



Turn It Up!

By Adam Borden



WELCOME HOME

JOSEPH HABEDANK / Daywind Records

How can one feel at home in a place he or she has never been? Is it possible to enter a new position and know exactly what to do? When these things happen, it is most likely because of one key factor: preparation.

Each stage of life is preparation for the next. In fact, this whole vaporous, earthly life is nothing more than preparation for our entry into a place we have never been where we will know exactly what to do. Most importantly, we will meet the best Friend we have never seen face to face and hear His words, "Welcome home."

LISTENING NOTES:

Joseph Habedank has found a new home as the freshest face on the solo scene of Southern Gospel music. His entry music is a collection of songs he co-wrote with some of the best musical collaborators of our day. His guide into this uncharted territory is up-and-coming musical producer, Ricky Free. This combination of preparations has resulted in an album that will be a benchmark on the career of this youthful veteran.

I want to focus on a few of the musical ornaments on the walls of Joseph's new home. From the moment we step through the front door, we are greeted with the fresh fragrance of the title track, "Welcome Home." With its happy horn arrangements and comfortable rhythm, any Habedank fan will begin to like the new surroundings.

But, as with every song on *Welcome Home*, the real standout feature is the voice of the host. I remember speaking with Joseph as he was about to transition from baritone to lead with The Perrys. He was a bit unsure at that time if he could pull it off.

I think he got the hang of it.

You might say he feels right at home as a lead vocalist.

As I have revisited *Welcome Home* with more than 50 listens, I found myself coming back to songs such as "The Beauty of the Blood." Against the backdrop of our failures, that blood is made beautiful by the "glory of His grace, the mercy undeserved, love so unexplained." Other powerful ballads include "Now I Know Him" and "When the Lights Go Down."

When you go to josephhabedank.com Joseph's transparency will resonate with so many who face secret struggles. "When the Lights Go Down" gives us courage to bring those struggles into the light of God's love so we can be free.

Last but not least is my favorite song in all my time of writing the "Turn It Up" album reviews, "Never No Never." From the very first play in the minivan, everybody begged for the repeat button. By the end of the first day, my daughter Addy was bragging that she had the whole song memorized. No other song has stuck with me like this. It is so good to know that even in our lonely times we are never alone (Psalm 37:25).

TURN IT UP!!!

To make your housework fly by, *turn up* "Begging For Change" and "Wonders With Water." Had a heavy load laid on you? *Turn up* "Big Enough" and "Now I Know Him." Want to introduce a teenager to this style of Gospel music? *Turn up* "Empty" and "A Little Bit of Thunder."

SONG TITLES:

1. "Welcome Home"
2. "Begging For Change"
3. "Big Enough"
4. "Never No Never"
5. "Empty" (featuring Russ Taff)
6. "The Beauty of the Blood"
7. "Wonders With Water"
8. "Now I Know Him"
9. "A Little Bit of Thunder"
10. "When the Lights Go Down"

THE CREDITS:

Produced & Arranged by: Ricky Free

Piano/Keys/B3: Jonathan Brown

Drums: Ricky Free

Acoustic Guitar: Scott Dente'

Electric Guitar: Dave Cleveland & Kelly Black

Banjo: Andrew DeRoberts

Cello: Molly Cherryholmes

Piccolo Trumpet: Steve Patrick

Strings Arranged by: Cliff Duren

Background vocals: Russell Terrell