

# STANTON LANIER

## pianist of peace

Stanton Lanier's passion is to bring "peace and rest in a hurried world." A one-time chemist and financial planner, since 2004 he has been following his heart to make a positive difference in today's music culture. The words "calming, soothing, and uplifting" have become a universal description by a global audience, whether listeners hear a melody or experience a live concert performance with piano, inspirational stories and captivating visuals.

After three successful self-produced albums stirring a grassroots following, Stanton's work rose to new heights when he recorded "The Voice" (2005) with Grammy® Award winning producer **Will Ackerman**, founder of Windham Hill Records. "The Voice" features the song "Peace," a #1 listener favorite on the Music Choice "Soundscapes" cable channel. Family Christian Stores Human Resources Director Steve Biondo purchased 6,000 copies as an inspirational gift to every employee, describing Stanton's music as "an oasis for my spirit."

In January 2008 Stanton's fifth album "Unveiled" debuted at #3 on radio, surfacing many of his most powerful compositions and featuring a stellar ensemble of seven acclaimed musicians (**Will Ackerman** – guitar, **Eugene Friesen** – cello, **Philip Aaberg** – keyboards, **Tracy Silverman** – violin, **Jeff Oster** – flugelhorn, **Jill Haley** – English horn and **Noah Wilding** – vocals). Leading contemporary instrumental reviews are calling "Unveiled" "consummate beauty...sheer musical pleasure...exquisite...one of the year's best" (R J Lannan and Bill Binkelman).

The music has also been heard across radio and television, including Lifetime TV's highest rated show "Army Wives," The Weather Channel, NPR, Delilah and Solo Piano Radio. Some of Stanton's many performance highlights include playing at the world renowned Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, California and sharing the stage with award winning artists Will Ackerman, David Lanz, Tracy Silverman and David Cullen.

Stanton's love for piano began in Chapel Hill, North Carolina at the age of six. He came close to foregoing his affection for music due to a never-ending appetite for basketball. However, over time, being at the piano became a sanctuary, and he wrote his first song at age fourteen while living in Milton, Florida. His signature style of lyrical, reflective melodies evolved from influences such as Bach, Billy Joel and Windham Hill. Stanton's spiritual journey is central to his musical story, but as Will Ackerman says, "He doesn't have to tell us where the music comes from to have us feel it."

In 2004 Stanton founded **Music to Light the World**, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a vision to "bring peace to the soul" through donating performances and CDs to cancer patients, hospitals, inner city ministries and schools. This organization consists of some of the most prominent people in Atlanta and is quickly gaining recognition for its good work, such as playing at the AFLAC Cancer Center and giving "Unveiled" as an expression of hope to families who lost children to this horrible disease.

Stanton currently resides in Atlanta, and in addition to music he enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, shooting basketball, traveling, and reading. After many years of laying the groundwork, doors are really starting to open to this amazing music, with incremental growth in sales, tour dates, and opportunities to give back through Music to Light the World. One of Stanton's favorite quotes is "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive" (from the book "Wild at Heart" by John Eldredge).