

Face to Face - CD

The Artist - Annmarie

I could tell you all about where I was born and raised, and the rest of my life story, but I'd much rather just share the meaningful parts with you. I will tell you I've sung at Canterbury Cathedral in England and Notre Dame Cathedral in France. I also met Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in Rome. I live in southern Illinois with one very supportive husband who believes in me and two children who, although they don't always operate under the same mission statement as the rest of the household, are my very heartbeats.

Singing is my security, my niche. It's helped me develop my sense of self and has always been incredibly therapeutic. For many years, it was a challenge for me to sing unless I took the kids with me... to practices and the actual events. I remember attending lots of late-night choir rehearsals holding my two sleeping young children on my shoulders and singing away. I thank God for the patience He gave to the other members of the choir.

Fortunately, that period of my life is over, and I'm making up for lost time. Now I sing as much as I can and love every minute of it. My children still come with me sometimes, but now it's by choice, and I don't put them to sleep! I feel truly blessed to have been given this voice and the opportunities to share it.

Now I'll tell you how this music came to life.

The Music

This CD started out as one huge question mark. I was already working on my "Come to the Holy Banquet" CD, but I had made a promise to a very important friend of mine to get my music "out to the world." To do that, I needed to find a way to present it using different styles that would appeal to a variety of audiences.

I took a deep breath and sent a piano-voice demo of my music to producer and arranger Michael Ferenci in Hollywood. It was the biggest risk of my

life. What if he didn't like it? He listened to it, liked what he heard, and proceeded to infuse his magic into this music. He successfully turned eight very similar songs and two liturgical pieces into 10 distinctly different works of art.

When the arrangements were finished, I flew to his studio in California. This was an opportunity of a lifetime for me. Suffice to say, the 40 hours we spent together in his studio were incredible. I learned more from him than I have in the last 20 years and am very thankful. He is an amazingly talented man, extremely passionate, and loves producing great music. It was an experience that has opened doors to possibilities that I thought, at one time, were only available to a chosen few. Thank you for going above and beyond our expectations, Michael. It was an honor.

Enjoy.