

# Valley musician's new CD testifies of the Savior through song

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Growing up in Poland, Kasia Haroldsen remembers themes of music and faith resonating across all aspects of her life.

Years later, as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Haroldsen would share songs that reflected her testimony of the restored gospel and the joy and peace she had discovered.

Now, a resident of Spokane Valley and the mother of five, Haroldsen has created an album called “The Savior of My Soul” that honors the Lord through collection of serene and textured songs.



*Kasia Haroldsen, a member of the Pines Ward in the Spokane East Stake, has recently released her second CD, titled “The Savior of My Soul.” The album contains a blend of original songs and gospel standards in both English and Polish. Photo by Craig Howard.*

“This CD is about the Savior and the influence He has had on my life,” Kasia said. “I’m hoping I can reach a lot of people with this music.”

The fourth song on the album, “Savior,” describes Haroldsen’s conversion story when she was living in Warsaw. In less than a month, she met and spoke with the only four full-time LDS missionaries serving in Poland at the time. Kasia was baptized at 21 and later served an 18-month mission in Utah. She would return to the U.S. following her mission and earn a degree in music education from Southern Utah University.

There are many times that Kasia pauses and gives thanks for even being able to play music or share the gospel at all. She was near death at the age of two months with a severe case of whooping cough and her mother decided at the last minute against suggestions to have an abortion when she was pregnant with Kasia.

Kasia, who resides with her husband Eldon and their children in the Pines Ward of the Spokane East Stake, sings in both her native Polish and English on the CD. The album contains eight original songs as well as familiar church standards like “Nearer My God to Thee” and “A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief.” Kasia sings lead on all the tracks and plays the guitar, viola, violin, piano and percussion.

It took nearly seven years and “overcoming many obstacles along the way” for Kasia to complete her second CD. As with other successes in her life, Haroldsen credits a higher power for the final achievement.

“There were many situations that I could testify how God helped me through this project,” she said. “I could feel His presence while I was working on this.”

On “Nearer My God to Thee,” Kasia’s son, Julian, plays the cello and her daughter Alina plays the violin while son Emil and daughter Mayra sing the first verse. The musical family has appeared at venues like the Spokane Folk Festival, Auntie’s Bookstore and local retirement centers.



*Kasia and her son, Julian (left) and daughter, Alina (right) have appeared several times at the Spokane Community College Folk Festival. Contributed photo.*

Another representative of the Spokane Stake, choir leader extraordinaire, Craig Mecham, can be heard on guitar in a song called “Prayer.”

While the Polish to English translation for each song is included on Kasia’s Web site, the musician said she discovered on her mission that, when it involves music, a single glossary is usually sufficient.

“I realized that language doesn’t matter when people could feel peace and comfort as I did,” she said. “That is how I know that music is a universal language and affects others if they are open to the Spirit. That is how it affected me.”

Kasia tells of one story on her mission when she was teaching a couple who knew the gospel was true but could not commit to baptism because of a conflict with the Word of Wisdom. During one visit, Kasia played a song about her brother who had passed away at a young age. The words to the tune describe the importance of fleeting opportunities and the sadness that comes from delaying behavior that will bless your life and the lives of others.

“My English was poor, but because of the Spirit and music, I was able to communicate with them so they could understand the story of my brother,” Kasia said.

The couple was later baptized and sealed in the temple. They went on to serve a mission of their own.

As she looks to the future, Kasia hopes to return to Poland and share her music and testimony with the people there. In the meantime, she appears at local firesides, conveying a uniquely harmonious gospel message.

“I’m hoping my music will bring the peace and testimony of the Savior,” she said. “I would like to share my music with people around me and help them to know that we are all children of God and that He does care for each one of us. I always think that the Spirit is in the music and music can be very therapeutic for so many souls out there.”

Want to find out more?

To find out more about Kasia’s music or to order her latest CD, visit [www.kasiamusic.com](http://www.kasiamusic.com).