



**devotion music**  
Inspiring Music Without Limits

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## **Justin Schwartz: Big Blessings in a Small Town**

In the music industry, it can be difficult for youth to find artists that stand out as good role models. With so many negative influences and conflicting messages dominating the airwaves, it is a

confusing time as teenagers search for an identity in the world around them.

Justin Schwartz, a young Christian in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was one of the many kids in his community who grew up impacted by these same issues. He knew all too well the challenges of growing up Christian in today's world. Feeling the pressure to look or act a certain way was never a struggle throughout his high school years because of his relationship with Jesus.

Schwartz had always possessed a passion and gift for music. However, in the predominantly secular music scene that surrounded him, it was difficult to find an outlet for his talent that would allow him to create music that stayed true to his beliefs. Rather than let this environment dampen his spirit, he drew strength from his faith in God. Feeling a calling to dedicate his gift to the Lord, he set out to take a unique approach in setting an example for the people around him through music.

The opportunity to shine musically for the Lord came at Schwartz's hometown church, Cape First. Brent Anderson, worship leader at Cape First church, offered Schwartz the opportunity to perform with Cape First Worship (CFW), the church's worship group. Having experienced Schwartz's percussion genius first-hand and seeing how passionate he was in all of his work for God, Anderson knew he would be an inspiring edition to the 13-member ensemble.



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At 19, Schwartz fondly looks back at how far he has come since his early days playing the drums. CFW has progressed further and reached more hearts than he ever imagined. “I am so proud of the work we have done and it is amazing to see what music can do in a person’s life. I always give the glory to God. Without him, none of this would be possible,” said Schwartz when asked about his newfound place in the public eye.

The accomplishments of CFW’s ministry also did not go unnoticed. Record producer Billy Smiley, formerly of the highly successful Christian group White Heart, heard a sampling of their music and immediately contacted the group to set up a meeting. Impressed by Schwartz’s young talent and the limitless passion present in the group’s work, Smiley signed the group to the Devotion Music record label on the spot.

“I was so excited when I found out that Cape First Worship had been signed to a major label and would be recording an album. The group that had been formed out of a love for God would now be able to share that love with people far beyond the walls of our church,” said Schwartz.

With excitement filling their hearts, Schwartz and his fellow band mates were flown to Devotion Music’s studio in Nashville, Tennessee. After many moving recording sessions, 12 inspirational tracks came together to form their debut album, entitled “To Know Your Heart.” With members coming from all walks of life, each song shares a message that any Christian can relate to.

“I still can’t believe everything that has happened. I never dreamed I would be a part of something so large,” said Schwartz.

*The album, distributed by Universal Music Group, will be available in stores nationwide on September 16, 2008. As an added bonus, a DVD with a full-length music video for the album’s first single, “To Know Your Heart,” will be included with each album, along with live performance footage and interviews with band members. The album and information about the group is also available at <http://www.devotionmusic.com>.*