

GARY L. HEMENWAY BIOGRAPHY



As a four-year-old Gary Hemenway's first musical question to his mother was, "when do I get to play piano in church?" Raised in the small Eastern Oregon town of Pilot Rock, Hemenway's early interest (largely due to his parents influence and AM radio) grew to encompass a wide variety of musical styles. As a pre-teen he was captured by the sounds of Andre' Crouch and the Disciples, Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Chicago, and The Temptations. But it was while under the tutelage of Dr. Dennis Plies and Dr. Dennis Esselstrom at Warner Pacific College in arts-rich Portland, Oregon that Gary saw his abilities expand. With a passion for excellence and a newfound love for many styles of music countless doors have been opened to him.

Hemenway's diverse abilities as a contemporist have afforded him the rich opportunity to work in the fields of soundtrack, production, direction, composing/arranging, & live performance work. His work has appeared throughout the world in Nike & Avia videos and events. In 1992 his work appeared at the World Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. This work also garnished a Portland Advertising Federation Rosie award for Best Musical Composition in 1992.

Amongst his many musical abilities black gospel has become one of his greatest musical strengths. Hemenway is the music director for the Northwest Community Gospel Choir which begins its' thirteenth season with the Oregon Symphony's Gospel Christmas concerts - a friendly collision of the gospel and classical music worlds.

His other credits include Weiden & Kennedy, Newton & Bard Studios, Will Vinton Studios, Scream Music, Kung Fu Bakery Studios, The Portland Rose Festival, The Oregon Symphony (David Byrne & Gospel Christmas, A Night at the Cotton Club October 2010), The Home Shopping Network, Baskerville Recording, Billy Graham Crusades, Vineyard Music Group and George Fox University. His greatest joy has been found in the people that he has worked with. They include Dr. Charles Floyd, Dr. Thomas Miller and the Novum Chamber Singers, Mick Gillette and Lenny Pickett of the Tower of Power horns, Graham Lear, Mark Schulman, Gary Hobbs, Patrick Lamb, Renato Caranto, Chris Kent, Chris Lizotte, Steve Camp, Randy Stonehill, Mark & Sarah McMillan, the late Bruce Carter, and many others.

Gary has written and arranged numerous vocal and instrumental pieces and has three recordings of his original compositions and arrangements, a fourth to be finished this summer, and a fifth scheduled for release Christmas 2010. He frequently enjoys working with schools, colleges and churches as a guest musician, clinician, director, and highly sought after accompanist.

Above all else, Gary loves his three daughters, Sarah, Olivia, and Amelia, all accomplished artists in their own right.