

Musician glorifies God through new album, concert

By Jon Wysochanski

After more than two years of studio work and creative output, a local musician's dream of creating an album that glorifies God has come true.

North Ridgeville resident Larry Kane is no stranger to the music business. He has been performing as a saxophone player since the 1970s and 1980s, even touring with national acts.

But now he's released his first self-titled EP, "Shout It Out Loud", on Railway Records (his recording studio in North Ridgeville), and Christ is his focus.

"You get to a point where you realize God is good and benevolent, and He cares a lot about our lives," Kane, who is on the staff of the Fields United Methodist Church, said of why he recorded the album. "Your natural reaction once that hits you is to want to do something about it."

Kane said his instincts as a musician and songwriter were to express his relationship with God through his art.

For him, the musical road he has traveled was not always about God. He originally played in rock bands and started writing music with the intention of being a career performer.

"I stopped doing that to raise a family," he said of his time spent in bands in the '80s. "Family became more of a priority, and the time involved with being in a band just didn't work for me. My wife was supportive (of my music), but it just wasn't a good fit for kids."

At one point in his life, Kane went through a career crisis and some challenging personal issues. He said he was talking with his friend, Ernie Krivda, a local jazz musician, about God when the name of Jesus came up.

"Ernie said, 'Well, He beat death,'" Kane recalled. "It started a process in my life where I really began searching for God."

He made the rounds of various religions and spiritual paths, but it was ultimately when he realized he could know God through Christ that his life changed. And with that change in perspective came a change in his music.

"I no longer wanted to 'play the hard rock, let's go get laid and steal a motorcycle' type of music. It just didn't fit me anymore," Kane said with a laugh. "So, I had to make a decision to play music that was focused on what I believed in."

The album, which consists of 13 songs, was produced by Kane, who

played about 60 percent of the parts. Other local studio musicians contributed to the recordings, and he said each song took between 20 and 40 hours to complete.

But the ideas for his songs, which are Christian in theme, take much longer to formulate. He is inspired by real-life situations, which he then transforms into music.

The album is currently getting airplay on Christian radio stations on the East Coast, as well as one station in Canada and even one in Germany, Kane said.

Music is a good way to communicate about God, he said, and it is a great format for those who have something to say. His band, "Shout It Out Loud," is directed toward Christians.

"The name of the band is intended to be an encouragement to believers," Kane explained. "You cannot keep something good under your hat. People don't have a problem screaming at a football game about their favorite player. How much more about a God who loves you?"

Kane's wife, Maria, has always been supportive of his musical endeavors. Her family is very musical, and she understands his passion, he said.

"A lot of guys have wives that aren't so supportive of musicians," he said. "When I finally realized it was time to begin this project, she said, 'It's about time.'"

Maria is excited he has finished the album.

"I've always supported him from the get-go, and I think it's awesome that it's come this far," she said.

Matt Deulley, who recorded with Kane on the album and plays guitar in the band, is equally excited. As a Christian, he wants to use the talents he has been given to glorify God, he said.

"I always wanted to be a part of a Christian band," he explained. "The Lord gave us the gifts we have, and to use them on anything else is, in my opinion, a waste. I want to use my gifts to benefit Him and to reach out to other people."

For Kane, Jesus and music are life.

"Music is a way to express what can't be seen, through something that can at least be heard," Kane said of his emotions and feelings. "Jesus, to me, means life, freedom, clarity, rescue and He's been the reset button for my life. A lot of people who aren't too crazy about church would be crazy about God if they got to know him."

Kane will perform in concert at



MUSICIAN LARRY KANE, a North Ridgeville resident, performs recently during a local concert. He is a staff member at Fields United Methodist Church. Photo courtesy of Larry Kane

Elyria Four Square Church, 458 Concord Avenue in Elyria, at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 30. Special guests include Candice and The Praise Project, led by Kane's

daughter. Admission to the church's indoor main hall is free, but donations will be accepted. For more information about the concert, call 440-322-9630.