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Style Publishing Group
P.O. Box 1676
Frisco, Texas 75034
Phone: 972.335.1181
Toll Free: 877.781.7067
Fax: 214.722.2313
E-mail: info@friscostyle.com
Web: www.friscostyle.com

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“BUILD IT and they will come.” After the 1989 movie that inspired millions and became an Academy Award nominee for “Best Picture of the Year,” that *Field of Dreams* catch phrase has been the motto for several valuable and worthy projects hindered by

financial restraints. The Christian Music Hall of Fame Awards Show is praying that if they hold it, you will come. On June 14th the organization will produce and broadcast its first awards program to help start the needed funding for a permanent hall of fame and museum.

The vision is to build a recording studio free to Christian artists to encourage new talent and proliferate the exposure of those spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through music. The ultimate goal is to house a hall of fame, museum, recording studio and auditorium all together at a site yet to be determined in Frisco.

The visionary for this project is Andy Woolard, director of operations for the Christian Music Hall of Fame and Museum. He explains, “Our plans are to build the Hall of Fame and Museum as it will be the catalyst for other missions of the charity. Our ultimate goal is to use the Hall of Fame and Museum to see the history of Christian music and bring people to Christ. If we can share our love of music along with our love of Christ with one person who has not accepted Jesus Christ and they in turn accept Him into

their lives, we’ve achieved our goal.”

Ches Cabler of the Christian Drummers Hall of Fame approached Mr. Woolard about joining forces to enhance both music organizations by spreading the gospel through music. The intended



event in a house of God makes it even more special,” Mr. Woolard said.

The event will begin at noon with a “Fan Fair” including the musicians meeting and greeting their fans, exhibits and merchandise sales. The Fan Fair is free

of charge and open to the public. The music awards show will begin at 7 p.m. hosted by Christian Entertainer and Comedian of the Year David L. Cook and Hee Haw legend and national recording artist Lulu Roman.

The 2008 Inductees include David Meece, Dottie Rambo, Ed Enoch, John Schlitt, Lou Wills Hildreth, Michael W. Smith, Stryper and The Staple Singers.

Previously inducted artists attending and performing include Russ Taff, Edwin Hawkins, Gary S. Paxton, Jessy Dixon, Kirk Talley, Candi Staton, Chris Christian, Walter Hawkins, The Imperials, The Jordanaires, The Chuck Wagon Gang and Acappella.

From Vision to Reality

By Beth Robinson

outcome will be for new talent to be able to share their music with the masses without the expense of a recording studio.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC HALL OF FAME AWARDS SHOW

The inaugural televised event will take place at the Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church in Allen. “Having this type of

of inducting one member of this year’s class, the show will present a tribute to Dottie Rambo. “We will be doing a tribute to Dottie, who was killed on Mother’s Day. She was an extraordinary gospel performer who wrote more than 2500 songs and has been recorded by hundreds of artists from Elvis Presley to Whitney Houston,” Mr. Woolard said.

Dottie Rambo, 74, hailed as the

TRIBUTES TO DOTTIE RAMBO & LARRY NORMAN

In a tragic turn of events, instead

The Imperials (top)

photo from www.theimperials.com;

Michael W. Smith (bottom left)

photo from www.houstonbelief.com;

Dottie Rambo (bottom right)

photo from www.bullshoals theater.com

undisputed queen of gospel music, was killed early Mother's Day morning while traveling overnight from Missouri to meet Lulu Roman and Naomi Segó in a Golden Girls concert at a north Texas church. She was traveling through the storms in Missouri that created the tornadic destruction in that area, when her bus hit a guardrail and crashed into an embankment, killing her instantly.

"She was so honored and humbled that we even considered her," states Andy Woolard. "She was a true giant in the gospel music industry and will be missed by many." Mr. Woolard questioned a number of artists attending the event whether or not to postpone the charities first show. "I got a resounding 'No!' She would want the show to go on as planned. So we are still set to go. We are currently working with several entertainers who knew Dottie well to help with a special tribute during the show."

A special tribute to Larry Norman is also planned as part of the show. Mr. Norman, formerly part of the legendary 70s group *People*, died in February after a lengthy illness. Mr. Norman's brother, Charles Norman, is putting together a piece for the show.

Tickets to the televised event are \$30 in advance and can be purchased from the charity web site at www.hallmuseum.com. The Christian Music Hall of Fame is a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt charity.

What started as a conversation between two people brought together by God to serve this purpose will someday be a reality with a multipurpose facility in Frisco. The awards show is the first step in building what was once only a vision.

Beth Robinson is editor of Frisco STYLE Magazine.