

Soul  
Tunes  
CONTEST  
WINNER!



ELIZABETH CUMBEST

# SINGING <sup>2</sup> THROUGH THE STORM

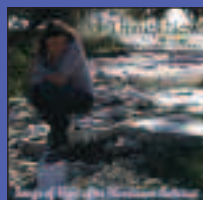
My outlook on who I am and what God has called me to do changed because of a storm. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, I was scared. I sat in the corner of my living room crying, wondering if my family was alive and trying to find hope. I started praying, and I picked up my guitar and sang a song that would be a new beginning for me.

## ➤ MUSIC AND MINISTRY

Music has always been an important part of my life. When I was a child, my dad sang to me every song in *The United Methodist Hymnal*. Standing in First United Methodist Church in Lucedale, Mississippi, singing “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord,” I gave my life to Christ. Now I write and sing my own songs. God speaks to me through music and calls me to reach out to others, especially the homeless.

I have a special place in my heart for people who are homeless, abandoned, and looking for someone to count on. At Alta Woods UMC in Jackson, Mississippi, I became involved with Gravy and Grace, a ministry that offers biscuits and gravy to homeless people who stay for a worship service. I remember the day when Mark, a homeless man, came to the church looking for something to eat; and we invited him to Gravy and Grace. As we walked downstairs to the room where we would worship, Mark saw the piano in the choir room and asked if he could play it. As he started playing, we knew that God was already working in his life; and we invited him to play in the services. An incredible musician, Mark had been playing in bars and anywhere else he could. Now God was using this homeless man to open our hearts to worship.

Since that day I have wanted to help the homeless even more. I continued to write songs and struggled with what to do with them. When I moved back to the coast, I discovered that the Seashore Mission, a homeless ministry, had been completely washed away in the storm. I remembered serving meals and visiting the people there. I prayed about what I could do to help. Finally, it hit me. I decided that I would record my songs and send the proceeds from my CD to the mission to help rebuild the ministry. I prayed that my efforts to help by recording my music would be for God’s glory, not mine.



For a copy of “All Things New,” send \$12.50 (\$10 donation + \$2.50 for shipping) to Elizabeth Cumbest, P. O. Box 849, Hurley, MS 39555.

(Make checks payable to Seashore Mission and mark them for “All Things New.”) Or you can order online at [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com) or download the music through iTunes. For more info, go to [www.elizabethcumbest.com](http://www.elizabethcumbest.com).



## “ALL THINGS NEW”

Not knowing how people would respond to my music, I recorded it anyway, feeling deep inside that everything would be OK. And God has blessed my efforts. As I write this article, my CD *All Things New* has raised \$36,000 for Seashore Mission and has helped to bring numerous work teams from around the country to the Gulf Coast to assist with the rebuilding.

When I entered some of my songs in the **devozine** SoulTunes contest, I never imagined that God would give me another incredible opportunity. My song “Seashore” won first place! Before I knew it, I was on my way to Youth 2007 to sing in front of thousands of young people. As I walked on stage that night, I was nervous; but in that moment, God took over and sang through me. The rest of the week, I connected with many other people my age who are at work all over the world serving God. I am overwhelmed by the ways God can use us if we are willing to do even one small thing. Saying YES to God has changed my life!

God calls us to use our gifts for God’s glory, to tell the good news to people in our homes, schools, jobs, communities, cities, and all over the world. God calls us to be faithful servants in the world; and by being open, we find God leading us to places we never could have imagined. <

**Elizabeth Cumbest, 17, a singer/songwriter, student council member, and high school junior, is active in her church and in the community of Hurley, Mississippi. This spring she will serve as an elected youth delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church. And we hear *Good Morning America* has called!**

## 3 NEXT DAY STRETCH

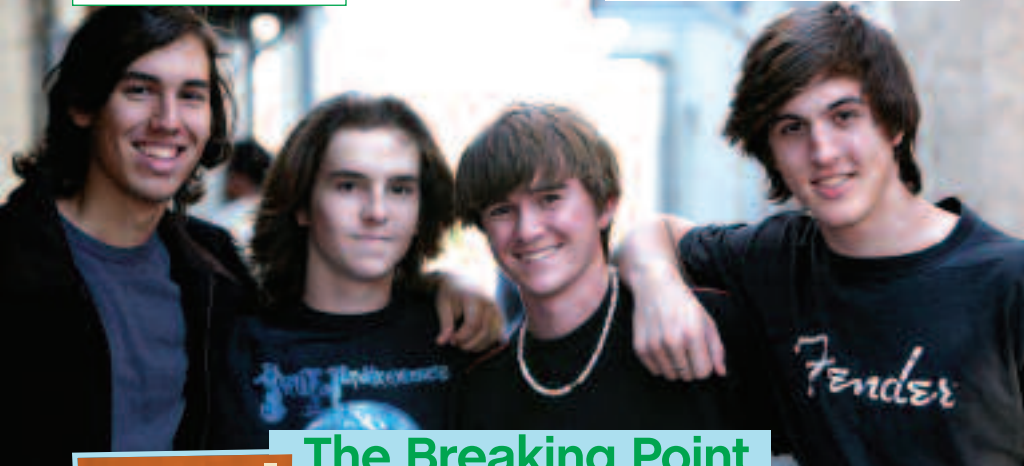
God sometimes uses the storms in life to show us what we never knew about ourselves. How have difficult times changed the soundtrack of your life? **Prayer:** Loving God, lead us through the storms of life that we may always sing your praises. Amen.

*I'm not giving up,  
I'm not letting go.  
I'm going to stay here  
and be a sign of hope!  
Let it not be of me,  
But all of you, O my Lord,  
You make all things new!*

—From “All Things New”



(l to r) Luke, Alex, Andrew, and TJ



## The Breaking Point

**Soul  
Tunes  
CONTEST  
RUNNER-UP**

**ARTISTS:** Andrew Scheuermann, LEAD VOCALS & BASS  
TJ Mitchell, GUITAR  
Luke Berry, DRUMS  
Alex Scheuermann, GUITAR  
Christine Freese, VOCALS (joined since contest)

**FROM:** Merritt Island and Gainesville, Florida  
**SOULTUNES SONG:** "In Your Footsteps"

Our name refers to the breaking point of a wave, when a surfer either catches the wave or misses it. For us, it means *carpe diem* or "seize the day."

Andrew tells how they seized the moment to write "In Your Footsteps": "In the middle of an English class, I suddenly felt I needed to write something down—and out came the words. Alex added the moving guitar chords that drive the song. TJ added the catchy transitions and extras on top, while Luke made up the beat. The song was created in no time, fueled by our passion for our faith. When we read about the SoulTunes contest, we knew this was the song that would best express our devotion to God.

The Breaking Point is also willing to take a stand. Because people close to us have been victims of drunk drivers, we created a music video, using our original song "Dry," about the consequences of drunk driving. We were the first band featured on the *Orlando Rockers for Life* CD, joining hundreds of other rockers across the country to fight drunk driving. We have also joined forces with a local SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) chapter to promote the cause. We hope to continue to use our music to make a difference. <

To order a copy of their CD *At the Gate* (released January 2007), email [Shoemeister@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Shoemeister@cfl.rr.com) or visit [www.myspace.com/thebreakingpointfl](http://www.myspace.com/thebreakingpointfl)

(clockwise from left) Hannah, Kamryn, Allie, Sadie, Anna



## FaithFive

**Soul  
Tunes  
CONTEST  
RUNNER-UP**

**ARTISTS:** Anna McGee, GUITAR & VOCALS  
Sadie Dickinson, GUITAR & VOCALS  
Allie Lambden, VOCALS  
Kamryn Riddle, VOCALS  
Hannah Ligon, VOCALS

**FROM:** Graham, Texas  
**SOULTUNES SONG:** "Lynda's Journey"

We are FaithFive. We used to be our church's Junior High Girls Ensemble; but while writing a song for the SoulTunes contest, we decided to find another name. FaithFive made perfect sense; there are five of us, and we sing about our faith.

"Lynda's Journey" was the first song we wrote together, and it wouldn't have been possible without our friend Lynda. About a week before the contest, Lynda told us about her coming to faith in God through losing two sisters to cystic fibrosis. The feelings and the words in her testimony were real and inspired our song.

"We all hoped the song would be something people could relate to," Kamryn says.

"Writing 'Lynda's Journey' was completely amazing," Allie explains. "God has given us so many things, but the most important was the opportunity to use our gifts to make an impact on other people."

"This is just the beginning of what we hope God will do with us and our songs," Anna adds. "Particularly with 'Lynda's Journey.'"

FaithFive hopes to raise both awareness of cystic fibrosis and funds to help find a cure. The group plans to hold concerts, recreation days, and fundraisers in their community over the next year.

FaithFive is one example of what God can do with ordinary teens who let God work in and through them. <