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Mission Minded Artist  
Perimeter Church  
9500 Medlock Bride Road  
Duluth, GA 30097

# Mission Minded Artist News

## What is a Mission Minded Artist?

*Allan Wiltshire, II*

That is a great question and I am glad that you asked.

### Example - Frank and Heart Sounds

At age 62, Frank Fortunato is traveling around the world *in search of* unique worship sounds. Frank is a combination missionary and ethno-musicologist. For the past 20 years, he has been writing and teaching around the world on worship and the worship of indigenous peoples. A keyboard player and arranger in his own right, Frank has been a driving force behind the AD 2000 movement and has authored numerous articles on the topic of worship and missions.

His recent work, *Heart Sounds*, is a demonstration CD of global Christian worship songs. These songs have never been heard by the Western world prior to their publishing in this form. Frank and his team of audio engineers, under the umbrella of Heart Sounds International, travel to the remotest part of the world to record the sounds of these local people worshiping their God in their native language, rhythm, harmony and melodic structure. Frank calls it **“their heart song to God”**.

The sounds of this indigenous worship captured on *Heart Sounds*, spans Tunisia, Brazil, Ethiopia, Bosnia, the Sudan and many other places that are just around the corner from downtown

USA. Psalms 22:27, is the scriptural theme behind Franks work...

“Every people of the earth, and every family of the nations will remember and turn to the Lord and worship Him”.

Frank has a clear focus in the use of his art for the kingdom of God. All of his efforts are run through the filter of his focus and he is able to determine if an effort will take him closer to or further away from his goal. In so doing, the mission is clear--promote the heart song of the global Christian community—this is done through music, art and video. Frank Fortunato is a clear example of a Mission Minded Artist.

### A Working Definition

Anyone can be purposeful in the use of art or any thing else. So then, what is it about the way art is used that makes a Mission Minded Artist? Well it's not the art, rather the artist.

A Mission Minded Artist (MMA) is a redeemed artist that demonstrates:

- Spiritual fruitfulness
- Artistic Excellence
- The intentional use of art to expand the kingdom of God
- Cultural relevance, and
- Cultural sensitivity

I'll expand on these 5 points at a later time. For now, know that it's not a moving target rather a clear cut end result. Frank is only one of many examples that have been out there for years. If you know of one, send it to me. Email me at [awiltshire@charter.net](mailto:awiltshire@charter.net).

# Missionary Status

## Global Outreach Department

If you are new to this issue of the Mission Minded Artist News, then you may not know of my missionary status under Perimeter Church.

At present Perimeter's focus is in nine countries around the world where we have partners on the ground. My role is to uncover within those countries artistic partners that fit the profile of a MMA. They would not use the terms in this letter, but some are and have been engaged in the activities of a MMA.

You will be happy to note that as a missionary I am raising support and as of today we have raised 55% of our support goal. God is good! If you are not participating at this time, please pray about being a financial partner in this ministry and help to send me around the world casting and implementing the vision that God is growing inside of me.

You can send your tax deductible contributions to *Perimeter Church 9500 Medlock Bridge Rd Duluth, GA 30097*. Please write my name, Allan Wiltshire in the memo section. I will keep you updated on our needs and progress.

## Building Bridges

### Churches serving together

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, the 100 churches that make up the Unite movement in NE Atlanta, met to celebrate a weekend of serving projects across the city. We call this Compassion in Action (CIA). To insure this grand celebration, we coordinated the efforts and talents of 5 different churches for the Combined Celebration.

East Cobb Presbyterian, Lilburn Alliance, Hopewell Missionary Baptist, First Alliance and Perimeter Church worked together to execute a diverse yet glorifying night of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.

The styles ranged from a Chris Tomlin acoustic sound to a Hezekiah Walker- esk full bore gospel choir with all the fixin's. The goal of the project was to package a diverse worship celebration that would flow out of the serving weekend of Unite.

### Another objective in mind

In addition to serving the larger event, the team accomplished another task. We started to bond and embrace diversity as strength. As the evening ended, I could hear members of the team talking over the their calendars to check available dates to visit each other and set up master classes to begin drawing from the wealth of experiences that were represented in the team. At Perimeter, we are trying to negotiate which weekend before the end of the year will be the best to have members of the Hopewell choir join with our own Choir Community.

The bridges are being built for the churches of Unite to share artistically as well as in service to the community.

The next step in the process is to get churches in the habit of sharing musicians, singers, dancers and the like. If we as Artists see the value in collaborating and helping each other, then we can make a change in the climate of the churches across the city.

# Calendar Events

## August 24-26 Callaway Gardens, GA *Men's Retreat*

Two generations of diverse Artists lead in Worship to include a team of 4 musicians. This is an annual conference for 350 men and featured national author/speaker Ken Boa.

## September 22 & 23 Perimeter Church Duluth, GA *Weekend Worship*

The Perimeter Choir Community ministered during 3 services with Laura Elvington.

## September 23 6pm, Perimeter Grounds Duluth, GA *30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala*

AW2 Band performed a mix of secular and sacred sounds to set a celebration atmosphere for a crowd of 5,000.

## October 6 & 7 Perimeter Church Duluth, GA *Weekend Worship*

The Perimeter Choir Community ministered during 3 services with Laura Elvington.

## October 7 6pm, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, Norcross, GA *Unite Combined Celebration*

A night of praise and worship at the end of *Compassion in Action* feature worship teams from 4 churches and an combined team of 55 Artists.

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**17 October 2007**

**Norcross First Baptist  
Norcross, GA**

Initial consultation with Minister of  
Worship re: MMA '08

**30 October 2007**

**Crown Pointe Community  
Church, Atlanta**

Initial consultation with executive  
staff re: MMA '08

**18 November 2007**

**Hyatt Regency Atlanta  
MTW Global Conference**

The Perimeter Choir community  
will be the featured worship guest  
at the annual conference to focus  
on missions within the PCA.

## Organic Mentoring

Weekly I get the chance to hang out with a few guys that think more differently than I do. We talk about all kinds of things, but most of the time we get back around to the subject of being a “Redeemed Artist.”

At times, I think I run the risk of warping them, but then I think of the number of players over the years that took time to “hang” with me and all that I soaked up from them. It’s not that I think I have something to share, I believe the affinity is more that I understand. After all, “I are one!”

I am blessed to have a model that I can use to share with the guys as we talk about the word and art. The model is T.E.A.M.S.\*

The truth is critical, but in the end it has to get to the heart. We’re meeting next week...

\*Truth-Equipping-Accountability-Missions-Supplication

### The Artists In Me

. . . . .

*There’s more in my head and heart about the MMA in practical terms then I could ever start to write down*

While charts and graph, clear goals and deliverables on a timeline are the expected terms in any business. I find that the most beneficial stuff just comes out of me. Some what say that I am more comfortable being extemporaneous. I am starting to realize that there are only 2 things about this Artist that are truly spontaneous. They are timing and order. The content is old and has been stewing in my heart and soul for years in some cases. It just all comes out when I least expect it and in a order that at times may cause me to wonder from whence it comes?

## A Small Church

### *The Choir Community*

The 2 best models for the MMA at this point are Gospel Joy of Poland and the Choir Community of Perimeter Church where I serve as the director.

We are planning our first international trip for 2008, yet we do have a mission right here in our own church. It is to building a loving, self sustaining

community. That is exactly what has happened here. With great lay leaders in place, the community has opened it’s arms to many vocalists and their families and shown Christ in an honoring way.

In more ways than one, we are like a church that sings, rather than the other way around. The ministry is carried out by the lay leaders that see themselves as the first line of defense for shepherding and pastoral care for the people in their charge.

The singing part gets easier for me because their hearts are open to needs and the only source to really meet needs is Christ. So by the time I get to them...they’re prayed up and praised up.

The Choir is on a mission – see ya’

## *Developing MMA’s– The “doing” part (Model)*

### **Going...**

Each short term trip has a focus. Find an international that fits the profile of a Mission Minded Artist. Go in search of an Artist or Artist group that is intentional about the use of art to expand the kingdom in their country.

### **Sending...**

Send a US team of Artists to meet the partner and exchange in joint ministry. During the trip, work for hearts to be knit in a spirit of collaboration and shared vision.

### **Bringing...**

Bring the new partner to our Atlanta based home. It’s common courtesy to return the hospitality “American” style.

### **Supporting...**

As a way to solidify the relationship, the US team prayerfully makes the commitment to provide practical support to our partner in the hopes that their impact for the kingdom can be increased with the right kind of support over a specific time period.