Mission

The Cantinas Arts Foundation is a Christian non-profit which exists to **inspire, create, build, and grow a community** that is motivated to share their talent and Faith through Arts and Media. The team at Cantinas Arts believe that artists through their individual expression and various mediums become the catalysts to impact culture, propel destiny, and establish themselves as historians in an everchanging world.
We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

Isaiah 64:8
Artist Community

At the Cantinas Arts Foundation, we offer a wide array of RESOURCES to help artists DEVELOP both PROFESSIONALLY and SPIRITUALLY. Our staff is dedicated to EDUCATING all of our artists - whether in MUSIC, DANCE, SPOKEN WORD, WRITING, SINGING, or FILM - to hone their skills, and continue to ENCOURAGE outreach to their communities through their INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION, while sharing their individual faith and spirituality through their craft.

Cantinas Arts continues to DEVELOP CHRISTIAN LEADERS, who are sharing their own stories, by providing opportunities for participation in DYNAMIC PERFORMANCES, INSPIRATIONAL CONCERTS, EXCITING WORKSHOPS, RETREATS, as well as mentorship and artist development programs - IMPACTING NEXT GENERATIONS.
How We Do It

The MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS at Cantinas Arts provide a safe learning environment for young talent, in an otherwise gray business - music and entertainment. Our rising young artists have access to mentors and other artists in a nurturing space that allows them the opportunity to focus on HONING THEIR CRAFT and continue to express their talents in a spiritually elevated surrounding. The Cantinas Arts team provides OPPORTUNITIES for their artist community to participate in FELLOWSHIPS, WORKSHOPS, and work with INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES, PROFESSIONAL/AWARD-WINNING INSTRUCTORS, THERAPISTS, LIFE COACHES, PASTORS, and so much more - it is a safe haven for expression and education of all the arts.
What most people perceive as energy is really strength of spirit. It comes from the joy of knowing God, loving Him, and being loved by Him.

— Kathie Lee Gifford
Advisory Board Member, Cantinas Arts Foundation
Collaboration

The Cantinas Arts Foundation creates opportunities for their community of artists to share their gifts through the contests, dynamic performances, and inspirational concerts. The Foundation specializes in educating and developing artists, while also providing other opportunities for growth through exciting workshops, retreats, mentoring and community services.

Cantinas Arts has a heart to partner with other organizations and has collaborated on numerous projects and utilizes multiple artistic expressions to create custom performances for events throughout the country.
Dance

From television, movies, music videos to live on stage, the Cantinas Arts Foundation dancers share their passion for Jesus and form a powerful ministry that continues to impact all generations for Christ. **YOUNG ADULTS - PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS**
Music

Cantinas Arts Foundation is discovering, developing, and launching dynamic musicians with the intention of continuing to foster Christ-centered, dynamic leaders in the music industry, specifically focused in Los Angeles and Nashville. We continue to grow our community of artists that support and promote each other with the common goal of glorifying God.

RISING ARTIST WORSHIP SONG CONTEST WINNERS:

“LIVING WATER”
David Ashley Trent

“Bullets”
Heidi Mays

“No Other King”
Ryan Kennedy

“God’s Time”
Laurel Taylor

“Your Love Is Life”
Henry Newby
What You Didn’t Know

Up until the late 1960s, Christian music invoked images of church, hymnals and organs. Traditional was the word of the day ... but not anymore. The face of Christian music has spent the last 30+ years evolving and growing. Pipe organs have been set aside for electric guitars and drums. Hymnals have been replaced by hard-hitting lyrics that speak of today and a God that is fully in control of our times.
The Genre Stretches Further

The 1990’s saw the dawning of an even broader scope for Christian music. Rock, rap, metal, urban gospel, contemporary country and pop were represented in a big way.

The industry, which had previously been promoted by smaller, independent labels, stepped into the big time as larger, secular labels bought out many indies. Much like Cinderella’s pumpkin turning into a fine carriage, the small promotional budgets the indie labels had afforded turned into mega mass promotions with the heavy hitters. Some of the artists that stepped into the international spotlight of the 90’s were:

- Carman
  Billboard Magazine recognized his influence in Christian music by first naming him the “Contemporary Christian Artist of the Year” in 1990.

- dcTalk
  Their fourth album, Jesus Freak, achieved the highest first weeks sales of any Christian release in history.

- Kirk Franklin
  His debut release was the first gospel album to sell over one million units.

- Steven Curtis Chapman
  He had eleven of the top 100 songs on the end-of-decade Christian AC airplay chart.

- Third Day
  Billboard magazine called them “not only one of the best Christian bands of the ‘90s but one of the best rock bands, period.”

- Amy Grant
  This artist truly crossed the boundaries when she crossed over into mainstream music with Christian songs.
The 21st Century

Y2K came and went with none of the “end of times” predictions being fulfilled and music grew even more. Sub-genres, sounds that could keep pace with mainstream and plenty of new bands are pouring out of the 21st century...

...The new Christian music in our churches and on our airways reaches out to us on a level that we can understand and feel. It shows us that Jesus is still with us, even when we’re facing crises that would have destroyed whole cultures as recently as a couple of hundred years ago. The battle is as old as time itself but the weapons have changed and Christian music has changed its face, as a shining example of just one of the many weapons in God’s arsenal.

- Kim Jones (Thoughtco.com)

Hillsong Worship, the 11-person band, originally from Australia, has release 29 albums since 1988. In 2013 “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Christian Songs chart, and stayed atop of the charts for 45 consecutive weeks until it was dethroned in October 2014. The song rebounded in April of 2015 to No. 1 for another five weeks, marking a total of 50 non-consecutive weeks atop of the chart. It has since become the longest running No. 1 song on the chart. This year, the band won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song for “What a Beautiful Name”.

Lauren Daigle, a contemporary Christian music singer-songwriter from Louisiana, released her first full-length album, How Can It Be, in April 2015 which went on to achieve Platinum Record status. Daigle was awarded the New Artist of the Year title at the 2015 GMA Dove Awards, with her single “How Can It Be” winning the Song of the Year. In 2016, Daigle swept the Dove Awards winning Artist of the Year, Songwriter of the Year, and Best Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year, with her single “Trust in You. Daigle’s album How Can It Be was nominated for a 2016 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Album, and her single “Trust in You” was nominated for a 2017 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song. She is still in the top 10 of the Billboard Christian Music charts as of August 2018.

MercyMe, was formed in 1994, consisting of five members, but they didn’t gain mainstream recognition until 2014 with their crossover single, “I Can Only Imagine” which elevated their album Almost There to TRIPLE Platinum Album Almost There. Since then, the group has released eight additional studio albums (six of which have been certified gold) and a greatest hits album, 10. The group has also had 13 consecutive top 5 singles on the Billboard Christian Songs chart, with seven of them reaching No. 1. MercyMe has won eight Dove Awards and has had many Grammy Award nominations. MercyMe’s ninth studio album, Lifer, was released on March 31, 2017 and there hit sing has been No. 1 on the Billboard Christian Music charts for four weeks as of August 4, 2018.
The arts is a global language of hope, healing, and freedom - through many different artist expressions. Partnering with other organizations extends and amplifies our ability to minister to the specific needs of our growing talents and audiences. Every medium of art is one way that we can battle the darkness and overcome our circumstances. Artists have been given gifts of music, song, dance, drama, photography and writing, to glorify God. Cantinas Arts utilizes the marketplace by supporting and educating up-and-coming artists, to impact the culture, and inspire the next generation to magnify God.

— Wendy Miller
Founder and Executive Director, Cantinas Arts Foundation
Wendy Miller, founder and Executive Director of the Cantinas Arts Foundation (CAF) is an overall renaissance woman with a background in arts, outdoor events, sailing, and fundraising. Miller has planned events and activities up and down the California coast. Miller played a key role as a founding board member of YoungLife Malibu, as well as elemental as part of the founding family in the establishment of the Oaks Christian Middle School in Westlake. She is the author of inspirational books like the Little General, The Shell, The House at Bu Corner and He Gets the last word.

Miller has also taken leadership positions in Community Bible Study, as well as spearheaded Couple’s Bible Studies, Children’s Bible Clubs, Mom’s In Touch, and a Women’s Ministry in Malibu called “Women At The Well”, with “Reel to Real” Ministry. She was an active member of the executive board of the King’s League of Women, a support organization of Jack Hayford’s King’s Seminary and Women’s ministries, as well as a founder of the “In the Word” Ministry in Malibu. She is visionary in the progression of “Celebration of the Arts” and design of the Cantinas Ranch facility. She spends her free time in prayer, writing, interior design, creative arts, and activities with friends and family.

Miller is third generation Californian and graduate of USC and UCI graduate schools. At USC Wendy was a distinguished with the title of USC’s Most Inspirational Song Girl for her choreography and team building skills. She also was a part of the USC Dance Team and worked as a director for Songfest, an all campus musical production. She possesses a degree in Psychology and several credentials in Education.
Kimberly Cowan
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Kimberly Cowan currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Cantinas Arts Foundation. Her extensive experience includes event production, non-profit management, digital and traditional marketing strategy, leadership development and Christian education. At Cantinas Arts, Cowan has put all of these skills to use - building annual strategies with a keen eye on the people that matter the most - the artists that build the community which surround her daily. Since Cowan joined the Cantinas Arts, she has created a functional structure to grow the foundation, new strategic partnerships, and on-going sustainable revenue streams. Cowan has made a positive impact on the quality of programs, along with developing all the artists through new opportunities, jobs, and elevating their skills by matching them with mentors. Previously, Cowan was interested in opportunities to further enrich her community, and took on the role of Director of Student Life and Leadership Development at the highly acclaimed Oaks Christian High School, where she developed her administration acumen while serving on the executive administration team dedicated to ensuring each student had a well-rounded educational experience. Cowan has produced a variety of large-scale events including weddings, concerts, parades, galas, fundraisers and award ceremonies.
Cowan has served her local and international communities as an active supporter and aid worker for the International Justice Mission (India), Buyamba Ministries (Uganda), and Hands of Mercy (Mexico). She also serves on the Advisory Council for the Alumni Board of Directors for Oaks Christian School and is long standing member of OPAS, performing arts society. As a dancer, figure skater and musical theater geek, Cowan has always been passionate about artistic expression. She is honored and blessed to have the opportunity to serve others and celebrate the arts with the purpose of glorifying God. Cowan graduated with honors from Baylor University with a Communication Specialist Degree, and began her career as Marketing Events Manager for Realtor.com.

Bradley Rapier
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, CANTINAS DANCE
Bradley Rapier is an Ovation Award and two-time NAACP Award winning choreographer, and an Creative Director for the Cantinas Arts Foundation. He is the Founder, Creative Director, and Lead Choreographer of the award winning performance company, The Groovaloo, who have directly influenced urban dance in film and television for over a decade. Rapier is driven by an intense desire to share the spirit and power behind street dance culture and create real and lasting community within the dance world and beyond. Rapier’s direction has led The Groovaloo onto the main stage for special guest appearances on Dancing With The Stars, So You Think You Can Dance, The Ellen Degeneres Show, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, The Wayne Brady Show, and as Grand Champions on NBC’s international competition series Superstars of Dance created by Nigel Lithgoe and Simon Fuller. Rapier choreographed Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots for renowned Broadway director Des McAnuff at the La Jolla Playhouse for which he was nominated for a 2013 Craig Noel Award for Best Musical Choreography. He was Associate Choreographer for the 2012 Tony Award nominated Broadway production of Jesus Christ Superstar, and Co-creator, Creative Director and lead performer of the acclaimed Off Broadway and National Touring stage production of GROVALOO.

Rapier also served as Director of An Unprecedented Night of Dance at The Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills, CA, featuring Wayne Brady, tWitch, Anjelah Johnson, Affion Crockett, The JabbaWockeez, LXD, and iLuminate, and was Creative Director and received a Hip Hop Choreography Award for his TV commercial work with Skechers. As a performer Rapier has had the honor of working with Diana Ross, Cameron Diaz, Queen Latifah, Brian McKnight, Deborah Cox, Smokey Robinson, Fatboy Slim, Brenda Russell, Boys II Men, Cheryl Lynn, Regina Belle, and The Temptations.
Seth Philpott
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, CANTINAS MUSIC

Grammy Award nominee, Seth Philpott, now serving as a Creative Director for the Cantinas Arts Foundation, started his career touring as an Artist, bass player, guitar player, tour manager, and videographer for 8 years directly after university. Philpott has toured with The David Crowder Band, Ten out of Tenn, Dave Barnes, Matt Wertz, Andy Davis, Griffin House, John Dee Graham, Crowder, John Mark McMillan, Passion, David Ramirez, Ben Rector, and many more. He has also been apart of the vision casting for the ONE Campaign, Passion Conferences and Young Life Camps.

In 2014 After a successful record release and 5 cuts with David Crowder, Philpott stopped touring to fulfill this want to help new artists develop careers and other artists sustain and grow their careers. Philpott offers a unique perspective to artist management and development. Having been the artist himself at one point, has an uncanny ability to see into the artists’ brain better than anyone. That coupled with his nurturing personality, Philpott can see a need before it even presents itself. Originally from Texas, Philpott moved to Nashville after college at Baylor University. He studied film and digital media.

Taylor Swan
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS, MANAGER OF OPERATIONS

Taylor Swan is Director of Special Projects and Manager of Operations for the Cantinas Arts Foundation. Swan has an extensive background in business and ministry experience makes her the ideal addition to the Cantinas Arts Foundation core team. Working in business analytics helped her to discover her passion for healthy infrastructure and a desire to share what she learned with the creative community. Swan effortlessly weaves her passion for reaching people through Christ, with her experience in the arts and business worlds.

During Swan’s time at university she worked at Forest Home Christian Camps where she developed a true love for camp, youth, and worship ministries. Following her time at university, Taylor pursued a career in fundraising and development. Taylor worked at Westmont College and gained experience in event production, donor relations, and non-profit management.

After her time at Westmont, Taylor became an Underwriter at a Payment Processing ISO. Taylor Swan is Central California native who ventured down to San Diego to attend Point Loma Nazarene University and graduated with a degree in Managerial and Organizational Communication.
Joanie Rapier
MANAGER, CANTINAS DANCE

Joanie Rapier is a Manager at the Cantinas Arts Foundation. Prior to joining the team, she and her husband, Bradley (Creative Director) formed The Groovaloos, a world-renowned hip hop performance group that has appeared on Dancing with the Stars, So you Think You Can Dance, The Ellen Show, and winners of NBC’s Superstars of Dance.

Rapier has used her design skills to create logos, merchandise, and web sites for The Groovaloos as well as for dance agencies and conventions. She is also a producer for their stage show GROOVALOO, but her most rewarding endeavor was as Executive Producer of An Unprecedented Night of Dance at the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills in which she spearheaded a fundraiser that raised over $100,000 for a member of The Groovaloos who suffered multiple ruptured aneurysms.

Joanie Rapier was born and raised in San Diego, California. She attended SDSU and immediately upon graduating with a degree in Graphic Design, relocated to Los Angeles to pursue her new love of acting. God had another plan, because within months of moving she met her future husband and hip hop extraordinaire and became his partner in dance and life. Rapier has worked with children for many years through substitute teaching, children ministry, teaching hip hop dance (omit elementary schools) and especially enjoys ministering to the dancers in Cantinas Arts. Rapier takes great pride in raising her two sons, Marcus and Samuel.

Heidi Adams
MANAGER, CANTINAS ON PARK

Heidi Adams is the manager for the Cantinas Arts Foundation - Cantinas on Park. Adams started her career in teaching in 2007 in San Luis Obispo, California where she led school musical productions, after school programs, two Destination Imagination teams, and the GATE program. Adams’ passion for teaching stems from watching children’s minds spark as they learn something new. She branched out into the Paso Robles wine industry, as Assistant Manager of Firestone Vineyards and Eos Winery. Her involvement in this booming industry taught her to run events, manage employees, and appreciate the art of wine making. Adams also served as a Family Readiness Group Lead Volunteer for a California Army National Guard unit, planning large events and support for soldiers and their families.

Adams grew up in Southern California, she attending California State University, Fullerton for undergrad and UCIrvine for her Master's Degree in Teaching and teaching credential. Throughout her school years, she was always active in church and school choirs, including singing the National Anthem at football games and her graduation.

Adams is blessed with two daughters, Adilyn and Stella. She and her husband, Ryan, fellowship at Paso Robles Bible Church where she directs the Children’s Christmas Musical each year. Heidi is excited to watch God work in Paso Robles and assist the Cantinas family in bringing people to Christ through the Arts.
Stephen Sommers
LEGAL COUNSEL

Stephen P. Sommers is Legal Counsel for the Cantinas Arts Foundation. His legal practice specializes on the area of nonprofit organizations with a concentration on religious and charitable organizations. These services include the representation of organizations on a local, national and international basis. His clientele includes both large and small organizations. Sommers established his law office in 1988.

Previously, he had been a shareholder in a law firm in downtown Los Angeles. Throughout his years of practice, Sommers’ emphasis has been in the nonprofit organization arena. In the past, Sommers has served as an officer and trustee of Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena and as the President and a director of the Los Angeles Chapter of Christian Leadership Alliance.

In addition, he has served on the Audit Committee of Wycliffe Bible Translators as well as on numerous boards and committees for other nonprofit organizations. Sommers has been a lecturer on legal issues affecting nonprofit organizations. He has also taught courses on the law and nonprofit organizations as a part of the graduate program at Azusa Pacific University. Sommers has been an attorney in California since 1977.

Chris Koehl
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR, VIDEOGRAPHER, AND PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Koehl is Social Media Coordinator, Videographer, and Photographer for the Cantinas Arts Foundation. Chris grew up in Dallas, Texas with two amazing parents and six siblings. Koehl was featured on So You Think You Can Dance Season 8 and made it to the top fourteen. He also danced on Glee, Shake It Up, Bunheads, and can be seen in music videos by Aloe Blacc, Daft Punk, and Skrillex.

As a former member of the Cantinas Arts Foundation Dance Team, Koehl has developed an intimate knowledge of foundation and has transitioned into an in-house full time position. In his short career, Koehl has already garnered impressive credits video credits including director of photography for Thomas Sanders and T-MILLY Productions, directors assistant for the Power Ranger Commercial, and assistant camera person for Symbio Robotics promotion.

Koehl grew up in Dallas, Texas with two amazing parents and six siblings. At the age of twenty-one, he felt it was time to move to Los Angeles to pursue his dreams in the entertainment industry.
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