



Jimmy Blackwood and The Blackwood Brothers Quartet

“The best-known name in Gospel Music!”

The Blackwood Brothers Quartet was formed in 1934 with brothers Roy, Doyle and James along with Roy's son, R.W., who was killed in a tragic airplane accident in 1954. Roy and Doyle retired from the road in the late 40's. James continued to lead the group, making it the best-known name in gospel quartet history.

James, the last surviving member of the original quartet, went to be with the Lord in 2002, but his son James, Jr. (Jimmy) brought the name out of retirement and continues the 75 year family tradition of great gospel singing. The group today consists of Jimmy, Wayne Little, Randy Byrd and Billy Blackwood and pianist Mike Hammontree. The result is one of the best quartets you have ever heard.

Anchoring the Blackwood sound is the lead voice of Jimmy Blackwood. Jimmy started singing with the Junior Blackwood Brothers in the early 60's and then sang baritone with J. D. Sumner in the Stamps Quartet from 1965-69. He joined the Blackwood Brothers Quartet in 1969. Both the Stamps Quartet and the Blackwood Brothers Quartet have been inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. While with the Blackwood Brothers in the 70's and 80's Jimmy won numerous Dove Awards and five Grammy Awards. In 1979 he received the Singing News fan award for Favorite Second Tenor. The remarks heard most often are how much he looks like and sounds like his famous father. Jimmy, and his wife, Mona live in Memphis and have two daughters, Dana and Debbie, and five grandchildren.

Wayne Little is one of the best tenors to ever sing a gospel song. Wayne formed the Crystal River Boys Quartet and later sang with the New Millennium Quartet. He was a featured singer at the Pentagon for a 9/11 Memorial service with Rev. Franklin Graham. His powerful, clear tenor voice thrills audiences from coast to coast. Wayne and his wife, Gina live in Elizabethton, Tennessee, and have two sons, Micah and Maison.

Billy, James Blackwood's youngest son, sings baritone and is the music arranger for the quartet. Billy played drums for J.D. Sumner and the Stamps Quartet at the age of 14. He also played for the Blackwood Brothers, Gordon Jensen and Sunrise, and Andrus/Blackwood & Company and toured with Voice, the opening act for the Elvis Presley show. He has traveled in solo ministry and has worked in youth and pastoral ministry. Billy has four daughters and one son.

Randy Byrd provides the foundation for the quartet. His smooth bass voice and winning personality continually make him new fans and friends all across the country. Randy is the son of a minister and grew up in Arkansas. Before joining the Blackwood Brothers he sang with the group “Majesty” from Des Moines, Iowa. Randy and his wife Lisa make their home in Maryville, Tennessee, and they have three daughters, Misti, Tiffani, and Kristin and three granddaughters and a grandson.

Mike Hammontree began playing the piano when he was only 4 years old and at the age of 6 was accepted in the Jacksonville University Conservatory of Music. He also sings and arranges music, and for fifteen years was the minister of music at Southside Assembly of God in Jacksonville, Florida. Mike was influenced by former Blackwood Brothers accompanists and feels like he has always been a “Blackwood”. Mike and his wife Dana and their two sons, Chad and Chase also participate in their family's ministry.

www.blackwoodbrothers.com

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