

AUGUST 2012

COMPLIMENTARY

COASTAL

CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Celebrating 12 Years of Good News

**SCOOTER
WARD**

*& Cloud 9
Orchestra*

MUSIC NOTES
Deidra Hughes

Back to
**SCHOOL
TIPS**



Scooter Ward & His

CLOUD ORCHESTRA



Panama City is home to Scooter Ward, Cloud 9 Orchestra Founder & Manager.



Where the Sky's the Limit and the Music is Swingin'

There is just about no way Scooter Ward could have become anything but a musician! He grew up in a musical home and has loved music his entire life. He credits his particular love for jazz to the background music that accompanied his favorite cartoon as a child. He eventually fell in love with Big Band music and developed an even greater appreciation for it as a classical voice major at Florida State University in the 1990's. But his plans to get a degree in music changed when he followed God's call to Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham, Alabama to obtain a theology degree there.

While in school, music became a distraction that Scooter felt he needed to "cast off" for a while so that he could devote time to growing spiritually and his personal relationship with God. But in 2008, Scooter was deployed with the US Air Force in Southeast Asia supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. He was invited to lead music in a chapel worship service there. And that was all it took to convince Scooter that he would never "cast off" music again. In fact, God's plan was for music to be at the forefront of Scooter's ministry. God continued to work His plan in Scooter's life. While he was still deployed Scooter's wife, Amy attended a concert featuring Denver and the

Mile High Orchestra, one of Scooter's favorite musical groups. She visited with them backstage and told them about Scooter's musical skills and his love for their group. They sent him a CD, prayed for him while he was deployed, and upon his return home Scooter was invited to travel to sing vocals with them.

After Scooter performed on stage, Amy remarked, "You looked like you were on Cloud Nine with them." His response was, "I've got to grow old playing this kind of music!" And that was the beginning of Scooter's dream to have a band of his own.

The next step in God's plan to give Scooter his dream band took place in 2009 when he was on temporary duty with the Air Force in Ohio. He found a band playing his favorite style of music in a hotel and went to hear them. There he met Army trumpet player Alan Parr who has been a wonderful friend to Scooter ever since. In fact, Scooter said that Mr. Parr has been very "instrumental" (no pun intended) in the formation and success of the Cloud 9 Orchestra.

So now, Scooter is living his dream. He is the founder, manager, lead vocalist, and plays alto saxophone with Cloud 9 Orchestra. He also plays piano, harmonica, and guitar. In fact, Scooter can pick up just about any instrument and learn to play it in very short time. Scooter also designed the band's website, logo, and with his father built the bandstands.

Cloud 9 Orchestra is a 10-piece, "Little Big" Band based in Panama City, made up of professional musicians.

Jason Bennett (Alto Sax / Clarinet) - Band Director at Arnold High School

Dave Doescher (Tenor Sax) - Master in Music from Eastman

Donald Files (Bari Sax) - Student and college Jazz Band Player

Michael Walker (Trumpet) - formerly with Truth

Gary Wofsey (Trumpet) - Yamaha Performing Artist

Josh Scalf (Trombone) -Former Music Director and Bone Player on cruise ship "Allure of the Seas"

Sean Dietrich (Piano/Keyboard) - Played with Usher in 2007

Neil Gray (Bass Guitar) - Band Director at North Bay Haven Charter Academy / Orchestra Director at FBC Panama City

Dr. Jill Wofsey (Flute / Bass Guitar) - Yamaha Performing Artist

Russ Dorr (Drums) - Drummer for Emerald Coast Fellowship / President of Gulf Jazz Society

Luke Pinegar (Piano/Keyboard) -Executive Director of Noah's Ark on the Beach

Jeff Tinch (Trumpet) - Music Director at the Rock of Panama City

Though they specialize in Big Band music, they can play almost any kind of music. The sky's the limit! They have even played at a Victorian Ball with strings, including a viola. They love to do jazz arrangements of traditional hymns like *Blessed Assurance*, *Nothing but the Blood*, *Solid Rock*, and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. When Cloud 9 travels, they use local musicians and can range from a 7 piece combo to a full 17 piece band.

In August of 2011, Scooter's church, Northside Baptist Church in Panama City, sponsored an event called "Let Freedom Swing". That event was such a huge success that it has now become an annual community celebration with hundreds in attendance enjoying music, free food, and lots of fun.

Scooter closed our conversation with Proverbs 16:3, one of his life verses.

"Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established."
Proverbs 16:3 (NKJV)

For more information about the band including player's bios, videos, upcoming events, booking contacts, and to listen to their awesome music, visit them on the web at www.cloud9orchestra.com or on facebook.

—Debbie Childers

88.3 WAY-FM Presents
WORLD NEWS
GOD'S NOT DEAD!
FALL 2012 TOUR

COMPASSION PRESENTS
NEWSBOYS

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:
BUILDING 429 "GOD'S NOT DEAD" AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE
LUMINATE
GRACE CAMPBELL INTRODUCING:

TEXT 'NEWSBOYS' TO 96599 TO JOIN THE REVOLUTION AND RECEIVE A FREE SONG !!

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 1ST 2012
PANAMA CITY MARINA CIVIC CENTER
Tickets on sale at the Box Office and at wayfm.com
For more information call (850) 763-4696
WWW.NEWSBOYS.COM

SHIRT4LIFE NEW RELEASE TUESDAY.COM FIRST COMPANY

WAY-FM is a non-profit Christian music radio station serving the Gulf Coast. The station recently brought GRAMMY® nominated artist Mercy Me and Chris August to Tallahassee in April 2012; and actively works with area churches, businesses and non-profit organizations to make a positive impact in the area.