

# Biography of John G. Elliott

**J**ohn G. Elliott began training as a classical musician at age eight. Beginning at age 12, he performed yearly in solo piano recitals. At 18, he won an all-state competition, and at age 20 was a finalist in international competition at **Carnegie Hall**. He then moved to Los Angeles to study privately with **Aube Tzerko** and continue preparation for further competitions, including one in Moscow.

After a brief period of study, an over-extension resulted in John losing use of two fingers on his right hand. Forced to give up as a pianist, he enrolled in seminary and earned a Master of Arts in New Testament studies, and served as a campus minister at **Purdue University** from 1980-83.

**I**t was during this period that the Lord began to reveal that it was necessary for John to undergo a "crucifixion" to his own ambitions and motives. The Lord would then begin a work to resurrect John to His music, His message and His way of ministry. The song "Embrace The Cross" was born out of this time when John learned to die to himself and his own dreams.

**B**eginning to write songs and produce recordings in 1982 led him to Nashville, TN in 1983. Upon arrival, the Lord quickly confirmed His call upon John, as two of his songs were recorded by **Pat Boone**. John was then hired as an assistant producer and worked with various artists in the Christian music industry. He also served several years as worship leader for Belmont Church in Nashville, under the direction of **Don Finto**. It was at this time that the Lord healed John's hand and completely restored the ability to play piano.

**R**ecordings produced and arranged by John G. Elliott include:

- **Billy & Sarah Gaines**
- **James Ward**
- **Honeytree**
- Voices of Praise series on **Reunion Records**
- Two children's recordings for the **Benson Company**

**T**he Lord gave John the opportunity to write songs that have been recorded by many artists including:

- **Ricky Skaggs**
- **Steve Green**
- **Pat Boone**
- **Truth**
- **First Call**
- **Jesse Dixon**
- **Billy & Sarah Gaines**

**H**e has co-written songs with **Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Kim Hall, Paul Overstreet, Bruce Carroll, and Steve Camp.**

**J**ohn wrote and had the privilege of recording the title song, "God Came Near," for **Here To Him Music's** Christmas album with author and speaker **Max Lucado**. That recording was nominated in 1999 for a **Dove Award** for Praise & Worship Album of the Year. John also appeared on the **ABC television** special honoring the life and ministry of **Dr. Billy Graham**.

**T**he **Gospel Music Association** and **ASCAP** have asked John to speak and chair panels on songwriting.

**S**teinway Piano added John in 2004 to their international roster of endorsed artists.

**B**ut John believes his primary calling is in the area of worship and ministry, where he leads worship and teaches seminars. In this pursuit, he has ministered around the world, including **Russia, Yugoslavia, Czech Republic, western Europe, Singapore, Africa** and **Israel**. He helped lead **Albania's** first post-communist evangelistic meetings in 1991. On occasion, he has had the privilege of co-ministering with his friend **Steve Green** in **Latin America** and **Spain**.

**J**ohn wants to be obedient to the call God has given—to minister to

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people for Christ. John believes that, if he remains faithful to lift up the Lord through his music, in his message and in his life, he will have fulfilled that call.

**J**ohn, his wife **Carol**, and their five children now live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

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