

CLASS OF



1966

GREG NELSON

Greg Nelson graduated from Bismarck High School in 1966. After two years of college at Bismarck Junior College and the University of North Dakota, he took a full year to travel and record with a musical touring group sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. He returned to Bismarck and was asked by the school system to teach elementary strings under an emergency state teaching certificate. The following year he was asked to take over the responsibilities of the Bismarck High School Symphony. Simultaneously, he continued his college education and graduated from Mary College.

Greg partnered with Bill Townsend to create a recording studio and continued to teach at Bismarck High for seven years, followed by two years in youth ministry. While in Bismarck, he formed Spirit Records, which was distributed by Sparrow Records, and within the year, he was asked to serve as Sparrow's first Director of Publishing. He moved to Los Angeles with his wife, Pam, in 1978.

Later in his career, Greg moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and became the innovator and driving force of the genre referred to as Inspirational Christian Music. He produced seven Grammy Award Winning Albums with 13 Grammy nominations, 26 Dove Awards and scores of nominations. Nelson has received multiple song, songwriter and publisher awards from Broadcast Music Incorporated, Nashville Songwriters Association and The Gospel Music Association. He has received BMI's "Lifetime Special Contribution Award" in appreciation of his "many outstanding contributions to the world of Christian music." He was the third recipient of the Gospel Music Association "Impact Award" for his influence in the Contemporary Christian music industry.

Nelson served as Chief Creative Supervisor for the LifeWayWorship.com website. This was the largest recording project in Nashville's history and featured his groundbreaking concept of song manipulation called "SongMap." Most recently, he founded WorldSongNow, for the purpose of creating an international web portal for the development and distribution of Christian congregational music including indigenous and translated western hymns and songs of worship.

