

W. Ian Walker is an ADHD survivor/achiever with his book

“Stirring My Soul to Sing, Overcoming ADHD Through Song”, he believes that “music vs medicine” can be a huge support in the ADHD disorder!

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Stirring My Soul to Sing, Overcoming ADHD Through Song, is an autobiography by W. Ian Walker a trained arts administrator and fundraiser, musician, chorister and choral conductor. In this book, he recalls more than 40 years of his choral and performance career with some of North America’s greatest musicians and artists. W. Ian Walker shares how his strong faith and personal relationship with Jesus Christ combined with vocal and choral music to become the cornerstone of his success in overcoming *Attention Deficit Hyper Disorder (ADHD) and related issues, such as low self-esteem, depression and coping with a learning disability.*

Ian was identified as having a disability in the early 1970’s, but was not formally diagnosed with ADHD in the spring of 1996. At that time, he undertook Christian counseling and delved into a study of ADHD to deal with these painful issues. *His life-story is one of overcoming many obstacles associated with this disorder – verbal abuse, school bullying, poor academic standing, employment instability, financial hardship and divorce.* Offering insight into an “artistic life” instead of being medicated for ADHD; Ian shares very personal details of the joys and sorrows of adapting to this disorder. Ian details events of a fruitful relationship with his second wife, his “blessed Elaine.” Their relationship has resulted in a happy second marriage for Ian of over fifteen years.

Ian has formed two companies Emlian Music Group (2000) & Emlian Communications Group Inc. (2006). He holds a BA in Theatre and Film from *McMaster University, Hamilton, ON* and a *Post Graduate Certificate from Humber College, Toronto in Fundraising and Volunteer Management Program.* In summer 2016, Ian has recently graduated from Mid-America Christian University’s **Christian Worship Arts and Leadership (CWAL)** online program. Grammy and Dove Award winning gospel artist **Sandi Patty**, has been the founder and “artist in residence” to this program.

A high-achieving ADHD survivor, Ian serves as testament to countless ADHD sufferers that ***music can do a better job of improving their lives than medicine!*** In December 2010, Ian was awarded the *McMaster University Centennial Award* for his efforts achieving a degree despite a learning disability, and for his other Hamilton arts and social service and non-profit organizations.

In his book Ian recounts the beginnings of his vocal career in 1980s as bass-baritone and chorister with *the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir (TMYC)* and in the 2000’s with *the Orpheus Choir of Toronto.* He shares special memories of his involvement in 1981 with the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI) *Young Artist Vocal Program (YAVP)* where he met **Leonard Bernstein** and interacted with other well-known classical musicians and artists.

Ian also relates moments and events from his arts management career when he was mentored by **Robert Cooper, C.M. (Conductor)** Canadian and International icon, the late **Maureen Forester, C.C.**, contralto, and was privileged to have a unique friendship with Canada's veteran founder, producer and choral entrepreneur, the late **Nicholas Goldschmidt, C.C.** Ian writes about his long-lasting friendship with Canadian and international classical soprano, **Adrienne Pieczonka, O.C.**

In spite of his learning disability; throughout the 1990s Ian continued his dreams of promoting the Christian Contemporary Music genre (CCM) to its Canadian and international audiences. He was involved in many projects, producing, writing and broadcasting for Christian television networks and *interviewing some of CCM's legends- Sandi Patty, Ralph Carmichael, the late Andrae Crouch, Randy Stonehill, Phil Driscoll, Steven Curtis Chapman, Steve Green, Mark Lowry, Cindy Morgan and many more.*

In the fall of 2005, Ian became founder, music director and conductor of the formed **Youth Choir for the Nations Canada**. The Youth Choir sings in English, Urdu, French and Spanish. During the 2006 Christmas season, the Choir participated with International Christian artist, Nancy Honeytree Miller. The Youth Choir had their first appearance on *100 Huntley Street, a National Canadian Christian Television program*. Nancy Honeytree Miller has become a friend and mentor to Ian Walker and authored the foreword of this book.

For more information to arrange media accommodation or future speaking engagements, please contact W. Ian Walker, **Emlian Communications Group at 289-700-7005** or wiw@emliancommunications.com

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