

## From Seclusion and Poverty to Carnegie Hall, Book Details Songwriter's Journey to the Top of the Charts and the Raising of America's Most Unique Family Band

*The brothers and sisters that comprise The Annie Moses Band are the culmination of four generations of musical heritage, God-given talent and their mother's blessed determination to nurture their gifts and a life of harmony – both musically and spiritually*

### What is it?

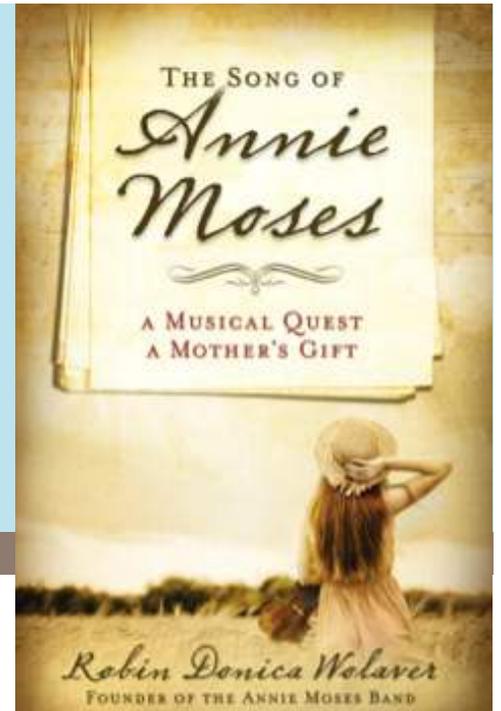
The story of speaker, songwriter, and mother, Robin Donica Wolaver, *'The Song of Annie Moses'* creatively and entertainingly recounts how one mother, born in mountain poverty and seclusion, led her children, through hard work and spiritual development, to the Juilliard School and ultimately, Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry. As families crumble in ever growing numbers, the story of Wolaver's family is a testament to another way of living - one that embraces ancient truths often forgotten. A tapestry of wit and wisdom, told with characteristic humor by a woman with a singular passion - to see other families follow a similar path to unity, boundless creativity and spiritual joy.

### Who wrote it?

**Robin Wolaver** holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Oklahoma City University. She is a singer/speaker/writer living in Nashville, Tennessee with her husband and fellow composer, Bill Wolaver, and their six children, Annie, Alex, Benjamin, Camille, Gretchen and Jeremiah. Together, they comprise The Annie Moses Band, and perform over 80 concerts annually across North America.

An award-winning lyricist, Wolaver has been twice nominated for a Dove Award in both the Song of the Year and Best Children's Musical categories. She has been awarded the honor of Gospel Song of the Year by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, (ASCAP), as well as the Nashville Songwriters Association. She served for four years as a staff songwriter for Word, Inc., and has works published by Word, Sparrow, LifeWay, Lillenas, Hal Leonard, Maranatha! Music, Integrity, Shawnee Press, and Brent wood-Benson.

Her latest releases, offered in partnership with LifeWay Music Publishing, include a pair of children's musicals (*Penny Whistle Park: All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *Hallelujah Harvest!*), octavos and a violin curriculum for children, written with her eldest daughter, Annie.



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### FIND THEM ONLINE

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## Why?

- "I've learned a lot. Many parents witness the fruits of my labor, seeing my children perform together and approach me with questions about **how to achieve greater success in the musical endeavors of their own talented children**. With the book, I'm able to share my story and the wisdom I've been blessed to gain from it."
- "The church is losing the battle for the hearts and minds of this generation, through the influence of the arts. Church music has become, with limited exceptions, monochromatic and thinly-skilled. **We've ceased to substantively educate the very young, musically.**"
- "Parents are often distracted, unable to focus on the minutia of what is necessary to raise children who are both rooted in the truth of God and who possess a highly-skilled, artistic voice to proclaim that truth to the world."
- "My vision is for the church to begin to reverse the common trends and **encourage the teaching of high musical skill to the very young, to help parents structure their homes in such a way as to maximize artistic success in their children's lives** ... and, in doing so, again saturate the world of the arts with godliness and excellence—excellence so overwhelming, so real, that the unbeliever cannot deny it or ignore it."

## Who cares?

- Young parents, grandparents, teachers, and pastors/church leaders wishing to be better equipped for success in navigating the artistic development and education of children.
- Those wishing to learn how to navigate access to elite institutions like The Juilliard School.
- Educators looking to discover developmental reasons for beginning a child's education with the study of music.
- Parents seeking ways to ground their children in the truth of Scripture and create familial bonds that last a lifetime.
- Anyone interested in starting a family band or grooming a musical family.
- Anyone intrigued to know how a Christian navigates the professional music world.

## Why is the book relevant?

Wolaver says:

"The arts are the most influential force at work in modern culture, yet most of what is seen and heard does not convey the truth of God or the beauty of His character. The church must be inspired to raise up a generation of highly-skilled artistic voices, young people who are rooted and grounded in the Lord, to confront this trend and to be godly leaders in the arena of the arts."

"According to the Barna Group's latest demographics, only 1% of young girls between the ages of 15-17 say they want to be a wife and mother. It is important that we encourage women of all ages as to the high call of Mothering."

Funding for arts education is being cut substantially, across the country, year after year.

Motherhood, encouraging nurturing your childrens' gifts.

## Why she's qualified to speak on the topic:

- Established and award-winning songwriter
- History of leadership in arts education
- Her life's work of developing extraordinary excellence in the musical skill of her children (four attended Julliard)



Annie Moses Band:  
Over 700 hours on PBS  
[www.anniemosesband.com/  
features/over-700-hours-on-pbs/](http://www.anniemosesband.com/features/over-700-hours-on-pbs/)

Christmas with Annie Moses  
Band airing on PBS  
[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=MEQkaOk65LU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEQkaOk65LU)

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- Speaks often to parents on the subject of nurturing artistic success in children.
- Is working, together with her family, to equip the church to vocationally train a new generation of young, highly- skilled musicians, having have launched both a line of curriculum and The Annie Moses Conservatory as a model.
- Directs a Fine Arts Summer Academy, held at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, grooming hundreds of young people from across the United States and Canada for excellence in the arts. Over 200 students from ages 4 to 22 come to hone their artistic craft, and discover their innate gifts as performers each summer.

## Sneak Peek:

*"A miraculous musical journey spanning four generations brought our family to the Juilliard School and to world stages, including Carnegie Hall. When I look back over my life and the lives of family members who preceded us, I can clearly see the finger of God, stuck in the dirt, plowing a path before us, shaping our music and our message for His purposes. It is a path of switchbacks and surprises, of talent lost then found, of hopeless poverty kicked aside by grim determination, of musical opportunities withheld by God's left hand ... only to be purified and reissued with His right.*

*My song began as a soft hum in the black dirt of a Texas cotton field. It crescendoed under the influence of the gentle, mournful style of the Choctaw Indians and the happy hillbilly Gospel of a mountain church in the Oklahoma hills. Then, it was tailored by a university's learned guidance, tested under the cynical frown of Nashville's professionals, joined by my husband and our own brood of children and carried halfway across a continent."*

## More on the Band:

- The Annie Moses Band is an ensemble unlike any in America today. A blend of fiddle, jazz and classical influences, fused with soaring, folk-inspired vocals creates a sound that is both refreshing and familiar. The Annie Moses Band is a family bringing classicism to the common man.
- With 1000+ hours of airings on PBS stations across the country (the highest debut for any artist on public television to date), a top-ten Classical Crossover album (Billboard Magazine), a bustling tour schedule of over 80 concerts a year before 100,000+ people, and a plethora of appearances in print and on television, the family is pulling new fans from across musical genres to their eclectic style of music making.
- The group's PBS special, "Christmas with the Annie Moses Band", received over 1,100 hours of airings. Their Christmas album, "This Glorious Christmas", reached the top ten on Billboard Magazine's classical crossover chart and was aired on TBN. A subsequent special, "Message in a Baby", was also aired on TBN and "Faith, Family & Music", a musical documentary on the Wolaver family, received 78 hours of airings on multiple national networks.
- Named in honor of the children's great-grandmother.
- AMB's music is a tapestry of Americana favorites and original tunes. Jazz re-imaginings ("Poor Wayfaring Pilgrim"), Copland-esque renditions of Celtic classics ("Blarney Pilgrim"), Appalachian echoes ("Girl of Constant Sorrow" and "Trail Mix"), and progressive strings and vocals ("The Road Well Traveled") make Pilgrims & Prodigals the Band's definitive project thus far.

Beyond this success, the Annie Moses Band enjoys the fact that their music is an inspiration to a new generation of young artisans. "Everywhere we perform there are returning children, who say 'I started playing a couple of years ago after we saw your concert' ... which is, of course, exactly what we hope will happen," Annie explains.

## Meet the family:

### Bill Wolaver

composer/arranger/pianist

### Robin Wolaver

vocalist/lyricist/composer/speaker

### Annie

lead vocals, violin

### Alex

lead vocals, viola

### Benjamin

cello

### Camille

harp, keyboard, vocals

### Gretchen

violin, mandolin, guitar, vocals

### Jeremiah

guitar

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