

THE MARTINS

Still Standing

The journey of life is often filled with mountaintop experiences, as well as times of walking through dark valleys. Siblings Joyce, Jonathan and Judy, collectively known as **The Martins**, are no exception to this rule of the journey. As the title cut to their soon-to-be-released recording says, they've "been through the fire, been through the flood, battled the storms, walked through some mud but thanks to the blood, they're still standing." In fact, as another song on the recording proclaims, they've been through the fire, yet there's not even the "Smell of Smoke."

The truth is, according to each of them, they are still loving the journey, as well as the opportunity to continue to make beautiful music together. "One of the things that's amazing to me is that we are still creating music that we love," states Joyce. "We are not tired of doing this; we love being together; and we still have the capability to communicate what we want to say and to see those things come together in a creative and inspiring way. We are grateful to have recorded some good things in the past that we have loved singing. To still be able to record new music and be proud of it is exciting. It's the same story...but a new chapter for us."

This new chapter, set to release worldwide on July 13th on the Gaither Music Group label, showcases the soaring vocal stylings and impeccable blends that have transcended musical genres and garnered **The Martins** two GRAMMY® nominations and eight GMA DOVE Awards and made them a household name among Christian music enthusiasts. **Still Standing**, produced by award-winning singer/musician/producer **Gordon Mote**, finds the group continuing to explore musically while maintaining the three-part harmonies that have taken them from the stages of Carnegie Hall to the White House.

"We have worked with Gordon for years--on stage, watching him do what he does," explains Joyce, "but working with him behind the board was completely different. He hears things we don't hear—even the 'Martin harmonies.' We had to learn how to do those a little bit differently. He would show us parts he wanted—still three parts and still tight, but he made them fresh and new."

"Gordon makes it fun," Judy states. "He makes it an easier process. He is serious about doing his job and does what he is there to do, but you kind of forget that you are working."

The end result of this "fun" is a unique musical collaboration filled with inspiration and encouragement. "I think it's cool how God orchestrates things so that every time you do a project it ends up being the songs you need to sing," Jonathan shares. "It's always exciting to have something new to sing and new to say," Judy interjects. "It doesn't take away from the old, but it always feels good to be moving forward."

That "move forward" with **Still Standing** includes the uniquely-penned song "Beautiful," written by Joyce, Kenna Turner West and Don Poythress. "It was written from the perspective of me singing the first verse to Jonathan about Jonathan," Joyce explains. "Jonathan and I sing the second verse to Judy about her. Judy and Jonathan sing the third verse to me about me. We are singing it for other people but also to each other. I knew that's what I wanted to write, and I co-wrote it with Don and Kenna. They understood my vision and helped me craft it perfectly. It's us singing our stories. God has taken all of our valleys and turned them into something beautiful. He is still using us."

"I think one of the reasons we are out here is to tell our story," states Judy. "We want to let other people know that God is what they are looking for, whatever they are going through. He has the answers to all of our questions."

This sentiment is reiterated in the remake of a Martins' classic "Wherever You Are." Though originally recorded over 25 years ago, to this day it continues to remain one of their most requested songs. "Gordon wanted us to do this one again, and we were thrilled when he suggested it," Judy says. "We have never grown tired of singing this song because of the message. It is timeless."

Another song featuring Judy is the moving ballad "Mercy Come In." "Gordon brought us this song and I felt I just had to do it. It is a deep, desperate prayer. I fall short - a lot. Sometimes I fall short of my own unrealistic expectations, but usually it's the reachable that I miss. Sometimes it is others' expectations of me - big, small, right, wrong - it all piles up and becomes more than I can shoulder. This song is the perfect prayer for me when I deeply and desperately need my God and His mercy," Judy shares.

Jonathan's story seems to be captured with "Good," a song written by Dave Barnes on which Jonathan is featured. "God truly has been good to me," he relates. "I am glad to have my children, my wife, my family and my sisters. As I look at my life now as a husband, a son, father and brother, I can say that life has not always been easy; but it has been good. This song expresses what I've experienced better than I could have said it. We need to be reminded that God's hand has been in our lives in the twists and turns. I think this recording will remind listeners of that. We want them to know that He uses everything for good and to develop the character of Christ in our lives."

A song that conveys a similar message is "Heal the Wound." Written by Nichole Nordeman and Clinton Lagerberg and delivered to perfection by Joyce, the song is certain to become a listener favorite. "We all have been through difficult battles and we have scars to prove it," Joyce shares. "Those scars are a reminder of the goodness and mercy of a loving Savior."

Over the years The Martins have been noted for churning out breezy, adult contemporary stylings with a harmony-heavy pop flare that always delivers a unifying message addressing grace, hope and perseverance. This recording offers plenty of those selections, including "Running," penned by Natalie Cromwell, Val Dacus and Dean Newkirk; the title cut, "Still Standing"; "Days Like This"; and "Lotta Life" written by Joyce, her husband Paul, and award-winning writer Jeff Silvey. "This is a really fun song but, again, it has a great message," Joyce conveys. "Our desire is that our story will give each listener the hope that there is nothing that comes into your life that does not pass through God's hands first. We've all had our ups and downs; but we just have to 'keep running the race, trusting in grace' and we'll make it to the finish line - but until we do, we've still got a lotta life left to live."

With ***Still Standing***, **The Martins** allow each listener a very candid glimpse into their personal valleys, as well as the joys of their mountaintop experiences. It is true — The Martins have been through the fire and the flood. They've battled the storms and even walked through some mud, but because of the grace of Jesus they are ***Still Standing***.

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ABOUT STILL STANDING: *Still Standing* follows the group's recording A Cappella (Gaither Music Group), which received a 2015 GRAMMY® nomination for Best Roots Gospel Album, debuted at #2 on the Southern Gospel chart and landed at #17 on the Contemporary Christian Music chart according to Nielsen Soundscan.

Still Standing will be exclusively distributed by Capitol Christian Distribution and Universal Music and will be available in the general marketplace and at retail and digital outlets worldwide including iTunes, Amazon, www.gaither.com and www.martinsonline.com.

Still Standing will air as part of a special TV offer on RFD-TV, TBN, Gaither Television Network, PBS, DISH TV, DirecTV, FamilyNet, CTN, GMC, GMTN, Guardian, Liberty, TCT and TLN. It will air in Canada on Vision TV, CTS, The Miracle Channel and Hope TV. It will be promoted via a social media campaign, positioned in retail/e-tail outlets everywhere, featured in the Gaither Catalog Collection and on the Gaither web site and aired on the "HOMECOMING Weekly" program on Sirius XM.

To see a video of The Martins during their skydive and hear the title song from the new release visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Gaithermusic/videos/1015597836651187/>

To keep up with the latest happenings with The Martins, visit www.martinsonline.com, connect with them at [facebook.com/martinsonline](https://www.facebook.com/martinsonline) or follow them on Twitter: @martinsonline.

Still Standing Song List

Running

Natalie Cromwell, Val Dacus and Dean Newkirk

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Beautiful

Joyce Martin Sanders, Kenna Turner West and Don Poythress

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Good

David Barnes

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Mercy Come In

Laura Story, Travis Cottrell and David Moffitt

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Days Like This (God's Still God)

Kenna Turner West and Don Poythress

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Smell of Smoke

Kenna Turner West, Amber Eppinette and Jason Cox

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Heal The Wound

Nichole Nordeman and Clinton Lagerberg

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Still Standing

Joyce Martin Sanders, Kenna Turner West and Don Poythress

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Stained Glass

Michael A. Curtis and Bob Gulley

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Lotta Life

Joyce Martin Sanders, Paul Sanders and Jeff Silvey

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Wherever You Are

Joel Lindsey, Joyce Martin Sanders and Harrie McCollough

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