

William J. Ridenhour

Bill Ridenhour was born in North Carolina. He was taught music in his early childhood by Mrs. Lucy L. Donaldson, the mother of the great Jazz Saxophonist, Lou Donaldson in early grade school. Throughout his childhood he participated in his home church choirs and as child soloist of the McDonald Chapel AME Methodist Church.

Bill was inspired by the TV show, “The Voice of Firestone”, and by listening to his Mother’s singing while she did her household chores, hanging the freshly washed laundry to dry on the clothes line and ironing and, also by his stepfather’s gospel Quartet singers.

He was inspired by the great Paul Robeson and Whitney Phipps and while attending Johnson C. Smith University was mentored by William Warfield, the great Professor and Metropolitan Opera Company star. Much of his musical teaching and training was advanced during his college years at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina as a member of the University Choir under the Leadership of Dr. Christopher Kemp and while at the West Badin High School under the guidance of Mrs. P.B. Hinnant.

His love for singing has characterized his life and his love of God. He is gifted in singing Spirituals and Church Hymns.

Ridenhour has been the featured Soloist for the “National Day of Prayer at the National Constitution Center of Philadelphia, PA for the past six years, the Evelyn Bailey Ensemble at the Academy of Music, for Special Music at the Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chancel Choir, the Chancel Singer’s (Men’s Quartet), under the direction of Elizabeth J. Banks and Dr. Velgra Nix’s Intermezzo Choir. He often sings at banquets, weddings and church functions throughout the Delaware Valley, New Jersey, the Pocono’s, and at the Silver Stream Adult Center in Penlynn, PA.

He currently sings at the Germantown Christian Assembly church, where he is a member and also a part of the Special Music Team. He is a Salvation Counselor and Board Member of the Golden Eagles Senior Group.

Note: “ Bill’s goal during this performance is to persuade those assembled on this occasion, and others as far as we can reach, to learn this lesson of the Spirituals. It is important to master the art of the Spirituals but is sublime to inform and enlighten the soul”.