



2006 Induction Class



Dottie Rambo

Dottie Rambo, undisputed queen of gospel music and internationally acclaimed recording artist, began writing songs at the age of eight, while sitting on a creek bank near her Morganfield, Kentucky home. Her talent soon received widespread recognition, resulting in many invitations to sing in churches and at various public functions. The demand became so heavy that she left home at the age of twelve to embark upon a full-time career of singing and composing music.

Other artists began to sing her songs at their performances, and many included them on their recordings. Governor Jimmie Davis of Louisiana, had his attention captured by the stirring melody and simple, but profound and inspirational lyrics, he made inquiries concerning the composer. The fact that Dottie was only a teen-ager at the time did not dissuade the governor from signing her to a writer's contract, and Dottie's professional career began to reach meteoric proportions.

Although she was married at the age of sixteen and a mother eighteen months later, Dottie's schedule was hardly interrupted. In fact, her career was enhanced when three year old Reba joined her parents to form a singing trio. Over the years the Rambos gained increasing popularity that spanned the globe, and they reached the pinnacle of the gospel music world.

Dottie's distinctive voice and affecting delivery won her legions of fans and her career soared through the early '80s. But health problems sidelined this magnetic, amazing woman for almost two decades; preventing her from sharing the songs she wrote, except by the voices of others. This all changed with the release of *Stand By The River*, her first solo project in 18 years. The project included some of her favorite songs from the past combined with brand-new compositions. The title cut, "Stand By The River", a duet with Dolly Parton, has garnered massive airplay and has already been nominated in three categories, including the 2003 Song Of The Year by The Christian Country Music Association.

The timing couldn't be better for another groundbreaking recording from Dottie Rambo. In the summer of 2002 her friends and family surprised Dottie with a special concert in her honor at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. Barbara Mandrell hosted the evening as she recounted memories along side Dottie and stories behind the great songs of her career. With performances by some of Country and Gospel music's most beloved artists, Dottie joined in song with the likes of Larry Gatlin, Dolly Parton, Crystal Gayle, Vestal Goodman, The Crabb Family and many more. The outcome is an amazing new video and DVD capturing the evening entitled *More Than The Music Presents - We Shall Behold Him - A Tribute To Dottie Rambo* and audio recording releasing simultaneously on September 9th, 2003.

Dottie has been the recipient of numerous awards, beginning in 1968 with a Grammy for her solo album 'It's the Soul of Me.' *Billboard Magazine* named her Trendsetter of the Year for the same album. In recognition of her prolific songwriting ability, the Christian Country Music Association honored her in 1994 as the Songwriter of The Century and in 2002 presented her with the Living Legend award. She is a member of the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, and she has been inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame twice, as a soloist and as part of the Rambo trio.

Dottie received a Dove award in 1999 for her song, "I Go to The Rock," sung by Whitney Houston in the hit motion picture "The Preacher's Wife." Houston's soundtrack recording of the song went double platinum. The multitudinous awards bestowed on Dottie culminated in 2001 with the ASCAP Foundation's Lifetime Achievement award.

Over the years Dottie has been associated with a host of secular and gospel music performers. She has recorded with such notable artists as Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrell and Dickie Betts. Among the many personalities with whom Dottie has appeared are Donna Summer, Mahalia Jackson, Pat Boone, CeCe Winans and Ricky Skaggs. She has appeared on the legendary Grand Ole Opry on numerous occasions.

Besides Whitney Houston, many others have recorded Dottie's songs, including Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrell, Dottie West, Crystal Gayle, Larry Gatlin, Johnny Cash, Sandy Patti, Jerry Lee Lewis, Tom T. Hall, Vince Gill, Larnelle Harris, Bill Monroe, George Beverly Sheas, Vestal Goodman, Bill Gaither, Connie Smith, dc talk, Aarron Jeffrey, Andrae Crouch, Commisioned, Vickie Winans, Ray Boltz, Steve Greene and scores of others.

For many years Dottie has enjoyed far-reaching television exposure, having made frequent appearances on all the major Christian networks, countless local stations, and on TNN, PAX and GMT. During the 1980's TBN featured Dottie in one of it's most successful series, a christian variety show called *Dottie Rambo Magazine*. The network still shows reruns of the series. In addition, Dottie has been a fixture in the Gaither Homecoming television and video series.

Having written over 2,500 published songs, Dottie ranks with the beloved Fanny Crosby among the women who have had the greatest impact in the field of gospel music. Hardly any modern hymnal fails to include one

or more of her songs, and movies and television specials around the world have featured songs by Dottie Rambo. A feature film has been planned about Ms. Rambo's life as well.

Dottie's biggest hit song, and probably the best known, is the inspirational 'He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need,' a song that continues an upward spiral and one that she sings at all her performances. Other well-known titles include 'We Shall Behold Him,' 'If That Isn't Love,' 'The Perfect Rose,' 'Behold The Lamb,' 'Build My Mansion Next Door To Jesus,' 'To Much To Gain To Los,' 'Remind Me Dear Lord,' 'Tears Will Never Stain The Streets Of that City,' 'I Will Glory In The Cross' and 'I've Never Been This Homesick Before.' She also composed the delightful 'Down By the Creekbank, which became the most successful children's musical in Christian music history, with sales well beyond a million units.