

# NANCY SCHARFF MINISTRIES

## About the Artist



Nancy Scharff is a gifted and accomplished singer, guitarist, pianist, songwriter, and worship leader. Little did she know when her interest in music began in her church as a youngster she would serve God today with a unique and powerful music ministry that glorifies His name. At an early age, Nancy began writing songs and sharing them with her congregation at worship services. At age 15, she toured Europe with the Monmouth Conservatory Youth Chorus performing her own original Christian music in many cathedrals and churches. Nancy attended Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Living a short distance from New York City, she studied with faculty who taught at Julliard, Manhattan School of Music, and Mannes College of Music, and performed with the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony. She continued her vocal study with renowned teachers such as Judith Raskin and John Ferrante, Giuseppe Giardina, and Phyllis Curtin. Her guitar studies have included artists such as Howard Greenblatt, Sharon Isbin, Harry Leahey, Nathaniel Gunod, and Dennis Koster, of the American Institute of Guitar in New York. Though primarily self-taught, Nancy studied piano with Donna Zapf and Judith Daugherty.

Though her musical training prepared her for a career in classical music, Nancy continued to compose her own popular style of music. After college, she was offered a position at her church as choir director, and she developed her talents as a conductor and director of music. She experienced a spiritual turning point in her life when a friend told her about a Christian artist seminar held at the CBN/700 Club in Virginia. When she attended the conference, Nancy felt inspired to dedicate her life to God and to use her musical gifts for His glory. Soon afterward, she recorded her own original Christian CD entitled *Open Heart*. When she returned to the CBN event a few years later, her song *Step into the Light* won recognition from recording professionals at top Christian record labels, such as Word and Sparrow.

In New York, Nancy has performed at Carnegie Recital Hall, Lincoln Center, Off-Broadway, St. John the Divine, Cami Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, and St. Paul's Chapel for their renowned Noonday Concert Series. She toured Israel for the Jerusalem 3000 Gospel Music Celebration, performing with top Christian artists such as Twila Paris and Larnelle Harris. Nancy has also performed at the Rome Opera and Music Festival, and shared her music ministry at the Church of St. Anne's and St. Agnes in London and the United Church in Winchester, England. She has ministered at St. Peter's by the Lake Lutheran Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Family Harvest Church, all in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Nancy continues to tour nationally and internationally, traveling to churches of all denominations. Her music ministry appeals to people of all ages through contemporary and traditional styles. Her concerts and participation in worship services express her love for the Lord with excitement, joy, and strong Christian witness. Nancy says, “I love to involve the audience or congregation. It’s amazing how quickly they learn a new praise & worship song. We feel God’s presence together and glorify His name through music. We can go back into the world with a sense of renewal, commitment to Christ, and stronger faith.”

With many mainline churches embracing praise & worship music, Nancy is currently giving workshops on developing contemporary worship services. Nancy describes one experience: “At St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in Silver Springs, Maryland, Pastor Dwiggins asked me to help develop their first contemporary worship service. It was so exciting! I gave a workshop on Saturday evening, and discussed all aspects of contemporary worship. Our goal was to make the worship experience relevant to the unchurched. We also learned praise & worship songs. I had asked the church to find musicians and form a praise & worship band. Before the workshop, I rehearsed with the band and taught them the songs. The next step was to find singers, and develop a praise team. The following morning, St. Stephen’s had their first contemporary worship service! It was a delight to be their worship leader, and see the positive and warm response from the congregation. What a blessing they will be to their community, as they reach out to the unchurched and those who are seeking a worship service that offers current styles of Christian music.”

In addition to her successful *Open Heart* CD, Nancy has released a CD entitled *Covenant Love*, which is also a compilation of her original songs. Songs like *Worship the Lord* and *Send Me*, are being sung by congregations all over the United States and in countries like South Africa and England. Sheet music is available for all of Nancy’s songs. Congregations and soloists alike are using her music in their worship services. She is currently working on a new CD release. Nancy is available for concerts, worship services, workshops, women’s groups, conferences, conventions, and church social events. Nancy travels as a soloist and can also add additional musicians when they are requested.

Pastor Edwin Dedekind, of Johannesburg, South Africa, writes this about Nancy: “I would like to thank you for ministering to us at St. Peter’s by the Lake. The response to your ministry in our congregation was overwhelming. You are always welcome in our midst...may you be an inspiration to all who experience your ministry.” 🙏