

Meet...

# Tara Jackson!

By: Sandi Duncan-Clark

I absolutely love doing interviews with artists and personalities for GOSPEL MUSIC NEWS, and when the interview begins with a shared laugh and the feeling of “kindred spirit,” it’s even more enjoyable! So it was on Memorial Day when I had the distinct privilege of speaking with Tara Jackson. She was visiting her parents, Bert and Joan Holt for the holiday and we caught up for a phone interview. This young lady is not only a talented Christian singer, she is also a warm, sweet personality who laughs easily and loves sharing her faith and her story.

Tara began singing with her Mother when she was just a child. She was actively involved in the children’s choir at church and all through her school years, Tara continued her love for music. She sang in choirs and chorus presentations on the state and national level, and performed with concert choirs at the college she attended, Appalachian State University.

It wasn’t long till Tara realized that God’s direction for her life was a music ministry and in 2006 her efforts became a full-time ministry. She books fifty to seventy five dates each year and as her popularity has grown, those dates continue to increase.

One of the highlights of Tara’s ministry is her work with Candy and Kent Christmas in the Bridge Ministry in Nashville, Tennessee. “I went to Russia in 2006 to sing, and saw the need of the people there,” Tara said. “I realized that God had something more for me to do. A friend told me about the Bridge Ministry and invited me to come. I realized then that God wanted me to be a part of this work.”

On Tuesday evenings, Tara and other volunteers gather under the bridge in Nashville, where homeless men, women and children live. The people come for an evening meal and Tara, Candy Hemphill Christmas, The Galloways and other artists and volunteers tell them about Christ. “We have the ideal opportunity to help these people, both physically and spiritually,” Tara explains. (Learn more about the Bridge Ministry at [www.bridgeministry.org](http://www.bridgeministry.org))

The Bridge Ministry is not Tara’s only venture in volunteer work. During her years at Appalachian State University, Tara ministered at Hebron Colony, a Christian recovery center for alcohol and drug addiction. The

center has an average class of thirty five students who attend ten week rehab classes, fighting to gain control over their addictions. Tara was the guest performer for the graduation ceremonies the last weekend of May.

Tara’s strong, smooth vocals are exciting and her ability to share her heart through her music is delightful. She chooses arrangements that compliment her vocal ability and adds a personal touch to each song. Her new self-titled recording, “Tara Jackson,” is an eclectic mix of upbeat songs as well as slower, moving selections. While I have two special favorites on this recording; “Except For Grace” and “Redeemer,” all ten songs are a blessing.

Along with her music ministry, Tara and Kyle, her husband and the love

of her life, own and operate Jackson Management Agency. This effort manages and books a number of other artists, guiding them in their career and ministry. “We work with a number of excellent artists that we feel strongly about their ministry,” Tara said. “We work with them on scheduling, development opportunities as well as promotional packages,” she continued. Tara’s booking is handled by her husband, Kyle, through the agency.

Tara would like fans to know that when you come to her concerts, “what you see is what you get.” She shared with us, “God has been dealing with me about obedience. The reason I’m where I am today is because I said yes, when He opened the door. God has charged me to take His word to everyone who will listen. If you say “yes” then God will lead you into great things.”

She continued, “I left a full-time job with health benefits etc, to make the sacrifice to serve Him. I trust Him and He’s taking care of the rest.”

On July 27th at 6 PM, the Imperial Theatre in

Sarnia, Ontario will host the GOSPEL BY THE BAY festival. Tara Jackson, Sue Dodge, along with Bob and Jeanne Johnson will perform for the event, and Tara invites anyone in the area to come out for the concert.

I highly recommend Tara’s music and her ministry for your

next Gospel music event. You may contact her at 214-298-8339 or visit her website at [www.tarajacksononline.com](http://www.tarajacksononline.com).

