce sounds that are pure magic.

This ingenious youth approach to music and the arts is spreading rapidly and has already captivated the attention and hearts of thousands of enthusiastic supporters wherever they appear. Miss Kathey's Academy for the Performing Arts draws wholehearted applause and unbelievable support as its influence and fame continue to spread. These gifted, highly trained youth shine like stars as rigorous training and opportunity nurture their talent.

Miss Kathey's Academy has locations in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Branson, and St. Louis, Missouri.

BOB PICKETT

Producer & Director, St. Louis



Producer & director of the St. Louis Concert Choir, now in its 30th season, Bob brings over 50 years of choral conducting experience to this production. He toured nationally for six years with the Festival of Praise Choir, and in 2012 conducted and performed in their Reunion Concerts in St. Louis and in Branson, featuring the Big 3: Sandi Patty, Larnelle Harris, and Dino. He has directed the choral music program at Grace Church—Saint Louis for 30 years and organized and prepared the 200-voice choirs for the St. Louis performances of The Young Messiah, Emmanuel, and the Ensemble for My Utmost For His Highest. For three years he organized and directed the city-wide mass choir for St. Louis' Global Day of Prayer event at the Chaifetz Arena and Busch Stadium.

With CMI, Bob has conducted in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hawaii, and the Bahamas; at the acclaimed Christian Artists' Seminar in Estes Park, Colorado; and directed Concert Choirs in Orlando, Tampa, South Florida, New York, and New Jersey. He has also been a featured guest conductor at choral events at his alma maters, Heidelberg College, and Lansing (MI) Everett High School. Bob has produced and directed the Saint Louis Concert Choir's 25 annual Christmas productions, including last year's Christmas Is...Wonder Awakened, and has worked alongside Thurlow Spurr on many projects since 1976, including two OnDemand television specials in 2020 and 2021. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and taught high school choral music for ten years in Monroe, Michigan, and St. Louis, Missouri. He serves on the pastoral staff at Grace Church—Saint Louis.

Our heartfelt thanks to our Partners!



Claud Bowers
Steve Strang
Steve Steiger
Jim Campbell — Carter Kenyon — Joy FM
Roger Hollar, Mike Gilland — The Shepard Radio
Duane & Cindy Kuck
Jannette & Howard Woo
Tim & Marie Kuck
Don Waisanen
Bob Pickett
Vicki Spurr

Charles McNulty
Andrew & Lew Stass
Assad Faraj
Jon Stemkowski
Dan Tyler
Theresa Cosey
James Fort
Mary Barr
Vickey & Jim Priest
Chip & Jane Wiese
Ed Griffin

Thank you Faith Assembly!

Christmas Is...Forever extends our heartfelt thanks to Pastors Ray and Kathy Bucciarelli and the entire Faith Assembly family for their gracious hospitality, encouragement, and support of this production. We are truly grateful for your partnership in helping us share the message of Christmas with our community.

ON DEMAND • DECEMBER 21–31, 2026

Christmas Is...Forever will be available On Demand beginning December 21 and continuing through New Year's Eve. Viewers worldwide can enjoy the production from the comfort of home.

CREATE MOMENTS THAT MATTER—Host a Christmas watch party! Put a few logs on the fire, serve hot chocolate, pop some popcorn, and enjoy Christmas Is...Forever with family and friends.

LOOKING TO CROSS ONE MORE GIFT OFF YOUR LIST? Give the gift of Christmas Is...Forever! Simply scan the QR code, and your recipient will receive instructions for watching the production at home.

Share the music. Share the story. Share Christmas with someone you love.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Concert Ministries is to advance the Evangelical Christian Faith through live and recorded performance, media productions in all areas of media technology, as well as college-level educational opportunities in music and all areas of the performing and media arts to attract, train, and deploy aspiring talent from across the United States and around the world. To carry on such other religious, missionary, educational, and charitable activities and enterprises as are consistent with the purposes of the corporation.

PARTNER WITH US

We thank you for your tax-deductible gift to further our ministry of Taking Music (Jesus) to Our World. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, the continuation of CMI depends on the generous gifts of countless people. Concert Ministries, Inc. is a **nonprofit organization** headquartered at:

5417 Halifax Drive, Orlando, FL 32812
www.cmichoir.org or www.ChristmasIs.us
Orlando Office: 407.473.0313

If you have ever dreamed of being involved in a full-scale musical extravaganza, then this is the opportunity you have been waiting for. If you are interested in singing with the ORLANDO AMERICAN SONG MACHINE, joining MISS KATHEY'S ACADEMY, or helping in one of our support areas, we would love to hear from you!

Please complete the Registration Card you received as you entered.

2026 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Nov. 21 • 3:00 PM | Lake Fenton High School Auditorium | Linden, MI 48451
Nov. 22 • 3:00 PM | Faith Christian Assembly | Melvindale, MI 48122
Dec. 5 • 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM | Sanctuary Church | Orlando, FL 32806
Dec. 13 • 2:00 PM | Rickman Auditorium | Arnold, MO 63010
Tickets: Call 800-993-SING (7464) or visit www.ChristmasIs.us

