

## JARS OF CLAY

by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
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For more than a decade, Jars of Clay have inspired secular and sacred audiences alike with their harmonious blend of folk, techno, and alternative rock stylings.

"We're basically a band that exists in a comfortable tension between the Christian and mainstream rock music industry's perceptions," said Decatur, IL native band member, Stephen Mason. "We're always being told, on certain levels, that we're too much of one thing or not enough of another thing. We'd just like to make music that fits in the middle somehow. Music that doesn't alienate, but continues to broaden our audience and ask questions from people of all walks of life."



Jars of Clay will headline the "Day of Unity - Day of Hope" Christian Music Festival at the Ottawa High School Gymnasium on Saturday, October 23.

The four members of Jars of Clay -- lead vocalist Dan Haseltine, guitarist Matt Odmark, keyboardist Charlie Lowell, and bass/guitarist Stephen Mason -- met in the early 90's while majoring in contemporary Christian music at Greenville College in Illinois.

"Back in college is when we knew it all," Mason said with a chuckle. "That's been an undoing of sorts. Slowly over the past ten years we learned to simplify musically and make things better as a result."

The band's name -- symbolizing the frailty of mankind -- originated from bible scripture II Corinthians 4:7, which says, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

The multi-Grammy and Dove Award-winning band have recorded six studio albums and charted sixteen No. 1 Christian music radio hits including, "I Need You," "Unforgettable You," "Five Candles," "Collide," and the crossover hit, "Flood."

"An album is really a musical photograph of a time and place," Mason said. "And in their own way, our albums portray struggles with the consistent questions of life. Questions like, 'Why is life so hard/good sometimes?' and 'Why is there hope in the midst of suffering?'"

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The rock quartet's latest album, "Who We Are Instead," has produced the No.1 single, "Show You Love."

"Show You Love is being used in a promo for the new television show, Kevin Hill," Mason said. "It's also in a trailer for a new movie, Spanglish, starring Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni."

Jars of Clay are currently in the studio recording a new specialty album.

"It's a record of public domain hymn text that we've written melodies for," Mason said. "Our intent is to take the depth and richness of the old hymns that connect to the head and add music to it so that it connects to the heart."

At the core of Jars of Clay's music is a desire to challenge the listener to dig deeper, know their beliefs, and understand truth.

"We strive to write music and make art that represents who and what we are," Mason said. "If something is true, whether you share our faith or not, then it has the ability to stir something within, capture hearts, and change people. We know that the music is bigger than us. We are involved in a larger conversation that will say more than we could ever say ourselves."

"Day of Unity - Day of Hope" Christian Music Festival

OTTAWA - Jars of Clay will headline the "Day of Unity - Day of Hope" Christian Music Festival at the Ottawa High School Gymnasium on Saturday, October 23.

The Christian Music Festival will also feature inspirational guest speakers, live worship, a mime team, drama, clowns, and music by Sarah Kelly, Trevor Morgan, Final Quest, and 1000 Generations.

Rockford, IL. native, Sarah Kelly, is the type of singer/songwriter that turns heads, lights up audiences, and makes record label executives swoon. Kelly's '04 debut album, "Take Me Away," features the perfect marriage of distinctive rock vocals, edgy guitars, and subtle piano worship song melodies.

Trevor Morgan's '04 debut album, "Wonderlight," is the culmination of a past full of hard work and good times, struggle and joy, pain and redemption. The 13 song album meshes Morgan's gritty vocals with a flurry of acoustic and electric guitars to convey the triumph and tribulation of living in this modern age. Besides gaining exposure as a bassist for the mainstream act Owsley, Morgan's songs have also been recorded by Ginny Owens, Geoff Moore and Phillips Craig & Dean.

Illinois-based band, Final Quest, consists of husband and wife team Chuck Giacinto (guitar and keyboards) and Lynette Giacinto (lead vocals) of Streator, Denny Rockey



**SARAH KELLY**



**TREVOR MORGAN**

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**FINAL QUEST**

Illinois-based band, **Final Quest**, consists of husband and wife team Chuck Giacinto (guitar and keyboards) and Lynette Giacinto (lead vocals) of Streator, Denny Rockey (lead vocals), Chris Brock (drums), and Angie Brock (bass). Final Quest's two projects, "Heart and Soul," and "Discovery," were co-written and produced by Kevin Chalfant of Clique Records in Grand Ridge.



**1000 GENERATIONS**

**1000 Generations** '03 debut album, "Prayers," strives to create music and art that moves people and encourages them to have life-changing experiences with God in an open, honest environment. The Indianapolis-based band consists of husband and wife team Steven Potaczek (piano, vocals) and Amanda Potaczek (guitar, vocals), Alain Picard (bass), Lorin Lemme (drums/percussion), and Beckey Roudebush (visual artist). Doors will open at noon. Regional band performances begin at 1 p.m. with Jars of Clay tentatively scheduled to perform at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the door. Advance tickets are available through [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com) 800-965-9324, [www.ccauthority.com](http://www.ccauthority.com) 406-622-5739, or 815-673-3095. Tickets can be purchased at Jeremiah Joe's Coffee Shop and Divine Mercy Book Store in Ottawa, and Berean Bookstore in the Peru Mall.