



# Southern Gospel

## Heavenly Gospel Classics

1. Life's Railway To Heaven – *Patsy Cline*
2. You'll Never Walk Alone – *Lee Greenwood*
3. I'll Live In Glory – *The Oak Ridge Boys*
4. When God Dips His Love In My Heart (Live) – *Jim Reeves*
5. Amazing Grace – *Brenda Lee*
6. Leaning On The Everlasting Arms – *The Jordanaires*
7. Lily Of The Valley – *George Jones*
8. I Saw The Light (Live) – *Bill Monroe*
9. My Soul Belongs To Jesus – *The LeFevres*
10. Rock Of Ages – *Ray Price*

## Country Gospel Classics

1. Lord You've Been Mighty Good To Me – *George Jones*
2. King Jesus – *The Kingsmen Quartet*
3. I'm Going To Make Heaven My Home – *Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs*
4. Have A Little Talk With Jesus – *Brenda Lee*
5. Bound For The Promised Land – *Lee Greenwood*
6. He Lives – *Ed Bruce*
7. God Is My Shepherd – *J.D. Sumner & The Stamps*
8. Because He Lives – *The Blackwood Brothers*
9. Sweet Jesus – *Wendy Bagwell & The Sunlighters*
10. Day Of Rejoicing – *The Oak Ridge Boys*

## Sanctified Gospel

1. Take My Hand Precious Lord – *Ray Price*
2. Power In The Blood – *The Jordanaires*
3. This Little Light Of Mine – *The Masters Five*
4. What A Friend We Have In Jesus – *Sandy Posey*
5. How Great Thou Art – *Lee Greenwood*
6. Joshua – *The Jordanaires*
7. Softly And Tenderly – *Holly Dunn*
8. Sweet Hour Of Prayer – *Bill Anderson*
9. In Heaven We'll Never Grow Old – *Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys*
10. Will The Circle Be Unbroken – *Brown's Ferry Four*



ITEM # SBOX 91902

# Southern Gospel

Southern Gospel is first and foremost deeply spiritual music. It comprises a canon of classic hymns which have been performed by generations of Southerners. Included on this 3-CD collection are icons of Country and Gospel music, both as single artists (Brenda Lee, Ray Price) and as groups (The Jordanaires and The Oak Ridge Boys), performing these songs. Inspirational songs such as “Amazing Grace” and “Rock Of Ages” have a long and storied history and continue to provide joy, even salvation to a current generation of Churchgoers. Listen to any one of the thirty songs on this collection and you’ll see why.

## THE SONGS

The songs and the performers of Southern Gospel have many a tale to tell and here are some of them.

### You’ll Never Walk Alone – Lee Greenwood



Lee Greenwood’s version of “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” originally from the Rodgers and Hammerstein 1945 musical *Carousel*, gives a full showcase to the power and sweet beauty of Greenwood’s voice.

Greenwood grew up on his grandparent’s poultry farm and as a child he began his musical career with the saxophone. As a young man, he played in the band Apollo, a mostly Pop band that performed mainly in

Las Vegas. The band broke up and Greenwood remained in Vegas, by day working as a dealer at the blackjack tables and by night performing as a singer. He had moved away from Pop and was more into a Country sound and eventually he was signed by an A&R man from the Nashville-based MCA label. Greenwood’s success as a Country singer was immediate with the Top Twenty hit “It Turns Me Inside Out” and afterwards the Top Ten smash “Ring On Her Finger, Time On Her Hands.” However, faith inspired songs will be what Greenwood is best known for, especially his version of “God Bless The USA,” which he performs in his trademark Stars and Stripes jacket.

Although, written for a film, “You’ll Never Walk Alone” has always had a special meaning that went far beyond its context. During World War Two, when the song came out, many found hope and peace in the song’s uplifting message, while waiting to hear the news of loved ones fighting overseas. The song has been recorded by a number of artists in all genres: Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Olivia Newton John, Elvis Presley and Conway Twitty, to name but a few.

### I Saw The Light – Bill Monroe



Here we have the father of Bluegrass, Bill Monroe, singing a Gospel classic written by the father of Country, Hank Williams. Bill Monroe was a Kentucky boy who started playing the mandolin at an early age. His family would have family jam sessions where Monroe and his siblings would all play

along. Monroe’s biggest musical contributions would take place later, once he started the Blue Grass Boys who went on to define the Bluegrass sound. Prodigy banjo player Earl Scruggs (also found in this collection) joined the band, which by then were regulars at The Grand Ole Opry, in 1945. His sensational picking skills, alongside Monroe’s deft musicianship formed the basis for what was known as the Bluegrass sound and went on to define Bluegrass music: very fast, breakneck tempos, complicated vocal harmonies and short solo breaks to showcase the finesse of the mandolin, banjo and fiddle. This style is particularly suited to the straight-ahead melodies of Hank Williams and “I Saw The Light” works beautifully in its Bluegrass incarnation.

The song was penned by Williams in 1948. It is a simple and catchy melody with lyrics that celebrate finding a path out of the darkness of sin and into the path of the righteous: “I wandered so aimless life filled with sin / I wouldn’t let my dear savior in / Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night / Praise the lord I saw the light.” In his lifetime, Williams did not have a hit with the song, but it has been recorded by dozens of well-known artists – including Etta James, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis. The song was selected by CMT as one of the 20 Greatest Folk Songs on their 2005 list.

## Rock Of Ages – Ray Price

Known as The Cherokee Cowboy, Ray Price has had a long and varied career as a singer and songwriter. Hailing from Texas, Price served in the Marines in the 1940s, before heading out to Nashville in the early 1950s. He briefly took over Hank Williams' band The Drifting



Cowboys after Williams' death, before he went on to make a name for himself as one of the innovators of the Honky Tonk sound. Known as the Ray Price Shuffle Beat, the 4/4 shuffle has been the backing beat for many a Honky Tonk hit, including Price's own "Crazy Arms," "City Lights," and "Release Me." By the 1980s, Price had decided to do a number of Gospel recordings, including the hymn included here, "Rock Of Ages." Surely one of the most moving and stirring songs of faith, "Rock Of Ages" is filled with words of passionate devotion: "While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyelids close in death / When I rise to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgement throne / Rock of ages, cleft for me let me hide myself in thee!" The song works well with Price's heartbreak twang and his melodious delivery, creating a moving song of love and honor. In 1996 Price was elected into the Country Music Hall Of Fame. Most recently, Price recorded and released an album with his long-time friends and collaborators Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard, *Last Of The Breed*.

## I'm Going To Make Heaven My Home

– Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs



Rhythm guitar master Lester Flatt and banjo wizard Earl Scruggs first met playing in Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys band. After the band's demise, Flatt and Scruggs began their own band Flatt & Scruggs And The Foggy Mountain Boys. This band

carried on the tradition of fantastic Bluegrass music that both owed its beginnings to Bill Monroe and went on to new innovations which enmeshed the Bluegrass sound as one of Country's music's most popular offshoots. Flatt & Scruggs were both elected to The Country Music Hall Of Fame in 1985. Both men were amazingly talented musicians and Flatt's distinctive rich vocals are especially resonant in

their Gospel recordings. Here the two get together to deliver a memorable version of "I'm Going To Make Heaven My Home," which the duo wrote themselves.

## Softly And Tenderly – Holly Dunn

This Texas dynamo took the Country music world by storm when she came out of nowhere in the mid-1980s with her hit song "Daddy's Hands," which pays loving tribute to her preacher father. But, of course, that version is the simple one. Dunn had grown up writing and playing music and as soon as she graduated from college she headed out to Nashville. She supported herself in a number of odd jobs while trying to make music work, eventually earning a contract with CBS records where she wrote a number of songs for artists like The Osmonds and Louise Mandrell. She did finally land a record contract but before that she had released the single "Daddy's Hands," which went on to earn her a Grammy nomination. Since that time, she has recorded a number of albums and songs, many of which have had a gospel influence. As well as her Grammy nomination, Dunn has won a number of Country Music awards. She was named the top new female vocalist by Academy of Country Music in 1986, she won the Country Music Association's Horizon Award in 1987, she was Named BMI Songwriter of the Year in 1988 and she received a second Grammy Award nomination for "A Face in the Crowd." Here her sweet and full voice delivers a devotional hymn, giving clarity and depth to the inspirational lyrics of "Softly And Tenderly": "Softly and tenderly / Jesus is calling / Calling for you and for me / See, on the portals He's waiting and watching, / Watching for you and for me."

## SOUTHERN GOSPEL FOREVER

**From religious and ceremonial uses, or as sheer entertainment for people who love music full of soul and purpose, Southern Gospel is a genre that crosses musical boundaries and gives us a premiere showcase for some of the best voices and musicians in Country music. We trust you will enjoy this collection and appreciate it more and more with each listening. Timeless and classic, these Southern Gospel tracks were made to last.**