

# LOU ANN LEE + MINISTRIES

## The growth of local churches is what drives the ministry of national recording artist LouAnn Lee.

By Jim Phelps

In an age where celebrity, even among top Christian musicians, can be an intoxicating reward, LouAnn Lee is driven by something deeper and longer lasting. The growth and fulfillment of the local church.

“Hey, I’m the wife of a pastor,” Lee says. Her husband, Cedric, is the Senior Pastor of Celebration Community Fellowship (CCF) in Meadow Vista, CA., and is a world-class musician in his own right. He was bassist for the Promise Keeper’s band, and has played with jazz artists Kirk Whalum and Tom Braxton. LouAnn is the Worship Pastor at CCF.

“Being married to a pastor has given me a unique perspective. As the worship leader for our church, my role is to first help people open their hearts to a genuine experience with Christ. The effect of that is they are more open to Cedric’s message.”

And that’s the attitude she carries with her to other churches across the country. Besides producing original CD’s, LouAnn’s worship clinics are a major calling God has for her ministry. Her philosophy is simple: artistic excellence and authentic worship effectively open hearts for the pastor’s message.

“When I give a clinic, whether it’s in West Virginia or West Sacramento, I come under that local pastor’s authority. It’s his personality and style that I want to enhance. I understand my role.” She says. “My goal with every clinic is to get people fired-up about their church, their pastor and their leadership.”

The award-winning singer-songwriter has re-

corded eight full-length CD’s of original music. Her most recent CD, *Unto You*, has received substantial airplay on Christian radio across the nation. Keith Mohr, President of Indie Heaven, has called LouAnn a “Christian Bonnie Raitt”.



Lee has written songs for Bryan Duncan, Crystal Lewis, and Lisa Dags and

has been featured twice on Song Discovery with *Worship Leader Magazine*. Most recently (December 2009) she was featured in the electronic version of Song Discovery, with a free download of her song “Joy to the World”. A winner at GMA in the Rockies in the worship category, her songs are being sung in churches all over America and abroad.

To that end, LouAnn’s ministry keeps coming back to the local church. “I think the whole reason God has blessed me to reach a large audience is to

help bring his desire for authentic worship into local churches.”

With degrees in piano, voice and songwriting from University of Texas-Arlington, Lee is an accomplished musician and teacher. She uses her unique skills as a way to connect deeply with the needs of the local pastor, worship leader and their worship team.

“The more a worship team is trained, the more energized and committed they become to the vision the pastor and the worship leader has for their church. As a worship leader myself, I understand how important it is to continually invest in musical and spiritual education.”

LouAnn’s clinics offer a variety of benefits, with an emphasis on vocal development and worship team principles. The backbone of the clinic has the worship team learn one of LouAnn’s songs (appropriate for the experience and skill level of the team), and then perform that song at their next service. Team members receive a vocal CD and songbooks that match the CD.

“I’m practical in my approach. There needs to be a take-away that can be put into practice immediately.” She says. “I want them to experience the energy that comes with successfully performing that song in front of their church.” She also can provide clinics in songwriting. Depending on the needs of the church, LouAnn also offers worship leaders one-to-one consultations, and, depending on location and budget, can perform a concert solo or with her band as a part of the overall workshop package.



“We brought in LouAnn for our Pastoral Team Retreat,” says (Mike H, XXX of XXX Church in Auburn, CA). “The contributions from LouAnn by herself, and her music team, brought the spirit of the Lord into our worship times in a tremendous way. She really blessed us. I look forward to working with her again.”

Another positive benefit is LouAnn’s ecumenical approach. “My desire is to transcend cultural, generational and denominational boundaries through worship. All that matters to me is that there’s a

love for Jesus, and a desire to know his love more deeply and intimately.

“And that’s the local church.” She says. “Remaining faithful to the local church is so important. That’s where we learn to live, love and forgive. A local church is where you grow up. And, as musicians, we need to grow up technically and spiritually.”

LouAnn is currently writing songs for her ninth CD. She is also a popular speaker and worship leader for women’s retreats. Her CD’s, songbooks and sheet music can be found at

[www.LouAnnLee.com](http://www.LouAnnLee.com). To book a clinic, workshop, retreat or concert, contact Lou Ann through her website or by calling 530-637-4617. She can also be found on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

*Jim Phelps is a copywriter based in Northern California. He specializes in working with executive coaches, corporate leaders and creative-types. His writing on creativity and work can be found on his site, [TheCreativeWilderness.com](http://TheCreativeWilderness.com)*