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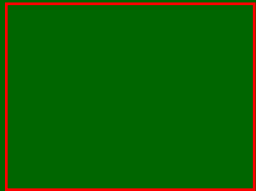
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Bio -- 4Him

Crosswalk.com Entertainment Channel - After a half-dozen years of musical ministry together, the members of Benson's award-winning group 4HIM--Mark Harris, Kirk Sullivan, Andy Chrisman and Marty Magehee--all agree on the powerful impact that God has made on their lives...one of the few things that four men who are such different people living so closely together for so long can agree on.

"Somebody asked us 'Are you more like really good friends, or brothers?' Andy says, 'Neither. Were like. . .married'," Kirk says, producing both laughter and nods of recognition from the group's other members.

"We've all been through the Disneyworlds and the Vietnams of our lives together," Marty adds. "We've gotten very close and very honest with each other."

This familiarity, along with the members' life changes and musical growth, combine to make their latest Benson project, The Message, a great step forward for 4HIM. More than previous albums, the guys each carve out unique niches for themselves, fusing their individual efforts together to create the sound that hundreds of thousands have come to recognize, know and love.

4HIM began its musical journey when Andy, Marty, Kirk and Mark signed with Benson after spending three years with music group Truth. 1990 saw the release of their self-titled debut, and the number one hit "Where There Is Faith." Chart success continued with the issue of their second project, Face The Nation, which spawned five hit singles, including "Why," "He Never Changes" and "Chisel Meets The Stone."

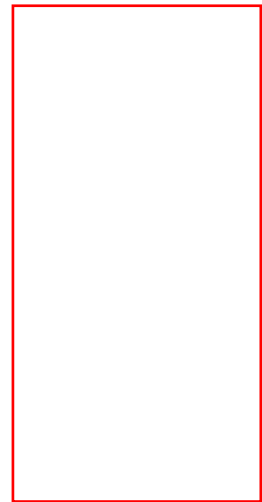
1992's The Basics of Life and its highly successful title cut added fuel to the fire known as 4HIM, and gave them the opportunity to record a Christmas album, The Season of Love, in 1993. In 1994, they took listeners along for The Ride, teaming longtime production cohort Don Koch with Michael Omartian and Peter Wolf, both known for their efforts in the pop market. The Ride yielded five number one singles, including the 1994 CCM Magazine song of the year, "For Future Generations," "Wings," "Real Thing," "Nature Of Love" and "Love Finds You."

Along the way, the group has garnered accolades ranging from the 1991



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Dove Award for Best New Artist and three consecutive years (1993-1995) as the Gospel Music Association's Dove Award winning Group of the Year to American Songwriter Magazine's 1995 Christian Artist of the Year and the group's first RIAA-certified gold album for *The Basics of Life*.

Which brings us to *The Message*. The production team of Omartian, Koch and Wolf return, bringing to the console a spirit of innovation (including a trip to Austria, where Wolf resides, to record basic tracks for the new project) and a challenge to grow musically which 4HIM embraces. Sonic flourishes abound, combining sophisticated arrangements with exceptional vocal textures.

And then there are the songs themselves, and aspect of 4HIM for which the group is perhaps most noted. Mark continues his role as the group's primary songwriter, writing or co-writing 10 of *The Message*'s 11 songs, with Marty contributing both vocals and writing talents on "Sacred Hideaway," a song which came out of his recent bout with a rare, debilitating form of arthritis and his subsequent healing.

From the opening strains of *The Message*'s lead track, "Lay It All On The Line," with its quickly established groove and signature 4HIM harmonies, listeners are encouraged to open themselves up to the beauty of the music as well as the intent of the lyric. Through "The Measure Of A Man," "Land Of Mercy," the title track and on through the rest of the album, the guys each take great pleasure in fleshing out musical statements true to themselves, their partners, and the One for which they sing.

"I think one of our strengths as a group is that we have a common goal musically as to where we want to take it," Andy says. "The hard work comes in picking the producers and arrangers who will come in and put the right touch on a song. Although the four of us are very different, and draw from diverse influences, we're very single-minded about where we want our music to go, and it's very much reflected on this record."

And the growth of the talent and confidence in each other can also be found in what's not on the record. "On one of the songs, 'Center Of The Mark,' Marty started out as one who was going to sing lead on it, then I was going to sing lead instead, and when we went into the studio, it ended up as a group song," Kirk says.

"And that was one of those things where we knew in our hearts what that song needed to be, and we tried several different ways of doing it until we found exactly what it needed to be," Andy adds. "Songs are born, I believe.. And as a songwriter or musician or singer, you have to help it to mature into the potential of the song itself, into the heart of the song."

"We took some chances musically this time-- 'Measure Of A Man,' 'Sacred Hideaway,' 'All The Evidence I Need,' 'Window with a view'--and we worked harder on this album than we ever have before because we wanted the great production we thought the song deserved," Mark says.

At the same time, the members of 4HIM seem to realize that it has been God's message all along that has driven them to do what they do, and that it was appropriate at this stage in their collective careers to acknowledge it in the album's title.

"One characteristic of 4HIM, even from the beginning, was that whenever we were picking songs, we chose those with a message that was very applicable to someone who was a Christian--a song of encouragement, a



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song of challenge or a song that was fun, but still has a Christian message to it," Mark says. "The one thing we've always been known for is that our lyric is very straightforward--creative, but at the same time straightforward with the word of God."

"People know where we stand, what we believe in, what our faith is," he says.

Part of 4HIM's commitment to where they stand and to spreading God's message has led them literally around the world, to a 1995 journey with the American Bible Society to distribute Bibles to citizens in Russia, a trip documented in the video for the single "Real Thing" from The Ride. Later this year, that journey will continue on with the continuation of their US tour with the noted female vocal group Point Of Grace, as they travel to another 40 cities for the spring leg of their successful tour, which has already hit 40 cities in the fall of 1996.

It is easy to find encouragement in the example of men who have grown in talent and skill, who take the challenges of recognition that sometimes come, and still remain in perspective about the situation.

"I look back now and I can't believe all the things that have happened in the past six years," Marty says. "To see where he has us now, I still can't believe He's decided to use me, to use us. It's very humbling."

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