

## Possible Interview Questions

### 1. *What inspired you to write this book? Why did you write it?*

I am completely inspired to do my part as I have been called by God to do. This book is a culmination of my experience as a songwriter called to write songs specifically about Him. That is exactly my lightning rod experience in April of 1995. After this most inspiring moment of my life, I had my marching orders. I create the record label Solid Walnut Music and we made five albums and distributed them to radio stations in 15 countries. Because of this experience and because of my subsequent experiences with online songwriting organizations I became very well versed in song legal and helping songwriters understand this part of it.

As I began this journey and participated in worship teams and led worship teams and attended worship leader conferences, I saw and lived through the rise of the popularity of worship music as it became a thing in the music industry. I loved participating with popular worship music. I have embraced, learned, and played many songs.

But there was also something I saw on this rise that gave me pause: there are many songwriters out there, and I'll include myself, on the outside looking into the music industry. And we want to contribute. But there are many gates for people who like to write songs about God that make it so we can't contribute. We must compete with Nashville just to get our songs heard, for just one thing. There's that angle, which I go into much depth about in *The 5 Steps to Get Your Songs Heard*. Then there is the gate of just getting your songs heard in your local church. Close to impossible unless you're the worship leader introducing songs. Even then, that's hard for them to do (I have). It's a great way to see if what you write sticks with people, but it's not a great way to get a worship leader's songs heard. There are many steps beyond just playing them in your church for you to generate interest in them past that experience, unless you are the worship leader of a large church.

Worship leaders are busy people, you know?? They have the task of leading others to the throne during 20 minutes, mentoring their team, and creating a culture of worship in their church. A part of the song description isn't to try and get there songs out there.

Anyway, so my experience is seeing songwriters frustrated to get their songs heard, including my own. And I feel very strongly that God hasn't called only me to get my songs out there. My call to write songs about him, my lightning rod moment of April '95, wasn't just a call to ME. It was a call to ALL songwriters that have had similar moments. A part of my call is to pave the way for songwriters to get their songs heard, and the vehicle I am providing is what I call the small-church songwriting revolution. This is turning into The Songs4God.net Songwriting Academy, which begins with *The 5 Steps to Get Your Songs Heard: A Congregational Songwriting Plan*.

### 2. *What is the small-church songwriting revolution and the Songs4God.net Songwriting Academy?*

The small-church songwriting revolution is the rise of the individual songwriter called by God who goes to a small- or medium-sized church. The plan provides a way for these songwriters to get their songs heard in their church or local community. It's called the small-church songwriting revolution because for

the past twenty years, we've only heard songs from large church songwriting communities. Those are the ones that have become popular and the ones everyone wants to use in their churches, but there is a strong need for songs born from the grass roots. Our churches need songs that reflect how God is moving in our communities. Specific songs for specific communities. So, nothing wrong with these large-church songs we have, but we have been excluding the songwriters in our communities and this plan is a way to stop that.

What is the Songs4God.net Songwriting Academy? It is the how the blueprint presented in *The 5 Steps to Get Your Songs Heard* comes to life. It is an online songwriting course designed to prepare songwriters and people who love songwriting administration to get their songs heard in the small-church revolution. Stay tuned for more information.

### 3. *What did you learn when writing the book?*

I learned that I could create a plan from a disparate group of thoughts. I have written a lot of material on this subject. The first drafts of this book are 3 times the length of the final version. Many of the ideas have spawned other books and other materials that will be used in the songwriting academy. What I learned during the process was that I needed to write a book that had BOTH the overall concept and a complete plan. But both needed to be presented so the concept made sense and was simple to grasp. Hence the five-step theme.

It was important to me to write this book in a way that grabbed the reader rather than to just spew out all that was in my mind. I need to engage the reader and to encourage them to join the small-church songwriting revolution and to take these principles and make them their own. Start their own songwriting communities.

Other questions

What were the key challenges you faced when writing this book?

What was the highlight of writing this book?

Are you working on anything at the present you would like to share with your readers about?

Where do you draw inspiration from?

Do you have any new books planned?

Who is your favorite author and why?

What are you reading now?

What book is currently on your bedside table?

What books or authors have most influenced your own writing?

Favorite quote (doesn't matter the source)

Share something your readers wouldn't know about you.

Tell me about your latest book and why you wrote it?

How long did it take you to write this book?

What is your work schedule like when you're writing?

What kind of challenges did you come up against while you were writing?

What was your biggest challenge in publishing and launching your book?

What did you edit out of this book?

What do you hope to accomplish now that your book is out?

Where can we purchase your book? You can answer this question within your bio if you would like.

#### AUTHOR RELATED QUESTIONS:

Where do you get the information or ideas for your book?

When did you write your first book and how old were you?

When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?

What do you like to do when you're not writing?

What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

How many books have you written? Which is your favorite?

What advice would you give other authors who are just starting out?

What kind of feedback have you received on your writing?

Can you attribute your writing skills to any teacher you have had in the past?

Does writing energize or exhaust you?

What is the most difficult part of your artistic process?

Does ego help or hurt writers?

Do you believe in writer's block?

Do you have any friends who are authors, and have they helped you in any way?

If you could tell your younger writing self anything, what would that be?

Has publishing your first book change your process of writing?

What was the best money you ever spent as a writer?

How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

How many hours a day do you write?

Have you written about a specific period in your life and why is that important?

Have you read any of your own book reviews? How do you deal with challenging feedback?

What one thing would you give up to become a better writer?

What is your favorite childhood book?

What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

Do you have any tips for first-time authors?

Did you write stories when you were a kid?

Can you describe the moment when you decided to write a book?

What does literary success look like to you?

How long does it take you to write a book?

Is there any place in the world you would love to travel and write a book?

Have you ever used beta readers to provide honest feedback?

#### PERSONAL QUESTIONS:

What is something you cannot live without?

As a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?

Does your family support your career as a writer?

Have you been inspired by any teachers in your life and why?

What would you like readers to know about you?

What is the best thing you have done in your life so far?

What are your favorite hobbies?

What item, that you don't have already, would you most like to own?

If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go?

If you could time travel, where would you go and what would you want to accomplish?

If you could eliminate one thing from your day, what would it be?

If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?

If you could choose one superpower, what would it be? What would you do with that superpower?

If you could meet anyone from history, who would you want to meet and why?

Why spend years of your life writing books?

What got left out in the final draft?

What's next for you? What are you working on now?