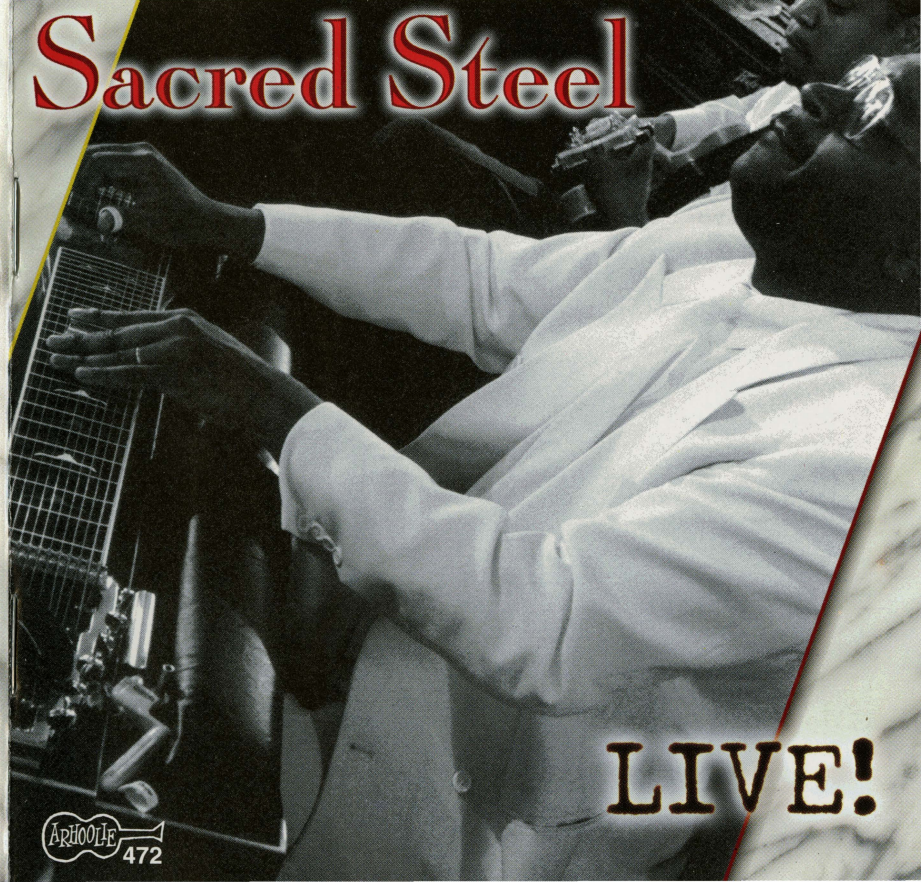




The congregation in Crescent City, FL • front cover: Chuck Campbell

Sacred Steel



LIVE!

Sacred Steel - Live!

All the musicians heard here are affiliated with the House of God, Keith Dominion. It shares a common origin with the Jewell Dominion in the Church of the Living God, founded by "Mother" Mary Magdalena Lewis Tate in 1903. The House of God is a Holiness-Pentecostal church. Those sects are known for celebratory, music-driven worship services in which the presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested by dancing and involuntary body movements. The House of God cites Psalms 150:4, "...praise him with stringed instruments..." and 149:3, "Let them praise his name in the dance," as scriptural support for the music and Holy dancing.

The electric steel guitar is the dominant musical instrument in the House of God Church and the steel

guitarist plays a very important role in worship, working as a "servant" to the minister and congregation.

Hawaiian music, with its signature singing steel guitar sound, was a major theme in the popular music of the continental US from the 1910s until World War II. During that period Hawaiian music schools proliferated throughout the country and musicians of many genres heard and were influenced by touring Hawaiian acts, records, and radio broadcasts.

Troman Eason took steel guitar lessons in Philadelphia, PA in the mid-1930s from a Hawaiian whom his surviving brother Willie (b.1921) remembers as "Jack." Troman's teacher was likely Jack Kahanalopua, whose brother Jimmy operated a Hawaiian music studio in Philadelphia at that time.



Willie Eason



Maurice "Ted" Beard

Troman and **Willie Eason** brought the electric steel guitar to House of God services in the late 1930s. (It is interesting to note that in 1938 Sol Hoopii, the most influential and widely recorded early Hawaiian steel guitarist, ended his secular career to become a musical evangelist, touring the US several times with Aimee Semple McPherson's crusade.) While his brother played in the straight Hawaiian style, Willie, who never had lessons, imitated African American singing with his instrument. His voice-like single string work forms the basis of the House of God steel guitar tradition. Today, he is considered a living legend among the congregations and no one reveres him more than the Campbell Brothers, who invited him to join them in Crescent City, FL. When Willie Eason points his finger and admonishes his instrument with "You better hush your mouth!" on "Take Your

Burden To The Lord," it is classic stuff from the days when he worked street corners and revival tents from New York to Miami as "Little Willie and His Talking Guitar."

Maurice "Ted" Beard, a retired postal worker from Oak Park, MI, a suburb of Detroit, serves as the chief musician at the House of God's annual General Assembly, held at the 2,500-seat auditorium of the mother church in Nashville, Tennessee. Among musicians and congregations Beard is respected as a senior steel guitarist and valued as a patient teacher. He grew up in the Jewell Dominion and brought influences from that sect's music, which is generally slower and more melodic than the Keith Dominion's, to House of God services. Trains are a common theme in gospel music and virtually every House of God steel guitarist does train imitations. Beard's narrative on "The Train" sets the stage for his spirited steel guitar work.

Calvin Cooke of Detroit, Michigan is one of the most influential musicians in the House of God. Only the best are selected to play at the church's annual National Assembly and 1999 marked his 40th year as a regular steel guitarist there. Cooke was born in 1944 in Cleveland, OH into a musical Jewell Dominion family and brought the influence of Jewell musicians to the Keith Dominion when he joined around 1958. He is one of the few sacred steelers who regularly combine singing with their guitar work. His rendition of James Cleveland's "No Ways Tired" is inspired, suits the occasion of the new church dedication and finishes with a poignant, understated solo. Normally known for his moving 10-string pedal steel work, Cooke plays an 8-string Melobar (a sort of lap-on-a-strap) for this selection.

The **Campbell Brothers** are the sons of House of God Bishop Charles E. Campbell, who was born and

raised in Florida and moved to Rochester as a young man. After years of hard work establishing the House of God in Rochester, Bishop Campbell and his congregation built a new, large church in the nearby rural town of Rush, which previously had no African American churches. A tireless, dedicated leader, he is also responsible for dioceses in New York state, Texas, Georgia, and Florida.

"Chuck," the oldest brother (b. 1957), is the musician responsible for introducing the pedal-steel guitar to House of God services in the early 1970s. While many steel guitarists in the church still prefer the older lap-steel, clearly the pedal guitar has become the choice of younger musicians, and Chuck is their greatest influence. Not only did Chuck introduce a new instrument and its expanded musical capabilities to House of God services, he also brought musical influences from secular sources and used electronic effects extensively. Here he employs



Calvin Cooke



The Campbell Brothers w/ Katie Jackson (l to r):

Chuck Campbell, Phillip Campbell, Katie Jackson, Carlton Campbell, Darick Campbell

an E-bow to obtain haunting, violin-like sustained notes on “Calvary,” locks into a boogie-inspired groove on “Celebration in Giving” for an

offertory procession that had the whole church joyfully strutting to the collection plates, and works the congregation into wholesale Holy

dancing on “Sit Down, If You Can” and “God Is a Good God.”

Phil’s contribution to the group can not be overemphasized. Among church members, he is recognized as one of their greatest “lead” guitarists. His chords, shuffles and riffs provide the basis that enables his brothers to cut loose and play in the Spirit. Phil gets a chance to stretch out and render a brilliant, bluesy solo at the start of “Don’t Let the Devil Ride.”

Darick Campbell, the youngest brother, cites Ted Beard and Henry Nelson, father of stellar sacred steel guitarist Aubrey Ghent (Arhoolie CDs 450 and 463) as his principal influences. Beard taught him the basics and melody. From Nelson he learned how to milk notes from his lap steel so expressive that sometimes it seems to be alive. His responses to Brother Sam Baldwin’s falsetto on “He’s Sweet, I Know” are such uncanny imitations that it takes very close listening to discern which voice is human. Normally quiet and

reserved, Darick is transformed into a dynamo when he sits down at his Fender eight. “While The Spirit is Moving” captures a bit of how he brought the Saturday night service at the dedication of his father’s new church to a spiritual climax.

Both Darick and Chuck are skilled at laying down bass lines on their steels when the other is playing lead. Their interplay on several of the selections demonstrates this most unusual ensemble technique.

The fourth “brother” is Phil’s son, drummer Carlton, who is just 14. Rhythm comes first in the House of God, where it is common to find good drummers less than 10 years old. “We all started on drums,” explains Chuck. Recently Carlton has also taken up the steel guitar.

The Campbells are joined here by several strong singers: Baltimore’s **Katie Jackson**, who has belted out stirring vocals in House of God churches for more than half a century, and the smoother, but

equally compelling **Denise Brown** of Rochester, who attended high school with Phil Campbell.

Listening to 22-year-old New Jersey steeler **Robert Randolph**'s inspired, highly technical playing of the hymn "**Without God**" followed by his blistering praise music improvisations, it is hard to believe he did not get his first steel until 1992, when Chuck Campbell bought him a 6-string Oahu lap guitar for Christmas. By 1994, Robert had graduated to a 12-string pedal-steel just like Chuck's, which he plays here in a tuning of his own invention. Robert was influenced by veterans Beard and Cooke. "Ted is the one who really sat down with me when I was learning and showed me how to be precise and play some of the slow stuff, because I wanted to do everything fast." He is a big fan of blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughn's playing. "I've got to try and fit it into a church service," he says, "try to keep it in tradition and

try to keep it based along with the church service. I just can't go out there and play a whole thing of Stevie Ray Vaughn licks."

After six decades of evolution, the steel guitar tradition of the House of God, Keith Dominion seems more vigorous and vibrant than ever. Recently the Campbell Brothers as well as Aubrey Ghent have begun to tour outside the House of God, receiving standing ovations from festival audiences throughout the US and Europe. While respected masters deliver spirited praise music, syncopated offertory marches and compelling hymns for weekly services, a fourth generation of young men and women steel guitarists, tempered and kept within bounds by elders, are ushering their fascinating musical tradition into the new millennium.

Robert L. Stone, June, 1999
Gainesville, Florida



Darick Campbell



Robert Randolph

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w/ Katie Jackson

"Pass Me Not"

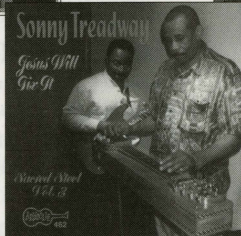
(Sacred Steel vol.2)

CD 462

Sonny Treadway

"Jesus Will Fix It"

(Sacred Steel vol.3)

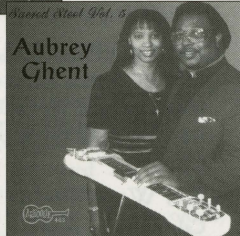


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Aubrey Ghent

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1. GOD IS A GOOD GOD

Katie Jackson, vocal; Carlton Campbell, drums; Charles "Chuck" Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Crescent City, FL)

2. THE STORM IS PASSING OVER

Denise Brown, vocal; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar (lead); Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Rochester, NY)

3. BY AND BY

Katie Jackson, vocal; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Crescent City, FL)

4. NO WAYS TIRED

Calvin Cooke, vocal and Melobar lap-steel guitar; Rico Beard, bass; Darryl Brundidge, keyboard; Carlton Campbell, drums; Jay Carver, guitar; Charles Flenory, guitar. (Rush, NY)

5. THE TRAIN

(Maurice Beard, Tradition Music/ Mango Tone Music, BMI) **Maurice "Ted" Beard**, pedal-steel guitar and vocal; Rico Beard, bass guitar; Darryl Brundidge, keyboard; Carlton Campbell, drums; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Rush, NY)

6. WITHOUT GOD

(PD, arr. by Robert Randolph) **Robert Randolph**, pedal-steel guitar; Rico Beard, bass; Darryl Brundidge, keyboard; Harvey Shaw, guitar; Ivan Shaw, drums. (Rush, NY)

7. WHEN THE SAINTS GO

MARCHING IN (PD, arranged by Willie Eason) **Willie Eason**, lap-steel guitar; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Crescent City, FL)

8. CELEBRATION IN GIVING

(Phillip and Charles Campbell, Tradition Music/ Mango Tone Music, BMI) **Chuck Campbell**, pedal-steel guitar; **Darick Campbell**, lap-steel guitar; Carlton Campbell, drums; Bishop Charles Campbell, vocal. (Crescent City, FL)

9. TAKE YOUR BURDEN TO THE

LORD **Willie Eason**, vocal and lap-steel guitar; Carlton Campbell, drums; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Crescent City, FL)

10. SIT DOWN IF YOU CAN

Elwood Haygood, vocal; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar; Carlos Fox, keyboard. (Rush, NY)

11. HE'S SWEET, I KNOW

Brother Sam Baldwin, vocal; Bishop Larry Boston, organ; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar (lead); Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Crescent City, FL)

12. WHILE THE SPIRIT IS MOVING

(Darick and Phillip Campbell, Tradition Music/ Mango Tone Music, BMI) **Darick Campbell**, lap-steel guitar (lead); Darryl Brundidge, keyboard; Jay Carver, guitar; Carlton Campbell, drums; Charles Flenory, guitar. (Rush, NY)

13. CALVARY

Katie Jackson, vocal; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Crescent City, FL)

14. DON'T LET THE DEVIL RIDE

(Oris Mays, Lion Publishing, BMI) **Denise Brown**, vocal; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Strawberry Spring Music Festival, CA)

15. HOLLERING

Reverend Craig Pringle, preaching; Darryl Brundidge, keyboard; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, bass; Jem Pagan, guitar. (Rush, NY)

16. NEAR THE CROSS

Willie Eason, lap-steel guitar; Carlton Campbell, drums; Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel guitar; Darick Campbell, lap-steel guitar; Phillip Campbell, guitar. (Crescent City, FL)

Rush, NY: recordings at the dedication of the new House of God Church, 3-14/15-98. Recorded by Glenn Drinkwater.

Rochester, NY: recordings at the Twelve Corners Coffee house, 10-3-98. Recorded by Glenn Drinkwater.

Crescent City, FL: recordings at the State Assembly at the House of God, 10-11-98. Recorded by Phillip and Charles Campbell.

Strawberry Spring Music Festival: recording at Camp Mather, Yosemite, CA 5-30-99. Recorded and mixed "live" – Head Sound Engineer Larry Cumings.

CD Mixed and mastered at Bay Records by Mike Cogan. Except Strawberry Spring Music Festival recording, mixed live.

Produced by: Phillip Campbell, Charles Campbell, and Robert L. Stone.

Executive Producer: Chris Strachwitz.

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Unless otherwise noted, most tracks are PD with arrangements by Phillip and Charles Campbell, Willie Eason, or the vocalist indicated, and © by Tradition Music Co. and Mango Tone Music (BMI), administered by BUG Music Company.

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SACRED STEEL – LIVE!

ARHOOIE 472



CALVIN COOKE



TED BEARD



ROBERT RANDOLPH



DARICK CAMPBELL

Sacred Steel guitarists and singers recorded “LIVE” in two House of God Churches and at other gatherings, in 1998 and 1999.

1. **GOD IS A GOOD GOD** – Katie Jackson, vocal with the Campbell Brothers (8:08)
2. **THE STORM IS PASSING OVER** – Denise Brown, vocal with the Campbell Brothers (4:28)
3. **BY AND BY** – Katie Jackson, vocal with Campbell Brothers (3:15)
4. **NO WAYS TIRED** – Calvin Cooke, vocal and Melobar lap-steel guitar with band (3:30)
5. **THE TRAIN** – Ted Beard, pedal-steel guitar and vocal with band (5:23)
6. **WITHOUT GOD** – Robert Randolph, pedal-steel guitar w/ band (5:55)
7. **WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN** – Willie Eason, lap-steel guitar with the Campbell Brothers (1:55)
8. **CELEBRATION IN GIVING** – The Campbell Brothers with Bishop Charles Campbell, vocal (3:24)
9. **TAKE YOUR BURDEN TO THE LORD** – Willie Eason, vocal and lap-steel guitar with the Campbell Brothers (3:57)
10. **SIT DOWN IF YOU CAN** – Elwood Haygood, vocal with the Campbell Brothers (5:10)
11. **HE’S SWEET, I KNOW** – Brother Sam Baldwin, vocal with the Campbell Brothers & Bishop Larry Boston, organ (6:38)
12. **WHILE THE SPIRIT IS MOVING** – Darick Campbell, lap-steel with band (2:58)
13. **CALVARY** – Katie Jackson, vocal with Campbell Brothers (3:05)
14. **DON’T LET THE DEVIL RIDE** – Denise Brown, vocal with the Campbell Brothers (6:42)
15. **HOLLERING** – Reverend Craig Pringle, preaching with the Campbell Brothers & Jem Pagan, guitar (6:02)
16. **NEAR THE CROSS** – Willie Eason, lap-steel guitar with the Campbell Brothers (2:05)

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