



Christmas 2016.

**T**oday, we're featuring Brian Speer. He's married to the incredible Allison Durham Speer and is the youngest son of Brock and Faye Speer of The Speer Family.

Having known Brian and Allison for quite a while, I can easily say that they are perfectly suited for one another, because their personalities are perfectly matched. She's hilarious on stage, and he keeps everyone in stitches off stage. She sings, and he engineers her sound. Yes, they're one of those couples who go together like peanut butter and jelly.

While we enjoy hearing Allison perform because we love her comedy and her amazing voice, Brian is always there behind the scenes, doing all those things that are necessary to keep the ministry wheels in motion. They're great folks, and I'm excited to have this opportunity to visit with Brian Speer!

# Brian & Allison Speer Married To The Music

By Melissa Brady

## How did you meet?

I graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1986 with a double major in accounting and business administration. In 1989, I was working at Homeland Records in Nashville as controller. Bill Traylor heard a young girl sing and wanted to sign her. The staff was all for it—except for me. I argued that she would get married and have children, and then we would be stuck with one record and no artist on the road. Needless to say, I was wrong about that! Our first date was a hiking trip and then dinner at my parents' house. She loved The Speer Family, and that sealed the deal for me!

## Music is not your chosen profession, so tell us a little more about yourself.

I traveled with The Speer Family from 1978 to 1982 and played bass, guitar, and sang a bit. Feeling the need for an education, I left the group and went to college. As I said, when I met Allison, I was an accountant; but I always worked in the music business, either as a controller or a royalty accountant. I've gotten into producing and engineering projects for other artists, as well as working on Allison's recordings. I engineered her vocals on her new CD, *Abandon*.



The year was 1966: Brian is shown singing on stage with The Speer Family. Also in the picture are (L-R) Brock Speer, Herchel Lester, and Tommy Fairchild.

### What is life like when she's out on the road?

One of the joys of our lives is that I get to travel with her and have since we've been married. That has given us many wonderful memories through the years. We've met people, and we've seen places and things that we've been very blessed to see. Since I travel with her, she puts me to work. I'm her road manager, driver, soundman, roadie, valet, masseuse, and part-time psychiatrist. Coming from a home where my dad was gone every weekend and my mom stayed home with three kids, I know what a blessing it is for us to be together. We wouldn't have it any other way.

### What is life like when she's home?

We seem to work all the time when we're home. Most days, Allison is in her studio making beautiful glass jewelry. I work in our home office filling product orders, paying bills, and keeping the ministry running. In my spare time, I engineer and produce music. But one thing we have learned to do is to spend time together in the morning drinking coffee and watching the news. And in the evening, around supertime we turn the work off and share a meal then read, watch a movie or a favorite TV show. It's hard to get us out of the house during the evening when we're home—it has to be something very special.

### Who takes out the trash?

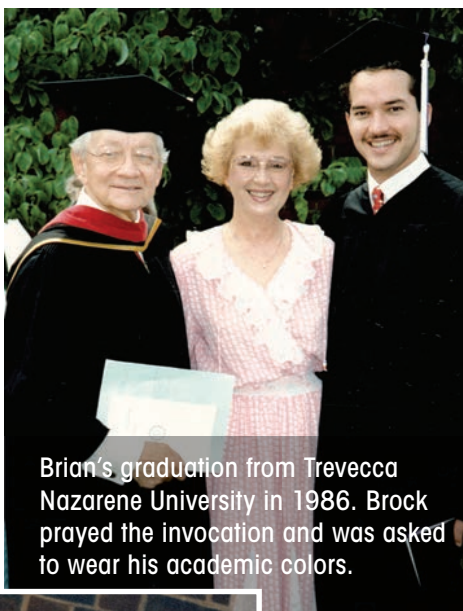
Generally, I do. Allison will gather up the trash from the top floor of the house and I'll do the bottom, but I normally am the one to take it out to the can. And, yes, we recycle!

### Who does the cooking?

Allison does; and if you ate my cooking, you'd know why. My mom was an amazing cook, but her culinary talent was not passed down to me. I can grill a mean steak, though. The grill is my domain.

### Who proposed?

Honestly, it was kind of a mutual understanding that we were supposed to be together, and that happened pretty fast. I did, however, give her a ring and ask her in the proper manner.



Brian's graduation from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1986. Brock prayed the invocation and was asked to wear his academic colors.



Wedding day, December 19, 1989.

### What song do you enjoy hearing her sing the most?

Allison is an amazing songwriter, and she wrote one on her new CD that I think is the best song she's ever written. It is called "In The Meantime," and she co-wrote it with the most talented Marcia Henry. It is a four-minute sermon on the book of Job. My dad used to talk about songs having the feeling built in, and this one definitely has that.

### What is her greatest asset?

The amazing versatility of her creativity. Allison is an artist and can paint, sculpt, make beautiful glass jewelry, and make anything with her hands. She has an immense drive to learn and is a junior at Liberty University in their online school of religion. Her GPA stands at 3.95, something I'm very proud of. The GPA shows that Allison is a very hard worker.

### People would be surprised to learn...

Allison is a total tomboy! She likes nothing better than to work in the yard and get covered in dirt! I got a small drone for Christmas last year and promptly flew it into the neighbor's tree. Who do you think climbed up and got it down for me?



Allison making jewelry in her workshed. This is the raw glass used to make jewelry.



A typical night in the Speer house: Brian working on his computer and Allison reading.

**What quality do you love most about Allison?**

I think it would be her desire to learn. When she finds a subject interesting, she buys every book she can find on it. A couple of years ago, she became interested in Jewish history and teachings. Now our bookshelves are bowing under with books on Jewish culture. We want to grow old together and always continue our education.



Brian and Allison's 11-year-old Schnauzer, Ellie. Ellie knows how to sing, too!

These two have wrestled on the floor since Ellie came to live with them in 2005.

**Describe Allison in one word.**

Ornery! Said in love, of course.

**What is the worst thing about being Married To The Music?**

That's an easy one—sound check! We have our worst arguments over her dumb ear monitors!



Brian's favorite cookies are sugar cookies ... he's trying to get at them before they're done!

**What is the best thing about being Married To The Music?**

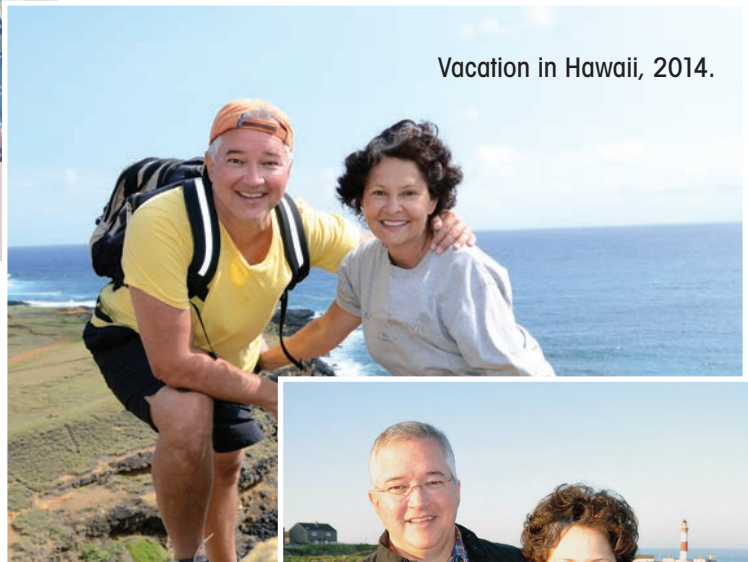
Being able to travel and meet wonderful people and experience the world together doing something we both love and consider our calling.

**In five words, describe life as a singer's husband.**

Busy, tiring, hectic, rewarding, and full.

**Excluding God, family and friends, what are three things you can't live without?**

Coffee, Jelly Bellys, and my Kindle. **sn**



Vacation in Hawaii, 2014.



Brian and Allison in Scotland.

*She said...*

Brian is the engine that drives all of our work together. He is the kindest man on earth and has a way of keeping our priorities of serving Jesus in the forefront of our lives. Since he is so skilled in so many areas, he brilliantly takes care of a multitude of things in our household. I am married to a man who blesses me with his love daily and not just when we are out ministering. The past 27 years have been the best!  
—Allison