

Interviewee: Devin McGlamery

Interviewer: Brooke Nichols

Date: November 14, 2000

Location: Kinston, North Carolina

BN: I'm gonna begin with a few questions. Your name is Devin McGlamery?

DM: That is correct.

BN: Ok, what's your address?

DM: [REDACTED] Kinston, North Carolina.

BN: And your zip code?

DM: 28501.

BN: Ok, and your birthday is?

DM: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1982, yes ma'am.

BN: Alright and your parents name?

DM: Dawn and Shane McGlamery.

BN: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

DM: I do, I got two brothers and a sister. All older.

BN: And their names and ages?

DM: I'm not sure about ages, but it's Omar McGlamery, Ron Wayne, and Kim Pate. And my sister Kim is probably 33.

BN: Ok.

DM: And my brothers are somewhere between 27 and 25.

BN: Ok, that sounds good. Alright you're probably not gonna know this but you wouldn't happen to know if your parents are Irish or Scottish

DM: Actually I know McGlamery comes from a Scottish/Irish background. That's about all I know.

BN: So you don't know when they migrated over or anything?

DM: I have no idea. That's a good question though.

BN: Ok, um what kind of education have you had?

DM: Um, lets see I graduated from kindergarten and I graduated from high school. That's it.

BN: High School "not understandable, maybe Baldwin?"

DM: That's correct, I'm working on college still soon, so.

BN: Ok. You're going to college to?

DM: Yeah, I'm gonna do corresponding courses.

BN: Um, what's your current job right now?

DM: "Not Understandable."

BN: Alright and how long have you been with them?

DM: Going on 6 months I think. I joined them June 1<sup>st</sup> so that'd be about right.

BN: Ok, and what religion are you?

DM: Um, well I grew up "Not understandable," but I've been Southern Baptist for a couple years.

BN: Ok, Are you a member of any organizations or anything?

DM: Um, not that I can think of.

BN: Ok, what are your hobbies? Just stuff you like to do besides sing or anything?

DM: Um, probably play golf any type of sports. Um, I know it sounds a bit girlish but talk on the phone. Since all my friends are back home. That's pretty much it.

BN: Ok, and what type of places do you perform?

DM: Oh, my goodness. So I really sing in all types of places. School gymnasiums, school auditoriums, church auditoriums, so basically even some private parties hire us to do those and I mean any outdoor events we'll come to those. We've done pretty much anything and everything so far.

BN: And is it mostly singing at night time?

DM: Uh, it varies but yeah 90% of it is at night.

BN: Ok. Ok I think that's all the information that I need so we can go ahead and start. Do you wanna tell me how you got started with your singing career?

DM: Well, I was singing since I was 5. I started off in churches and things like that. The I started doing little concerts that my parent's friends would me and wanted me to do and I did. I started recording solo projects and stuff like that and I think I've done 6 or 7 of them. And after I graduated from high school I got this job two weeks before I graduated.

BN: So um, how old were you when your recorded your first tape?

DM: I was 10 years old when I recorded my first one.

BN: And you've 6 since then, and they were solo projects?

DM: They were. Every one of them.

BN: Ok, and have you made any tapes with the new group yet?

DM: Actually we tried in July, but we were never home. 5 weeks in July we were only home 3 days so we're going, I think we're going next week or the week after next.

BN: So who taught you how to sing or did you just pick it up?

DM: Well, I pretty much just kinda picked it up. Nobody taught me how to sing. It wasn't my mom or dad.

BN: So your mom and dad encouraged you to like...

DM: They sure did, cause they brought me up in the church and I guess I could say I learned to sing there you know. Cause I've always been interested in if I didn't do this I was gonna study to be a nurse or music and watching them always interested me.

BN: So what type of music would you say that your group sings?

DM: Strictly southern gospel.

BN: And what type of instruments do y'all have when you sing the soundtracks or even when you sell and album

DM: Well we got soundtracks and we got all types of instruments. Anything from a harmonica to the bongos, but when we do stuff live lately its just been piano, and piano always plays when we do tracks, but if we don't do tracks its piano and base guitar and sometimes drums.

BN: And the people you're with play those instruments?

DM: They do.

BN: Do you play instruments?

DM: Um I picked up piano and im learning base guitar.

BN: Alright, so what type of music do you like to listen to besides Southern Gospel when you're on the road or...

DM: Um, honestly all types of music. Some people would probably condemn me for that, "I can't believe him," but nah I listen to any type of music as long as it's good. I don't like to listen to, when I wanna hear music I wanna hear music. So nothing stupid.

BN: Um, have you won any awards since you've been singing, even when your were younger maybe some contests?

DM: Um yeah, I... when I grew up in the "Not understandable," church I was doing the competitions the youth competition every year, I think starting when I was 12. I won first place in that for I think 4 or 5 years in a row and moved on to the high school division and I won for Georgia went and competed and all that mess. I don't remember what the name of the competition was but I won one when I got to appear on the Grand Old Opera. That was pretty cool because I was only 13 then. The Grand Old Opera was huge you know.

BN: Was that on TV?

DM: That was I believe. I've been on Town and Country with Lisa Garner I can't even remember all... "Not understandable," South one of my favorite TV shows "Not understandable."

BN: When you sung when you were younger what type of audience did you perform to older, younger, white, black?

DM: That's a good question. It really does vary there as well. Probably if it's in a church it depends on what denomination it is whether or not. We sing to, we actually sing to a lot of older, I won't call them old but elderly people because our manager is the elder of the group, he's 64 years old and he's been there 40 years. Yeah they come to see him as well. But what's "not understandable," to me being 18 I'm seeing a lot more people my age come to these things to.

BN: Like, and what type ethnic background are these people Hispanic, white, black or does it really depend?

DM: They're mostly white, and we'll see a lot of black people to because theirs, believe it or not a lot more black artists coming up in the Southern Gospel music, not just white gospel.

BN: Right, so who would you say is your inspiration when you sing?

DM: Wow, um... I honestly would have to say the lord. Because if it weren't for him I wouldn't have anything to sing about honestly and but there are tons of people out there I look up to. You know?

BN: So is there any specific singers you look up to or?

DM: Um, well I know of one in particular that has uh, you know he died I think right at a year ago and I was growing pain at the cathedrals. A lot of people if they see me on stage tell me I have a lot energy and excitement and I get a lot of it from him watching Old Cathedral videos. Or a few still today like Jared Wolf from Greater Vision and Bryan Hurtsman from the Kingsmen. Two lead singers I definitely look up to.

BN: Alright so how often do you travel on the road, how do you get there and how long do stay and where do you sleep?

DM: We've got a bus and that's pretty cool to me. And it's got I think 7-8 bunks on it and we sleep on there and travel at night time. Our bus driver is up all night driving. He's really excited about that. And anyways we travel at night time and we have the concert at night and we'll probably get there early hours in the morning and we go straight up to the church around 3-4 depending on what time we sing and we perform, pack up, and hit the road go to the next one. Most of the time if we do just a normal weekend we'll leave out on a Wednesday night and come back early Monday morning, but lately we've been doing two week things I guess because were packing so many things in cause Christmas is coming up.

BN: Would you say the area you travel in is Southeast or is it all over the United States?

DM: It's really... We travel I'd say everywhere cause we're one of the few groups that travel actually you know every state including Canada, you know we travel up into Canada to. Because them two years Dixie "not understandable," was really popular over in California, not every two years but twice a year we'll travel to the West Coast and do a trip over there.

BN: Um, well I was doing some research about how Southern Gospel music developed and about the African background, they do a lot of movement with their singing does your group stand still or do they move around?

DM: Well, uh we move around. There are a lot of groups that disagree with us you know, they tell us we shouldn't move around and just get up there and sing but we disagree. We like what we're signing about and it's exciting to us so we're gonna get out there and enjoy it.

BN: Well uh, going back to when you got started out with music did you have any people from different backgrounds, maybe say they're white, Baptist, or "not understandable," that influenced you or maybe taught you to sing?

DM: Um, well a lot of family members encouraged me to sing. Speaking of being taught how to sing I wouldn't know the answer to that cause it was something that's just a gift I guess from the Lord I kinda caught on.

BN: Uh is there any memorable experiences that you've had lately since you've been traveling or from earlier singing that you stand out in your mind?

DM: Probably you know I've looked up over the years to different memories of the Kingdom and different members of Gold City and like it's just a shock you know we were walking through convention and I was like "Oh my Gosh that's Gold City," my piano player had to teach me to realize I'm doing the same thing they are now and it's just exciting to know that the guy I've looked up to for so long I'm on the same lines with him now.

BN: Right, do you have any goals as a musician, short term or long term?

DM: Um, it would definitely be to become more fluent in playing instruments and stuff. I guess, I know I wanna hang in here. I enjoy what I do this is my lifelong dream and I don't know, you never know what you have in store 10 years down the road and maybe 10 years down the road I have my own group or something like that ya know? Either way I'll be enjoying what I do.

BN: The songs that y'all sing does a member of your group write them, you get them from other groups, or where do they come from?

DM: Well, some of the old songs were written by a past lead singer and we had people send us songs and you know we don't turn down any songs you know we promise to at least listen to it and we're basically gathering material right now for a new project we want new songs on. We get em from anyone and anywhere.

BN: So can anybody send you a song or is it mostly?

DM: Yeah, uh anybody can send the "no understandable," boys a song. Um, we're not partial to anybody's writing we're gonna accept it and listen to it.

BN: Who would you say is the writer who has contributed the most, who you sing the most songs for?

DM: Um, I'm not really sure about all the ones we sing now cause it comes from various writers and lately I've checked the ones that come in that we listen to and I used to Rodney Griffin's number 1

songwriter and stuff and a lot of music in and Jeff Steele from the Steele's cause it's a lot we're probably going to be cutting a few of those on the next album.

BN: When you go to record the album is it a one day thing or does it take a week?

DM: Honestly, I've never done one with a group but they told me it normally takes a couple of days one week and we'll sit in the studio while they do the tracks and make sure they have the right key and make sure the instruments are doing what we want them to do, right tempo, stuff like that, and we go the next week and record them the one we're fixing to do 3 new tapes to do a real quick project and get those within 2 days.

BN: When you sing to an audience do they usually get involved? Do they clap, or do they usually sit back and enjoy?

DM: Uh we hope and pray they get involved and clap and stuff but if we're ok if they're sitting their and enjoying it. It really determines on what part of the country we're at or what denomination we're in or something we always find that they're enjoying it, but some people like to show it differently.

BN: So which people or denominations seem to enjoy it or get involved more?

DM: I would have to say Pentecostal.

BN: Ok, so which... when you keep you know traveling all over the country or whatever wherever y'all are at do you usually fill in between songs. Do you talk or do you sing all the way through?

DM: I do, um when they normally introduce us we sing two or three straight through you know, and we'll stop talk, introduce the group, and stuff like that. I'll talk and introduce songs and he'll introduce them and if we're at a church service we'll do a first half that's like 45 minutes and we'll take a quick break and they'll do their thing and we'll come back and do about three or four more songs and close it out.

BN: So do you usually sing by yourself, just your group is there, or is there other groups that come in?

DM: Um, it varies we'll sing with other groups some like Friday's and Saturday's. Most of the time on Thursday's and Sunday's we'll do it on our own.

BN: So what's your favorite part of the whole thing? Is it pretty much traveling?

DM: Um, probably, I enjoy being with the other groups. I really enjoy meeting people you know from the other groups and some people from the audience. I love it either way, but definitely singing with other groups cause most of the time when we're with another group the second half we'll come back and do a little thing together, sing together and all.

BN: Do you know how long your group has been in formation, how long they've been around?

DM: Um, "Not understandable," 40 years.

BN: You've been with them the whole time?

DM: Yes.

BN: So how do you go about if someone moves groups, do they, how do they go about getting another member to replace him?

DM: Well, lets see when Jay Caldwell left which was the other lead singer until I took his place, he took a church up in Ohio and I had somehow heard word on it then we saw, my mom gets the internet gospel gossip thing and they tell you latest news out so we set up a resume deal he kinda remembered me, he had seen a video and he had remembered I had sung with him before and that's pretty much it. I know other groups are looking for singers and stuff and they put it out in the singing news and put it on the website and stuff like that and just take calls in, videos, and tapes, demos just to see if you'll fit what they're wanting to do

BN: So what's the biggest concert you've done so far or the biggest Southern Gospel event that they have?

DM: Um, probably the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Kentucky it's a week long deal in September and there are thousands of groups there. Most groups perform once and there are a few of us that perform twice. I think like Gold City, "Not Understandable," Boys, and the Kingsman and Greater Vision are the few that perform twice. We are Monday and Friday and had an awesome time. I think they said like 19,000 people there.

BN: So you said you've been on tv several times, has the group been on tv or did interviews for radio or magazines or anything?

DM: Oh yeah, we had all the time getting interviewed for radio and uh lets see we were on my first week up in Silver Dollar City doing that gospel jubilee thing with Garren McFadden, we've been on Gospel Music Television, GMT, and just all kinds of different things.

BN: So do you like better singing to an audience on TV or off?

DM: Uh, off cause I just don't know. I know people will watch them on tv, but I cant stand not being able to see them. I hate them just not being there.

BN: Is their anything else you would like to tell before the interview is over that we haven't gone over?

DM: No, I just really enjoy what I do and I have a fun time doing it.

BN: Alright, and this is your fulltime job?

DM: Yes, yeah it is. I enjoy it thoroughly. It's been my dream, it's like a dream come true.

BN: Ok, thank you.