

Oklahoma Spotlight:

BLAKE BOLERJACK

By Chandel Lewis

What do Troy Aikman, Will Rogers, and Vince Gill have in common? Oklahoma! Besides being known for football, cowboys and country music, Oklahoma is a hotbed for Southern Gospel Entertainment.

Throughout the last couple of years, my husband and I have had the privilege of hearing nationally recognized Southern Gospel Artists. As a treat, we were fortunate enough to get in on some regional artists as well. There are many groups and soloists in Oklahoma that are just waiting on the "Big Break" to become nationally known and to fulfill their dreams of sharing a stage with such greats as The Hoppers, The Greenes, Gold City or The Bowling Family just to name a few.

Within the SG realm lies the potential to become as well known as The Gaithers or The Goodman's, but without the exposure that places like Nashville offers, how is an artist supposed to get their name out there? Well, this question is one that I pondered recently when I made my first trip to NQC. There were tons of regional artists just trying to get some exposure but as I looked around at the crowd, they were flocking to the well known groups and leaving the regional groups behind. That is where my idea of highlighting the regional artists began to form.

Over the next few months I hope to unveil to you what I think are some phenomenal groups and soloists that just need that extra push in the media. I plan to get the inside scoop on what makes them tick. I want to know how they balance their road time with their other jobs that so many have and I want to know how they balance their family time with all their other obligations. I also can't wait to hear how they got their start in SG music. I want to delve into their personal and professional lives so that you, the viewers,



Blake Bolerjack performing "Prayer Force One" Theme song at the Oklahoma State Capital Building. By Paul Stevens, Prayer Force One

can have a better sense of the artist. After reading my article I hope you as a viewer can see the artist for something more than just another singer trying to make it..

At the age of 5, Blake Bolerjack understood that God loved him and he had to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior or he would be doomed to hell. As he sat on the kitchen counter, in one of 13 homes he lived in growing up, his dad explained Salvation to him. It was then that he asked Jesus to be his personal Savior.

Throughout his childhood and into his teenage years, Blake performed to his best ability in sports and academics but deep inside, he battled depression, anxiety, and anger issues. Feelings of worthlessness and not fitting in shadowed his life. As he shares his testimony, it's clear he offers a message of God's love and a story of hope.

At the age of 17, Blake's world came crashing down around him and that's when he attempted to take his own life. But, as God would have it, and with the help of Blake's praying Grandmother, God had other plans for him. It was at that very low moment that he realized the true meaning of God's unconditional love and rededicated his life to Christ. This set Blake on the journey that has become his life's testimony.

As a small boy, he knew of God's calling on his life to sing. It wasn't until Blake turned 18 that the doors began to open. Blake traveled a couple years with a group from Ventura, California called The Continental Singers. This helped prepare him to be the phenomenal soloist that he is today. Blake surrendered the

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Singers. This helped prepare him to be the phenomenal soloist that he is today. Blake surrendered the call to go full time in his ministry 4 years ago. A lot of changes took place for this now 29 year old. A few months after going full time, he made Jenna, now his wife of four years.

A lot goes into each performance and he credits Jenna for keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes. He describes their relationship as "Partners in Ministry." Blake has the privilege of being full time with his concert ministry, and they spend nearly every weekend on the road ministering. Occasionally he is also able to use his talents as a studio singer to help out other artists, but Blake's true love is being able to encourage the body of Christ through his music.

Blake remembers the first SG song he ever heard, "Moving Up to Gloryland" by The Cathedrals. After that, he had an insatiable thirst for Southern Gospel music. He spoke of what a huge influence the music had on his life but also the man that was very influential to him: his dad, who had experienced a lot of the same trials that Blake did. His dad was the man in his life that led him to Salvation. They continue to hold a strong bond today.



Blake and Jenna Bolerjack
 By Christain Traina, Traina Photography

a little Inspirational/Contemporary thrown in the mix. He states, "I like to mix it up and have a little bit for everybody."

Picking favorites from old hymns and classics seems like it would be an easy task but Blake says, "After narrowing it down to about 80, I had to pick the ones for the project. There are so many good old hymns that have such a great message in them."

Experiencing turmoil in Blake's own life helped him to relate to his favorite song from the project. "It Is Well" has a great testimony behind it and although the writer, Horatio Spafford, was experiencing unimaginable things, he held on to his faith in God and went on to become a missionary in Jerusalem.

Blake has a very strong grasp on God's unchanging hand, and he hopes to share his story as one of hope and love.

Chandel Dobbs makes her home in Stigler, Oklahoma. She is a Registered Nurse by trade and attends Cass Freewill Baptist Church. She loves to sing and listen to southern gospel music and is married to Mitch.



Fun Facts on Blake Bolerjack

Hometown: Originally Perryton, Texas, no Oklahoma City, OK

On the Road Favorite Restaurant:

Fast Food-Subway,

Dine In-Cracker Barrel

Favorite Motel-Anything by

Marriott because none of their rooms allow smoking

Home Church: Venue-Emmanuel Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. ("They are like family there and it was my first concert that I got to bring my wife to")

Most embarrassing moment "There are so many.: Hint: Just make sure you don't have a carport he has to drive his trailer under.

For booking information, music samples, and to order his latest project:
www.blakebolerjack.com

Blake's excitement is obvious when he speaks of *Uncolored Day*, his recently released album, a blend of hymns and classics heavy with piano and string instrumentation. He has difficulty describing his style of music, but manages to narrow it down to Southern Gospel with

Ministering from the heart to those who need a change of heart



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