



## 2013 Induction Class



**Steven Curtis Chapman** was born on November 21, 1962, to Judy and Herb Chapman in Paducah, Kentucky. Chapman's father, a guitar teacher, greatly influenced his son, and as a result, Steven grew up singing and playing the guitar.

After high school, Chapman enrolled as a pre-med student at Georgetown College in Kentucky. He later transferred to Anderson College in Indiana. It was there that he met his wife of 28 years and mother to their 6 children, Mary Beth Chapman. He left school early to pursue a career in music in Nashville. While in Nashville he briefly attended Belmont University and began working a music show at Opryland USA while spending his spare time writing songs.

In the 1980s, his song "Built to last," was recorded by prominent gospel group The Imperials, which led to a songwriting deal with Sparrow Records. He has penned songs for artists such as Sandi Patty, Billy Dean, Glen Campbell, the Cathedral Quartet and Roger Whittaker.

Chapman released his first album, *First Hand In* in 1987. The album included the song "Weak Days," which peaked at No. 2 on the Contemporary Christian Music chart. In 1988, he followed with his second album, *Real Life Conversations*, which earned him four more hits, including the No. 1 song "His Eyes." The song earned the Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year award from the Gospel Music Association in 1989. He also received his first of several GMA Awards for Best Songwriter of the Year.

His next 2 albums, *More to This Life* and *For the Sake of the Call* were certified Gold and featured several No. 1 singles and were awarded several GMA Awards. The latter also gave Chapman his first Grammy in the Best Pop Gospel Album category.

In 1992, Chapman released *The Great Adventure* through EMI/Liberty who had purchased Sparrow Records, and they began to market the album to a broader audience. He was awarded 2 Grammys, for the album and for the title track video. Chapman's next album was a live concert recording, *The Live Adventure*, released as a video and a CD. He was awarded by American Songwriter magazine for Songwriter and Artist of the Year. Chapman continued to enjoy success with albums like *Heaven in the Real World*, *Signs of Life*, *Speechless*, *Declaration*, and *All About Love*. Each of them were certified gold or platinum. "All Things New" made it to No. 22 in 2004

Chapman has also released four Christmas albums, *The Music of Christmas*; *Christmas is all in the Heart*, distributed only at Hallmark Cards stores, *All I Really Want for Christmas* and *2012's Joy*.

In 2006, Chapman toured around the world to Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, China and his show in South Korea was the first Christian concert ever performed for the US troops in that country. His song "The Blessing" reached No. 1 on Thailand radio charts.

In 2007, Chapman went on tour with his sons' band, *The Following*, as his backing band. That same year he released *This Moment*, which included the hits "Cinderella" and "Yours". He continues to tour with his sons Will and Caleb.

On May 21, 2008, tragedy struck the Chapman family with the accidental death one of their 3 adopted daughters, Maria Sue. After Maria's accident, the family spoke publicly about their loss and the role that their faith played in the midst of this tragedy. On November 3, 2009, Chapman released his seventeenth album *Beauty Will Rise*, including many songs inspired by the death of his daughter. His album *Re-creation* was released August 9, 2011, which included songs that he had previously recorded that had been updated with a more organic acoustic flavor.

Chapman has received many accolades during his amazing career, including 5 Grammy's, an American Music Award and 56 dove awards including several artist, album, songwriter and song of the year awards. He has sold over 10,000,000 albums and released 46 #1 singles. On April 20, 2008, Chapman was awarded a star on Nashville's Walk of Fame for his contributions in Christian music. On May 7, 2011, Chapman received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from Anderson University and was the commencement speaker for the Class of 2011. In September 2011, Chapman and his wife were awarded the Congressional Angels in Adoption award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in Washington, D.C.

Chapman has spent much of his career working for many social and charitable causes. In 1999, he dedicated his song "With Hope" to the families of the victims of the Heath High School shooting at his alma mater in West Paducah, Kentucky. He has worked with the international charity World Vision as their spokesman for the Project Restore, its program serving the U.S. Gulf Coast region in recovery from Hurricane Katrina and has spent time in Uganda helping with orphans and adoption organizations.

Chapman and his wife have written 3 adoption themed children's books featuring the characters Shaoey and the ladybug Dot. Chapman, along with minister Scotty Smith, has authored two books for the adult inspirational market, *Speechless* (1999), and *Restoring Broken Things* in (2005).

Chapman continues to tour today, spreading joy and inspiration to millions of fans, and he remains one of the top gospel artists in the world.