



Every Moment Singing

“Summertime and the livin’ is...”

So here it is, August 2003. It's Sunday on the teacher's calendar of summer vacation (June is Friday night, July - Saturday and August - Sunday) - a really nice time to spend with family and friends, but always with that little bit of dreaded anticipation of September or Monday morning. But it's that Monday morning that puts the weekend into perspective and gives us an appreciation for God's gift of Time.

We spend our days wondering where the time went, wishing we had more time - to play with the kids, clean, mow the lawn, plant some flowers, paint the porch, go for walks, enjoy the weather (when it's not too hot and humid), etc...

It's amazing that even with a new job back here in the area, I find time to be such a precious commodity that is very hard to come by. However, God has truly blessed us with my return to Oneida County, as it is 8-1/2 minutes from home, 5.5 miles. That means I actually spend more time showering in the morning than driving to work. I leave at 8AM and return

by 4:30PM every night (versus 7 and 6, five months ago). Our family dynamic has changed 150%. Daddy is now around and able to help a little more, discipline when necessary, and play, play, PLAY!!!!

It's also been amazing to be able to appreciate the gift of time with my Jenny as we can now have those deep discussions that we so enjoyed for years and had to put off while I unwound from the drive to and from Norwich. Now we talk about the books we read (today it's Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons? by Matt Pinto - a great book for teenagers and young adults), the struggles of the day (such as poop next to the potty or Natural Family Planning - 100% effective, 100% blessing, and 100% difficult but so worth it), world issues (my brother Mike is home from Afghanistan - praise God for his safe return), church, our future, life, God, children (current and future), and time.

So, this summer has been a time to return to some of the more enjoyable things in life, family, friends and most importantly, a long-needed focus on God. I attribute a little of this to an email conversation with my friend Dave Dunbar (for those who don't remember, he runs the Family Coffeehouse at the Westernville United Methodist Church and the Fire-Up Concert program). Dave had invited Jen and me to a Bible study. We weren't able to accept the invitation (again,

time rears it's all-consuming head), but we were convinced God was sending us a message to take a deeper look at our faith and convictions. As a result, our individual and cooperative readings are bringing a stronger connection to our journey. New pieces of the billion piece "why do we believe what we believe" puzzle are linked together. We are working on the frame of the puzzle, but every so often, we get an inside piece that hints at another closer to the middle. Though we may never reach the middle and complete the puzzle in this life, we will continue as far as we can and leave the rest of the puzzle to be completed by Emma and Maggie.



In the Adam and Eve book mentioned above, the following question is raised:

"What is the meaning of life?"

Amazingly, there is actually an answer - "...to know, love and serve God."

It's that simple. We'd be much better off in this world if everyone knew that or was truly looking for the answer when they asked that question. Even with such a simple answer, the journey through life takes so many

twists and turns that the way is clouded and the path so narrow that it is easy to turn back or look for an easier way.

This reminds me of our hike up Mt. Jo just outside Lake Placid, NY. The trail splits right after the entrance and you can take the short trail or the long trail. The short trail is .25 miles shorter - so obviously it is much steeper. So, of course we take the long trail - kind of like the decision to "look elsewhere" for the truth and "the meaning of life." To our surprise, the trail is actually quite difficult and comes close to the steepness of the short trail. So, we endure the agony (when you haven't hiked vertically, every step can be agony), and eventually reach the summit. Of course, it was well worth the hike. The views were tremendous, the amazing glory of God's creation was breathtaking and awe-inspiring. Huge mountains, monstrous trees, and our tiny little hearts - all created by perfect and complete Love. All for Jen and me. All this just to say "I Love You" to all of us.

As autumn approaches and the school year begins, I pray that we will be able to continue to maintain our focus on our loving God. Each day, we will have another opportunity to take the time to know, love and serve God each and every breath we take. ☺

My First Official Review!

I've heard some really nice things about my album and concerts, but sometimes I wonder if people are just being nice. Well, after a recent submission, "Tuning Up" was reviewed and recommended by Susan Bailey of Catholic CD Review! The review along with links to songs, is posted online at: http://artists.mp3s.com/artist_song/3296/3296113.html. Below is the full review from Catholic CD Review:

SEAN CLIVE: TUNING UP - simple, hypnotic songs of hope.

Story Behind the Song

Sean Clive is a new artist on the scene and his debut CD is entitled "Tuning Up." Clive's beautifully plain voice draws you right in on the first song, "Every Moment Singing." The music is simple and hypnotic, and the lyrics suggest gentle praise and worship; it put me a wonderful mood.

"Tuning Up" has a sprinkling of cover tunes mixing liturgical with popular by well known artists such as David Haas, Marty Haugen, and Joel Hanson of PFR. But there are also several original songs by Clive that deserve notice. "Fountain of You" is an upbeat expression of hope, drawing listeners to trust in God. Clive writes in his liner notes that this song was born out of a reflection of the suicide of an acquaintance. He writes, "Hopelessness is such a destructive emotion. I wish that everyone could see the fountain of God and the hope that springs forth from Him."

"It Takes a Little Rain" is a touching tribute to Clive's mother who died of breast cancer in 1997. The song speaks of how in order to appreciate the "sun" or joy in life, we must also experience the "rain" or sadness that life brings. One of my favorite songs was "Open My Heart." Clive's obvious love of harmony and acapella group singing shown forth in this effort.

And Other News, if you haven't heard!

"Fountain of You," track 3 from "Tuning Up," was chosen to bat clean-up on the new IndieHeaven Compilation CD, Vol. 2! I don't know how many people submitted songs, but I think there were a bunch. This will be a great way to get the word out and get my music into people's ears and heads. Every order placed through www.indieheaven.com will receive a complimentary copy of the compilation CD - there are some really good artists on this CD - much better than me! The CD has a little bit of everything, so if you are interested in independent Christian Music, check out the indieheaven website and order something. You won't regret it!

Performance Reviews – My thoughts

- **May 2, 2003** - West Schuyler United Methodist Church - Bread of Life Café, West Schuyler, NY. I am honored to have been a part of this one year anniversary celebration. Mark and Sue have such a great little coffeehouse with some awesome food (for the body and soul). It was my first performance at which people actually talked through most of the night. Then they sang. Then they ate. Then they talked and sang, etc. It actually was great. I enjoyed myself and made some more friends. I even had my first "fan" picture. I found out that I was a shot in the dark for Mark as he needed someone to fill in and got me - kind of like my desperate need for a prom date oh so many years ago. I hope I can get back to W. Schuyler soon.
- **June 7, 2003** - Relay for Life - Cancer Walk. Sauquoit High School (my alma mater). I was asked to be a part of this wonderful event that has branched out to the suburbs. My mom walked as a survivor and is now walking as a victor. It's amazing how something that is not overtly religious actually needs to be. We remember those we've lost and those who continue to fight cancer, but we especially remember the gift of life here and the gift of eternal life that, despite a crummy disease and all the struggles of this life, we hope to experience one day. As John Michael Talbot said recently, "It is sad that this young man died so young. But we know that the Lord receives him in His tender mercy." It was a bit rainy all day, but the memories and hope seemed to dry everything except for the tears. After a little weird sound system issues were worked out, "It Takes A Little Rain" was very well received. Oddly, I don't cry or choke up when I sing that song anymore. I think it's because it's my opportunity to sing with Mom again and again. Plus, the healing that I experienced from making the album and sharing the music with people has filled that hole with the beauty of the gift of music that Mom gave me.
- **June 19, 2003** - Lairdsville United Methodist Church, Lairdsville, NY. This was the first in a series of summer concerts coordinated by Bob Elmer and his church community. I am honored to have been asked to be the opening act and pray that God continues to bless the wonderful people in Lairdsville and all over who come to these concerts. I played lots of new music - some more upbeat songs, all in a wonderful setting. This was a GREAT outdoor concert, set up almost like a mini amphitheater behind this small Methodist church between here and there (but in between here and there is what it's all about). It was a tiny bit rainy all day and into

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the night, but the rain held out for the most part. I really enjoyed this concert, probably more than any of the others I'd done to that point. Maybe it was the beautiful setting, maybe it was the warmth of all the people and the belief that the sun would eventually come out, maybe it was the lawn chairs in which people were so comfortable as they enjoyed the show, maybe it was the new music, maybe it was God's peace. The robins sang with us as we sang "I Come To The Garden (Alone)." The mosquitoes only feasted slightly on my neck and leg - it is impossible to get rid of a mosquito when you are in the midst of a song that requires guitar playing. It is amazing how I meet people everywhere I go that knew my mom, and this was no exception. I can only hope that I have the gift of Jesus' presence that my mother had - to have touched people's lives enough to cause them to remember her even 20 years after meeting her once. I have received so much feedback lately about the music and have heard the conversations of how people were told that they "HAD" to come to a show and hear me sing. I can only hope that God's message gets into people's hearts - even if it ends up being that little tiny flicker that helps them along their path to Him. I pray that this church and it's people are able to continue this beautiful monthly event for many years. May God continue to bless this community. Thanks Bob and Pastor Barb.

- **July 12-13, 2003** - Anniversary Party and First Baptist Church - New Lebanon, OH - a beautiful Baptist Church in the southwest corner of the state. Our family took the trip to celebrate a family reunion with Aunt Marie and Uncle Hank who have shared the sacrament of marriage for 40 years. Dean and Naomi (cousins from OH) arranged for me (and Emma) to sing at the festivities - it was great. Our cousin's kids got up to sing too. What a wonderful time. The concert at the church was short but amazing - primarily Traditional Hymns. I realize how much I love to sing at churches whenever I do these types of concerts. The setting is perfect; the crowd is so responsive and uplifting. I received some wonderful compliments and prayers of support from these wonderful people. I pray that I can return and share more of my music with these brothers and sisters. May God bless their community.
- **Weddings** - I've had the pleasure of singing at and attending several weddings this summer and I am expecting to sing at a few more. I need to share a couple stories from two recent ones - I know I will be sharing these stories in my concerts for years to come:



Emma and Daddy singing "Recipe for Love" and "Heavenly" at Aunt Marie and Uncle Hank's Anniversary Party

"...and Yahoo said..." - Jen and I attended the wedding of one of our friends. It was a very nice wedding and was so wonderful to see the bride and groom so obviously in love. The wedding ceremony went off without a hitch. However, I was nearly kicked out of church (not really) during one amusing part. During the reading of the psalm, the name Yahweh (pronounced Yah-Way) is used. When done well, one can appreciate the practice that goes into preparing for reading scripture well. I feel bad for the reader who must have looked at the word and thought, "this must be spelled wrong," only to ask the closest comic how to pronounce this difficult word. As my ears heard "Yahoo," for the second time, I remember the laughing convulsions begin. I did my best to keep my emotions under control, but my poor heart had been confined for too long and the pew needed a little shaking. Maybe Jewish people have it right, maybe God really doesn't want us to use Yahweh for this reason - "Thou shalt not mispronounce the name of the Lord your God." Thank God for His sense of humor. "...They were Slain in the Spirit..." - Never have I been to a wedding where three people faint (or came close). I had the best seat for the festivities as three members, including the bride, of a wedding party dropped from the heat and excitement. Being an altar boy for many years, I can appreciate and empathize with the suffering endured in the heat of the church with heavy clothing. What a day - one that will never be forgotten. As with our wedding, it's the funny stuff that you remember, not the little things that you were worried about at the time like hair and makeup, flowers and food. Jen laughed at our wedding vows instead of crying, the flower lady fell and dropped all the flowers on the driveway, etc... At this wedding, three people are laid out, all but one will remember the wedding ceremony and one will be able to tell the tale of the ambulance trip. That video could win America's Funniest Videos!

Upcoming Shows

Nothing in the works but needed to get the word out about what has happened this summer and the blessings we've enjoyed so far... Stay tuned for postcards or check out my website for up-to-the-month updates and schedule changes.

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 If you know of any venues (e.g. churches, coffeehouses, events), please pass the word along that I am currently booking through 2004. Give out my website - [www.seanclive.com](http://www.seanclive.com) - for more information about me and this ministry.  
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Check us out at:
www.seanclive.com

Tuning Up is available for \$15 at:

Utica Catholic Bookstore • Shiloh Christian Bookstore - Boonville, NY • Morgan's Tru-Value Hardware - Waterville, NY • Life Discovery Christian Bookstore - Whitesboro, NY - NEW

Online at www.indieheaven.com • www.catholicmusicnetwork.com

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