

The Baxter Family ... at home

We Sing Because We're Happy

We have all admired the family who could gather around a piano and sing to their hearts content, singing because they're happy. Just such a family is coming into your home now, through this record.

Encased in this album are the voices of an all-American family with a flair for a song and the dedication to sing it. R.V. and Betty Baxter (the initials R.V. are his given name) have lived in Rockford, Illinois since 1950. Both are from Corning, Arkansas, attended school there together, married, and lived there before coming to Rockford.

The happy family of three boys and two girls, whose pictures you see above [on the original album cover, but split up here and on the following



Melodie Joy age 1 and Lori Ann age 3 with Betty and R.V.

two pages of this CD insert booklet], round out the Baxter household. The Baxters are members of the Full Gospel Temple and are involved in a host of church activities. Betty is the church's piano accompanist and R.V. directs the choir. Betty and R.V. have been regulars on several series of radio programs and are known far and wide as members of a beloved family gospel singing team. The family has

appeared at scores of gospel singings. R.V. is employed by a large retail Firestone department store in Rockford known as T. M. Peters.

As the album opens on side one little Duncan leads, Mark solos on a few bars, and the boys, mom, and dad all join in on a typical Baxter arrangement of "IT'S DIFFERENT NOW." Then Betty and R.V. sing the beautiful "HOW ABOUT YOUR HEART?," R.V. solos on "HAVE YOU ANY TIME FOR JESUS?" On this selection each boy sings a solo verse, appearing in order of their age: Duncan, Mark, and then Rick. Betty and R.V. close the side with two heartfelt numbers that have become known to many as Baxter standards: "DOWN ON MY KNEES" and "HE KNOWS JUST WHAT I NEED."



Richard Don (Rick) age 11

The Baxters got the idea for the opening selection on side two from a traveling evangelist. Betty took the melody of a song's chorus the evangelist was singing, expanded that melody, and R.V. worked out the rhythm and words. They called the rousing hand clapper "I WOKE UP THIS MORNING," and present it to you here with Duncan and Mark, in that order, taking solo parts. Then it's a quick change of pace as Betty and R.V. sing the type of song they do best, "WHISPERING HOPE."*

Betty, of course, plays piano accompaniment on all of the album's selections. It certainly would not be a family album if she did not present a piano solo. Betty does so, in her marvelous way, with the Stuart Hamblin favorite "IT IS NO SECRET." Betty follows with another solo, this time

voice, and presents what is probably the most inspiring musical selection on the album. This too is a typical Baxter arrangement as Betty pours from her heart the

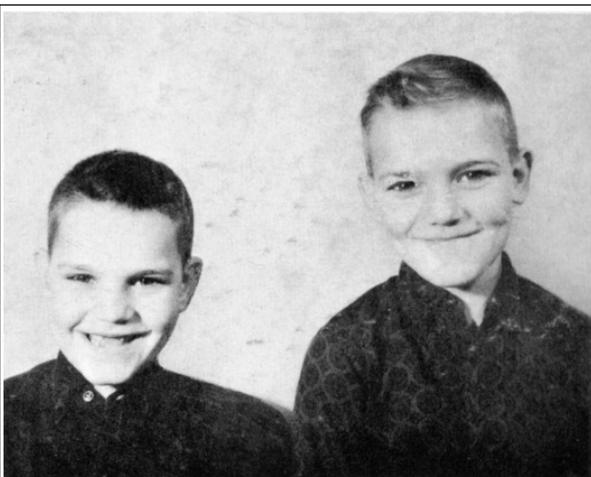
question, "LORD! HAVE I DONE MY PART?" R.V. narrates a verse at the song's end. Next, Betty and R.V. join on "DO YOU KNOW MY JESUS?" and the boys return to make it an appropriate family affair with the album's title song "I SING BECAUSE I'M HAPPY." R.V., Duncan, Mark, and Rick take solo turns as the song opens.

The album ends with another Baxter arrangement as Betty and R.V. together sing their song with a message to the world, "THE KING AND I."

Maybe some of the joy in recording this album will find its way into your home and your family. Maybe too, it will inspire your family to join 'round the piano and try a hand at the songs you know.

One thing is certain, however, here is a family that is growing up in song. Here is a family of three boys, mother, and father,

singing for the sheer joy of it and presenting their first album. Yes, growing up in song. And if you notice the picture on the front of the album, the one with the two little girls who were too young to be included in this album, possibly you will agree that album number two could well be the Baxter album that initiates two more members of the family, again reflecting the spirit of "We Sing Because We're Happy."



*Duncan Lee (Duke) age 7
and Kenneth Mark (Mark) age 9*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Original vinyl record album:

CVLP 1002

This album was recorded in Rockford, Illinois, on December 5, 1963.

Recording and pressing was accomplished by the use of Ampex Tape Machines, RCA Microphones, Neumann AM 32 Mastering Lathe, Gotham EQ 1000 Equalizer, E.M.T. Acoustically Variable Relay Echo Chamber and Gramphian Hot Stylus Feed Back cutter.

Recording Engineer
Producer
Technical Director
Cover Design

Robert Slattery
Keith Walker
Jay Smith
Sam Vecchio

A Portrait-In-Sound Production by
ROCKFORD RECORDING CO.

This CD:

Digitization of one of the original vinyl recordings in the collection of Carney Baxter (R.V.'s next older brother) to produce this CD was performed by Roger Baxter (R.V.'s nephew, the son of his second older brother) using an ELAC Miracord turntable, RadioShack 4 channel stereo sound mixer, and an Apple Macintosh iMac computer with a 2.1 GHz PowerPC G5 processor running Mac OS X v.10.4.11 using Amadeus Pro v.1.5.1 in Winston Salem, North Carolina during February 2012. This CD was created on that same computer using Apple iTunes v.9.2.1 at the request of Carney Baxter for the enjoyment of the family.

*NOTE: Due to a defect in the vinyl recording which this digitization was made from the ending of *Whispering Hope* had to be shortened.

Enjoy the sounds of The Baxter Family online at:
http://www.RogerBaxter.com/The_Baxter_Family/At_Home.shtml

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