

character, lest all that "beautiful chorus start sounding monotonous". Dad has covered this point over & over again in the Letters. See "Inspired Songs", "Sock It To Me" etc. At this practice we would work on preparing the songs for the recording performance, teaching the children to blend their voices by listening to one another. On the faster, more bubbly songs they had to be reminded to sing with power & conviction but not to get "shouty". Out street singing they have been taught to project their voices, however, sometimes it was to a fault & turned to shouting more than singing. As we get to know the children, we find that each of them has their own special texture & vocal talents! Armendria has a real gift, not just as a soloist, but also for learning the harmony parts & picking them up quickly. She was joined by Dicon to form the harmony section. Heidi, a strong leading voice, does well with the songs involving fast, quick notes & wording, whereas Mene excels in handling the slow, meaningful melodies. Patrick has a sweet voice that blends in to help round the overall sound, & Koen helped to add an extra amount of umph!

We would then place the children in sections; the harmony section together & the others forming the melody section. Many children, as well as adults, have a hard time continuing with the melody of a song if they hear another individual singing harmony. So we found that putting them in sections really helped, even if it was only a few feet away. We would then practice with the harmony section alone on their part & then add the melody to see if all could sing together. This seemed to work quite well & we kept with this formula throughout the recording. It is very important that all children know the melody well first before adding harmony. It may seem to take a little longer but it is well worth it in the end. If harmony was not natural or really needed then we just dropped it & just sang a good strong unison which is also very effective, varying according to the song's need. We would now practice the songs just as if recording them. "1-2-3" musical intro & sing straight through each song. - Peter Polish was also at this session (our talented acoustic guitar player) & with his harmonious personality, would work together with Windy to form the basic musical accompaniment. Michael piloted the children's singing as their director through the recordings with a baton & inspiring gesticulations!

Some inspiring results came about when giving the children a chance to get their own ideas for vocal arrangements & effects

when asking them in all sincerity what they feel about a specific part, it's surprising how much they put into it, GBT! Their quick flexible minds came up with some fresh thoughts that really enhanced some parts! If no additional practice was necessary, the next day would be recording day! Jeremy had been popping in every so often during the practice sessions to see how it was coming along. It's like the children were the students, Michael & Windy the teachers, & Jeremy the headmaster, or principal, checking up on the classroom! Now with the recording taking place, he was at the controls, giving suggestions to help improve the musical & vocal arrangements. After much rehearsal, going over & over the songs, Jeremy would remind the children before each take to think about the words, as mentioned in "Sing To Somebody". - "Do all this & think of all these things when you're practicing, but when you get up there before that audience forget the whole thing & just sing to them direct from your heart with real emotion & inspiration! - If you'll just practice the technicalities enough, they will just come naturally without thinking about them while you're singing."

With the others in the thick of the battle, Jeremy was able, at his position on the other side of the window, to see, hear & observe things that we didn't catch, thus keeping us in check in many points, such as playing with soft loving hands, & giving a whole-souled, whole-hearted performance. "Sing from your heart, think only about them & the message you're trying to give them. - You've got to really sing & play & speak from your heart direct to their heart & know they're there & know they're listening." (Sing To Somebody). We always let a minor technical mistake pass if the singer(s) had really felt it & the take was definitely inspired. Jeremy always asked each one individually what they thought of their performance & waited for an answer from all. This mature handling of their feelings & considering their opinions always bore good fruit.

We would aim for all the prepared songs to be recorded within one day, & TTL, this usually happened. The following day would be used for musical effects, or the beginning of the recording of a new batch of songs. On the average, within 6 days, 10 songs would be recorded complete, TYJ.

As mentioned before, the schedule was respected & TTL for it! After a good devotional time, we were in the studio at 10:30 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. we would stop & make sure that the children ate a good

lunch, followed by a nap. We were back at the studio by 4:00 p.m. (GB mummy Marianne who suggested we have healthy afternoon snacks on hand & fruit juices for them.) At 7:00 p.m. we would finish. Being on the adult production schedule, bed-time was earlier during this period for they needed extra sleep, but they didn't seem to mind as they obviously felt that this was their own special project & showed individual initiative & willingness to see it through.

In the beginning, however, we were having a problem with disrespect & a nonchalant attitude from some of the older children which was affecting the whole group. Paul then gathered the children together for a serious talk, telling them that they were not indispensable & that he knew of other children who would love to come & appreciate doing this project. The promise of shames for shamer & shines for shiners was emphasized & enforced. This talk was a turning point, & as a result there flowed a lot more love, unity, fun & fruitfulness! It instilled them with a fresh clear & clean fear of the Lord & an attitude to work, considering it a privilege & not to take their

talents for granted, - that they were God-given. At the end of the project they went on an all-day island excursion, a reward promised for diligent work, GBT for yielding to this greater victory in their lives!

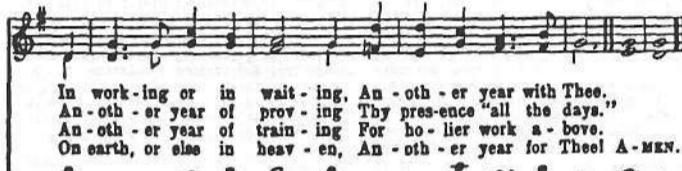
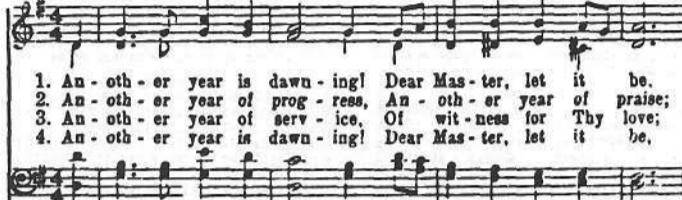
PIL, we're certainly glad in whatever way we could to help bring this wonderful project to birth! TYJ: "We've got a lot to be thankful for, but we've still got a lot to do!! And what a wonderful Family to do it all with! Hallelujah! TYJ!

(Amen! You all did a wonderful job & the results were marvelous & everlasting! -- a blessing to the whole world! GBY & thanks forever! We love 'em & WLY! -- The little girls' dances were amazingly beautiful too! -- What wonder-kids God's given us! PIL! GBY! More power to Kid Power! Hallelujah! They're gonna pass us up! GBM! -- D.)

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Frances R. Havergal

Friedrich Von Flotow



possible, love to know a little bit about the history of this side of his family. We played this tape for her very slowly because she hardly remembered any English at all. She could understand a little bit & knew a few words like "God bless you" & things like that, but couldn't speak it at all. As she listened to this tape she was so very happy to hear Simon's voice & to know that he's serving the Lord! She said that she was so happy that he was not taking drugs, but was a "man of God": We had to go very slow with her as she was so delicate & so nervous! She kept apologising that she was not used to having visitors! She had brought out cakes for us, so many cakes, & she said, "I'm sorry if it's too much cause I'm not used to calculating how much to serve for how many people!" She was very, very sweet & wanted to be so very helpful!

The 1st day we were with her we didn't have so much time, & after going through the tape very slowly it was almost like she was exhausted just from having visitors & all of this excitement! So we worked it out that we could come back another day & see her & it turned out to be a Sunday! At the same time everybody in Greece was having Sunday Fellowship, we were having fellowship with her, a good old Christian!

Peter: And so we arrived the next Sunday & after we had had cakes & cookies she pulled out an old bottle of Polish cognac that had been standing in her closet for a whole year and she was so very concerned that it was still good! She's such a humble, sweet, angelic lady! She's had a very tough life & this tough life has brought out something very sweet in her! She's afraid that she's not good enough & doesn't want to be a burden on anybody.

Stephen: Grandma brought out her old photo album & started to show us pictures of her life, & pictures of Simon Peter's mother that he had never seen. He had seen one picture of her once upon a time in his childhood, but he couldn't remember what she looked like! So she started showing us the pictures & telling about her life story & of the hard times her family had been through, her parents & herself & Simon Peter's mother. After the war & the Communist take-over of Poland, grandma Emil was offered a top position in the Communist army which he refused & was sent to prison. Grandma & Simon's mother, Krystyna, was sent to Siberia as prisoners for 8 years, & she was forced to work as a car mechanic! She had learned a little bit about this from having a motor bike when she was young!

Peter: Together with Grandma was also Simon

Meet Simon Peter's Grandmother!

The "Polish Team's" account of their last trip to Poland & their meeting with Simon Peter's Grandmother! - As told on video!

Paul: Now I'd like to introduce to you Peter & Stephen of the famous "Polish Team". Neither one of them is Polish so I don't know why we call them the "Polish Team"; but I guess it's because they were there for 2½ years before coming here to Music With Meaning. In any case they've just come back from Poland from a 1-week trip where they went back to pick up their belongings & so forth. Before they left Simon Peter said, "Look, I don't know if you know, but I have some parentage in Poland as my ancestors came from there and I have an address of this lady who is my grandmother in Warsaw, and do you think you could go & check if she's still there & maybe since you speak Polish you could talk to her and try to find out a little bit more about my family tree & so forth. So we thought that maybe we could put this on video for the sake of adding little more flavor to our dear Simon Peter & to get to know him & his family a little more. So I'll pass the mike to Peter.

Peter: So, Stephen & I, after spending a beautiful month's time in Greece recording, took off for Poland for a week & we were quite shocked to see that it had gotten even worse than when we had been there previously, & that it had gotten even harder to live there. The 1st day we were there the Lord did a wonderful "little" miracle of supplying us with 250 grams of butter!

Stephen: Yes! We had found some bread, but it was a little dry, & so we were hunting around for something to put on it. We found a shop with a long line of people queuing for their monthly ration of butter which you can only purchase with a ration card. Of course we didn't have a ration card, so by faith we stood in line for quite some time, and then at last when we got to the counter, the lady said, "No, sorry! No card, no butter!" Well we put on our charm & acted like naive tourists, but I think she felt a little pressured by the other customers. Suddenly, a man in the queue started shouting and complaining that we were holding up the line & this made the woman really mad! She really stood up for us & socked it to him: "What are you complaining about?" she said, "You have your ration card, but these poor boys have no card & have to beg!" Then she called us to the other side of the shop & gave us some butter under the counter! GBH!

Peter: The reason why we went to Poland was to pick up our luggage & say goodbye

to friends which was quite a heart-breaking scene! We also bought 2 big tents that we live in here now at the Campground, which was quite a miracle because the Lord spared us from having to pay 80% tax on the tents at the last minute at the airport, when we didn't have any extra money with us!

After being there 2 days we took a taxi outside town to where Simon Peter's grandmother lived. It was way out in the sticks, & finally the taxi driver found it after going back & forth down back roads & alleys! I stayed in the taxi while Steve went in to see if Grandma was still alive or if she was still living at this address.

Stephen: When I came to the house the 1st person I met was a woman called Sabine who has been taking care of Simon's grandmother for 17 years. She greeted me & I asked her for "Chris" - Simon Peter. I had to remember to say "Chris" and not "Simon". Sabine took me around to the back of the house where Simon's grandmother lives alone in a little tiny room with kitchen & bathroom attached. She was sitting out on the porch & as I came around I had a letter in my hand from "Chris" & I came up to her with a smile & said, "This is from your grandson, Chris". I said it in Polish but as she hadn't had a visitor for years & years & was so shocked to see me standing there, the 1st impression she got was that I was "Chris", because I also was a tall Englishman & I've heard that I look a little bit like him! - So that was her 1st reaction! She was very old & doddery & quite nervous, but after we spent some time with her she really calmed down & we had a beautiful time of fellowship with her!

Peter: After this Steve came out to the taxi and got me & we sat in the living room whilst Sabine brought us tea & food & meat. They get the meat on a meat ration, so it means that they don't get very much meat, & so they were really sacrificing to give us such royal treatment! Sabine has been sacrificing taking care of not only Simon Peter's grandma for the past 17 years, but also her own husband who is paralysed. She was really a sweet & precious woman!

After a little while Grandma came out again & sat down with us. She hadn't gotten herself quite together yet because firstly, she was not used to having visitors, and secondly, she had gotten a message from her only grandchild! Later, during the time spent with her, she said that many times she had wished that she would die &

had even prayed one time & asked the Lord to take her, but, she said, "I was staying alive in the hope that I'd get some kind of news from "Chris" - Simon Peter! After this we went over to her little residence. This house in which she is staying was the same house in which she & her husband "Emil" used to live. This was the house in which he wrote a book about his life that was dedicated to Simon Peter with the hope that he would always be a fighter for freedom. Emil died 17 years ago of a heart attack & he was a freedom fighter & a leader of the Polish Underground Resistance during the 2nd World War. Grandma was a little reluctant to give too much information about him because she was afraid of the Secret Police or somebody getting a hold of the tape, but she did tell us that during the war the Germans had taken 105 million zloties from Poland & wanted to bring it to Germany. 30 zloties = \$1.00, & at that time it was really a lot of money! So grandpa, Emil, organized a train robbery & took the money back from the Germans & kept it in Poland. At Emil's funeral they had 5 cardinals & top Church guys at the funeral speaking. At the moment in Poland they are resurrecting and retelling these stories about some of their War heroes. I guess it must be inspired by solidarity, the union, & they're telling now the true story of what really happened with these freedom fighters during the war. There's just been a big newspaper article in the Warsaw paper about Simon Peter's grandpa & others!

Stephen: Simon had made a cassette on which he spoke personally to his grandmother, & told her how much he loved her, & that he was very concerned for her and praying for her, & that he would, if