



Recorded Live at the 1st Annual

SACRED STEEL CONVENTION

TRAIN DON'T LEAVE ME



The Campbell Brothers w/ Katie Jackson
(l to r) Darick Campbell, Katie Jackson, Carlton
Campbell, Phillip Campbell, Chuck Campbell.

THE FIRST ANNUAL SACRED STEEL CONVENT

March 31 - April 1, 2000
Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida

The electric steel guitar has been the driving musical force in the House of God, Keith Dominion and the Church of the Living God, Jewell Dominion African American Holiness-Pentecostal churches since it was introduced into worship services by brothers Troman and Willie Eason in the late 1930s. Through more than sixty years of evolution the musicians have developed techniques, playing styles and repertoires which are unique in American music. Arhoolie Records first presented this vibrant tradition to the public through CD450 *Sacred Steel: Traditional Sacred African-American Steel Guitar Music in Florida*, which it licensed from the Florida Department of State's Folklife

Program and released in 1997. The term “sacred steel” apparently hit the spot as it has become common usage, even among the musicians and congregations. This is the sixth album in Arhoolie’s *Sacred Steel* series.

The House of God church in Crescent City, Florida, is located on the outskirts of town in the bend of a narrow dirt road shaded by live oaks draped with Spanish moss. Every Sunday Marcus Hardy can be found coaxing the Holy Ghost from his vintage Fender lap-steel guitar as a congregation of a couple of dozen or so shout and do the holy dance to his driving praise music. Like many young men in the House of God, he aspires to be a great steel guitarist who can infuse large congregations with the Holy Spirit through his playing. Hardy had another dream as well. He envisioned a gathering of House of God steel guitarists where they could share their

music and fellowship and showcase their talents to one another and the general public. That dream became a reality on March 31 and April 1, 2000, when the first annual Sacred Steel Convention was held at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. Musicians came from as far as Detroit, Michigan; Rochester, New York; and Seattle, Washington. Members of the audience came from virtually all over the U.S. as well as from Canada and Germany. The event marked the first opportunity for a gathering of House of God steel guitarists to showcase and share their music without the constraints of a church service, where they normally function to help the minister fill the congregation with the Holy Spirit. Those familiar with the music knew the occasion would be special, but the level of artistry, depth and variety of talent and energy level exceeded everyone’s wildest expectations.

Dante Harmon

photo © Robert L. Stone





Bryan "Josh" Taylor

photo © Robert L. Stone

Dante Harmon (b. 1974) is a brilliant young multi-instrumentalist born and raised in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, who presently lives in Duluth, Georgia, near Atlanta. Here he plays pedal-steel backed by his younger brothers Eddie on drums and Enrico on bass. Rounding out the group is Detroit Jewell Dominion guitarist **Jay Caver**, very much at home playing on "**Something's Got A Hold of Me**," an original piece by Dante that follows the classic Jewell Dominion form: medium tempo, boogie groove and wah pedal used for tonal color.

Among the many surprises was the number of young steel guitarists – some just teenagers – of remarkable ability who offered their fresh interpretations of the genre. **Bryan "Josh" Taylor**, a 21-year-old from Miami who began to play steel when he was eight, was one of the hottest young players. Josh comes from a very

musical family; his father and uncles have performed as the Taylor Brothers for decades. According to pedal-steel virtuoso Chuck Campbell, Josh's uncle, Larry Taylor, "may just be the best lead guitar player that's ever been in the House of God." Josh shows his depth of expression here with the burning, "**God is a Good God**," for which his father, **Elder Jerry Taylor**, provides inspired vocals, then follows with a sensitive interpretation of the Thomas A. Dorsey classic "**Precious Lord, Take My Hand**." The latter he dedicated to his grandmother, Maggie Taylor, who passed away in 1999.

Detroit, Michigan, steel guitarist and singer **Calvin Cooke** has been a significant influence on most of the House of God steel guitarists playing today and is a master of tasteful, understated improvisation. He is joined by his wife, **Grace Cooke**, for a stirring rendition of

“Have You Tried Jesus?” that presents a short evolution of the church’s music, then puts his unmistakable stamp on **“Since I Laid My Burden Down.”**

Elder Aubrey Ghent is the son of Henry Nelson, who set the classical form of House of God, Keith Dominion praise music. Like his father, he finds a six-string lap-steel to be all that he needs to evoke the Spirit. Elder Ghent graciously accepted the Sacred Steel Heritage Award on behalf of his father, who was unable to attend due to ill health, in recognition of Nelson’s lifetime contribution to shaping the House of God steel guitar tradition. The award was also presented to tradition pioneer and Ghent’s uncle, Willie Eason, who has become a living legend among the musicians and congregations. Ghent’s fiery preaching, soulful singing and hot picking on **“Train**

Don’t Leave Me” had the audience on its feet and dancing in no time. He breathed new life into **“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”** with his swinging and syncopated rendition of that staple number.

The **Lee Boys** are a family band from Perrine, Florida, a few miles south of Miami. The inspired group featured two pedal-steel guitarists: front man **Glenn Lee** and his 17-year-old nephew and protégé **Velt Collier**. **Keith Lee** belts out powerhouse vocals on **“I Feel Like Praising Him,”** an original composition by Glenn which reveals Glenn’s interest in country music and southern rock. Sadly, Glenn passed away on October 23, 2000. In addition to being an inventive steel guitarist, he was a highly talented composer, arranger, choir conductor and played a total of seven musical instruments. His funeral services, which were attended by over



Elder Aubrey Ghent



Cecil Austin, Glenn Lee, Alvin Cordy Jr.,
Roosevelt Collier, & Keith Lee

2,500, were a testimony to the number of souls he touched in his short 32 years on this planet.

Lonnie “Big Ben” Bennett, of Rochester, New York, was raised in a diverse musical environment. He attended weekly services with his family at the House of God, his folks listened to country music and opera at home, and he has played with country and rock bands. The result is a unique musical blend that always inspires. His rendition of **“Will the Circle Be Unbroken”** shows his talent for improvising and reveals his greatest influence: his brother-in-law, Calvin Cooke. Ben’s wife, and Grace Cooke’s sister, **Cherlyn Bennett**, brought the audience to its feet with **“See What the End’s Gonna Be,”** a number arranged by their sons Levi (age 14) and Daric (age 12) after the boys listened to some of their father’s old Beatles recordings.

photo © Robert L. Stone

Lonnie and Cherlyn Bennett



Lonnie "Big Ben" Bennett



Elder Maurice “Ted” Beard of Oak Park, Michigan, is a venerated steel guitar pioneer and Chief Musician for the House of God. Ask just about any of the younger players how they got started and you will invariably hear Beard’s name mentioned as someone who always had time to help a budding musician. Here he is joined by Cleveland, Ohio, vocalist **Freddie Dixon** for a straight-ahead, soulful rendition of **“I Want to Go Where Jesus Is.”** Veteran guitarist **Elder Kenny Ellis** of Sarasota, Florida, lays down a great shuffle rhythm.

Elton Noble, who lives in nearby Apopka, Florida, is a gifted young preacher as well as an impassioned, energetic steel guitarist. In the early 1990s, he studied with Elder Aubrey Ghent under the Florida Department of State’s Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. During the Friday night

convention program he took a break from his master of ceremonies duties to play some of the hottest and wildest praise music heard all weekend. With the help of singer/preacher Elder Jerry Taylor, Noble “wrecked the house” as he pulled out all the stops for **“All God’s Children.”**

New Jersey musician **Robert Randolph** (b. 1977) aspires to be the “world’s fastest steel guitarist.” Some think he has already achieved his goal. In keeping with the House of God pedal-steel tradition of non-standard tunings and equipment, Robert has a custom-built 13-string guitar. It’s all in the family as Robert is joined by his cousins **Ricky Fowler**, a renowned professional gospel singer, and **Marcus Randolph**, himself a talented young pedal-steel guitarist, on drums for a contemporary interpretation of **“I Feel Like Pressing My Way.”**

Elton Noble

photo © Robert L. Stone



Robert Randolph



photo © Robert L. Stone

The Campbell Brothers and Katie Jackson are some of the House of God's finest. Since beginning to tour in 1998, they have received standing ovations from the Hollywood Bowl to the Berlin Jazz Festival and the World Sacred Music Festival in Morocco. Here brother **Darick** puts his lap-steel aside to ask "**What's His Name?...Jesus!**" He's joined by the "Mahalia of the Keith Dominion," **Katie Jackson**. (Katie is no relation to Mahalia, but is Little Richard's first cousin. It's in the genes!) **Chuck Campbell** makes his pedal-steel howl as the group brings the house down to end the convention in grand style.

House of God music making is truly a communal effort. The bands are composed of family members and friends who play for a common cause: to bring the music and listeners to a

higher spiritual level. Three sidemen deserve special mention for their tireless work in providing inspired accompaniment for the steel guitarists and singers: bassist **Rico Beard** (Ted's son), drummer **Ivan Shaw**, and guitarist **Jay Caver**. Surely these men spent more time on the bandstand than anyone else.

The talent, energy and fellowship experienced by the participants and audience at this first annual Sacred Steel Convention was more than anyone bargained for. And the good times have kept the musicians energized throughout the year. **The Second Annual Sacred Steel Convention** is slated for March 30-31, 2001, in Sanford, Florida, about 20 miles north of Orlando. As good as the first convention was, the 2001 convention promises to be even better. The number of steel guitarists performing will at least double.

There will be a number of musicians from the Jewell Dominion, where the eight-string lap-steel and wah pedal reign supreme. And look for even more spirited young steel guitarists as well as some talented women steelers to come out of the woodwork. For further information visit the convention Web site at www.sacredsteelconvention.com or call Marcus Hardy at 904-698-2547.

Robert L. Stone
Gainesville, FL
January 4, 2001

photo © Robert L. Stone

Freddie Dixon &
Elder Maurice "Ted" Beard

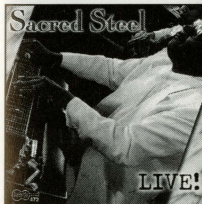




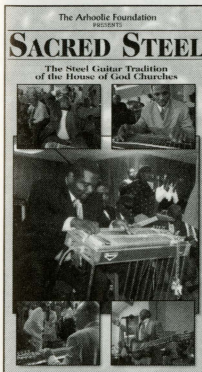
Cecil Austin

photo © Robert L. Stone

THE SACRED STEEL series



CD 472
Sacred Steel, Live! (vol.5)
features: The Campbell Brothers, Katie Jackson, Denise Brown, Willie Eason, Ted Beard, Calvin Cooke, Robert Randolph, and more!



AFV 203
Sacred Steel, video
features:
Maurice "Ted" Beard,
The Campbell Brothers
with Katie Jackson, Calvin
Cooke, Willie Eason,
Aubrey Ghent, Glenn Lee,
Robert Randolph, historic
video footage of Henry
Nelson
and more!

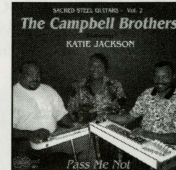
presented by
The Arhoolie Foundation

color, 55 minutes



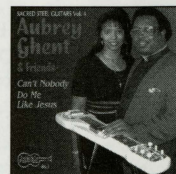
CD 450
Sacred Steel vol.1
features: Willie Eason
Sonny Treadway,
Glenn Lee, Henry Nelson,
Aubrey Ghent

CD 461
the Campbell Brothers
w/ Katie Jackson
"Pass Me Not"
(Sacred Steel vol.2)



CD 462
Sonny Treadway
"Jesus Will Fix It"
(Sacred Steel vol.3)

CD 463
Aubrey Ghent
"Can't Nobody Do Me
Like Jesus"
(Sacred Steel vol.4)



ARHOOLIE RECORDS

DOWN HOME MUSIC SINCE 1960

Blues • Cajun • Tex-Mex • Zydeco • Country • Jazz • Regional • World Music
For our complete illustrated catalog of CD's, Cassettes, Videos & more, send \$3 to:

ARHOOLIE CATALOG, 10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530

To order by phone, call toll free: **1.888.ARHOOLIE** (1-888-274-6654)

website: www.arhoolie.com • e-mail: mail@arhoolie.com

**1. SOMETHING'S GOT A
HOLD OF ME**

(Dante Harmon, © Danté To Danté Ministries / ASCAP)
Dante Harmon, pedal-steel, Eddie Harmon,
drums; Enrico Harmon, bass; Jay Caver, guitar.

2. GOD IS A GOOD GOD

Bryan "Josh" Taylor, lap-steel; Jerry Taylor,
vocal; Ivan Shaw, drums; Rico Beard, bass;
Jesse Green, guitar.

**3. PRECIOUS LORD TAKE
MY HAND**

(Thomas A. Dorsey)
personnel same as track 2, except no vocal.

4. HAVE YOU TRIED JESUS?

Calvin Cooke, pedal-steel and vocal;
Grace Cooke, vocal; Ivan Shaw, drums;
Jay Caver, guitar, Rico Beard, bass.

**5. SINCE I LAID MY
BURDEN DOWN**

same as track 4, except Calvin Cooke, solo vocal.

6. TRAIN DON'T LEAVE ME

Aubrey Ghent, lap-steel and vocal; Jay Caver,
guitar; Dante Harmon, drums; Rico Beard, bass.

7. I FEEL LIKE PRAISING HIM

(Glenn R. Lee/Lee Boy Publishing, BMI)
Glenn Lee, pedal-steel; Roosevelt Collier,
pedal-steel; Alvin Lee, guitar; Cecil Austin,
drums; Alvin "Little Al" Cordy, Jr., bass;
Keith Lee, vocal.

**8. WILL THE CIRCLE
BE UNBROKEN?**

Lonnie "Big Ben" Bennett, pedal-steel; Jay
Caver, guitar; Rico Beard, bass; Ivan Shaw, drums.

**9. SEE WHAT THE END
GONNA BE**

Same as track 8, add Cherlyn Bennett, vocal.

**10. I WANT TO GO WHERE
JESUS IS**

Maurice "Ted" Beard, Jr., pedal-steel; Freddie
Dixon, vocal; Rico Beard, bass; Ivan Shaw,
drums; Kenneth Ellis, guitar.

11. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Elton Noble, lap-steel; Jerry Taylor, vocal;
Harvey Shaw, guitar; Rico Beard, bass;
Dante Harmon, drums.

12. I FEEL LIKE PRESSING MY WAY

(Public Domain, Arranged by: Robert Randolph & Ricky
Fowler, \ Published by: Young Lord Music, Sesac, Inc.)
Robert Randolph, pedal-steel guitar; Ricky
Fowler, vocal; Marcus Randolph, drums; Rico
Beard, bass; Harvey Shaw, guitar.

**13. JUST A CLOSER WALK
WITH THEE**

Aubrey Ghent, lap-steel and vocal, Rico Beard,
bass; Jay Caver, guitar; Dante Harmon, drums.

14. WHAT'S HIS NAME? ...JESUS!

Darick Campbell, vocal; Katie Jackson, vocal;
Chuck Campbell, pedal-steel; Phillip Campbell,
guitar; Carlton Campbell, drums; Jerry Taylor,
background vocal.

Unless otherwise noted, all selections are
Public Domain, arrangements © by
Tradition Music Co. and Mango Tone
Music, BMI and administered by BUG
Music Company.

Recorded by Buddy Ray and Ray Valla, Mirror
Image Studios, Gainesville, FL.

Mixed by Buddy Ray and Robert L. Stone.

Produced by Robert L. Stone.

Executive producer, Chris Strachwitz.

Cover photo (l to r): Calvin Cooke and Darick
Campbell. © Robert L. Stone.

Book back photo (l to r): Jay Caver and Ivan Shaw.
© Robert L. Stone.

Ricky Fowler appears courtesy of Young Lord Music
Productions.

© & P 2001 by
Arhoolie Productions, Inc.
10341 San Pablo Ave
El Cerrito, CA 94530 USA
www.arhoolie.com
mail@arhoolie.com

TRAIN DON'T LEAVE ME

Recorded Live at the
1st Annual

Sacred Steel Convention

March 31 - April 1, 2000

Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida

For the first time in the nearly 100-year history of the House of God Holiness-Pentecostal Church, steel guitarists, musicians and singers gathered for two days of workshops, showcases and concerts. Free from the constraints of a church service, where they normally function to help the minister fill the congregation with the Holy Spirit, the steel guitarists played with unbridled passion as emerging young artists shared their music with venerated masters of this vibrant musical tradition.

FILE UNDER:
GOSPEL, BLUES & FOLK



- 1. SOMETHING'S GOT A HOLD OF ME**
Dante Harmon - pedal-steel
- 2. GOD IS A GOOD GOD**
Bryan "Josh" Taylor - lap-steel & Jerry Taylor - vocal
- 3. PRECIOUS LORD TAKE MY HAND**
Bryan "Josh" Taylor - lap-steel
- 4. HAVE YOU TRIED JESUS?**
Calvin Cooke - pedal-steel & vocal & Grace Cooke - vocal
- 5. SINCE I LAID MY BURDEN DOWN**
Calvin Cooke - pedal-steel & vocal
- 6. TRAIN DON'T LEAVE ME**
Aubrey Ghent - lap-steel & vocal
- 7. I FEEL LIKE PRAISING HIM**
Glenn Lee & Roosevelt Collier - pedal-steels & Keith Lee - vocal
- 8. WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN?**
Lonnie "Big Ben" Bennett - pedal-steel
- 9. SEE WHAT THE END GONNA BE**
Lonnie "Big Ben" Bennett - pedal-steel & Cherlyn Bennett - vocal
- 10. I WANT TO GO WHERE JESUS IS**
Maurice "Ted" Beard, Jr. - pedal-steel & Freddie Dixon - vocal
- 11. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**
Elton Noble - lap-steel & Jerry Taylor - vocal
- 12. I FEEL LIKE PRESSING MY WAY**
Robert Randolph - pedal-steel & Ricky Fowler - vocal
- 13. JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE**
Aubrey Ghent - lap-steel & vocal
- 14. WHAT'S HIS NAME? ...JESUS!**
The Campbell Brothers, with Katie Jackson - vocal
Chuck Campbell - pedal-steel & Darick Campbell - vocal