

Family Reunion Music

by Al Summers

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I attended one of my favorite family reunions this past Sunday.

The descendants of Milton Davis get together on the last Sunday of September to celebrate their lineage, eat, and sing. I am an in-law to this family, or an outlaw as they like to refer to me, but I really enjoy the Davis family reunion every year.

The food is good, but the singing takes the cake, no pun intended. And, this year was a banner year.

The Davis Trio, composed of Gilmer County native Bobby Davis, and his now grown sons, Keith and Kevin, are now making beautiful music in the world of southern gospel music. They have "hit the big time."



I have written before about how music is in their blood. I do not know if Milton picked and sang, but the last generations of Davis offspring have had some kind of instrument in their hands and/or feel comfortable in front of a microphone.

Bobby and the boys have just released their latest compact disc, a mixture of old traditional southern gospel tunes with newer ones, and one written especially for the trio. Standing On His Promise is a CD that belongs on every shelf for those who love southern gospel music.

Among the 10 songs on the latest release are a Morris Stancil tune, Let Me Drink At The Fountain, and the Sandy Knight tune, Somebody Touched the Lord.

Songwriter Daryl Williams penned It's Amazing To Me for the Davises, and it allows them to highlight their unique harmonizing skills.



To carry on the tradition of southern gospel, the Davis men perform Albert E. Brumley's I'm Bound For the Land Of Canaan and, my favorite, the LeRoy Abernathy toe-tapper, I Thank My Savior For It All. LeRoy was particular about his music and how it was performed, but I am sure when he pauses from entertaining the

Heavenly chorus, he smiles down in approval for the trio's treatment of I Thank My Savior.

There is one other note of interest on this CD. A very talented lady from Cleveland, Ga., performed all of the music heard on the disc. Sharen Alexander played everything from piano to guitar, and all instruments in between. She is a very talented woman.

If the Davis Trio was not enough to bless one at the reunion, then a couple of "outlaws" are talented enough to join Larry and Vic to round out a pretty good lineup of talent.

Vic's son-in-law, Ty Bishop, has a voice that belongs in a concert hall. Actually, he has been there and done that, he is a past member of the famous Robert Shaw Chorale. He sang at our wedding. The guests were also impressed. They thought we had imported one of the Three Tenors to perform. This boy can sing.

The other "outlaw", Richard Davenport, plays guitar, and this year he joined the vocalist list with When He Was On The Cross, I Was On His Mind.

Me, I can neither sing nor play an instrument. But, I am happy getting another piece of fried chicken, sitting back, and tapping my toes, and enjoying another family reunion.

It's not too many reunions that have both dinner and a show.



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