

# Winning Talent Contest Started Troy Simons' Singing Career

By **BOB SCRUGGS**  
T-G Staff Writer

"Winning is everything," pronounced football coach Vince Lombardi. Whether it is or not is problematical, but it is something ... and it is the something that started Troy Simons on his way to the musical stage.

Winning a talent contest in 1988 at Antillian College, Puerto Rico, really started Simons' singing career. He began to look for opportunities to sing in public. Starting with weddings, he followed by singing with popular groups, such as 'Ecos de Amor,' 'Sparkles of Joy,' and 'The AC Quartet.'

Feeling that living in the United States would give him more opportunity for music, he wound up in Shelbyville, Tenn. To support himself, he started a business called Simons Graphics, where today he creates logos, designs T-shirt graphics, and oversees a printing operation.

His own church, The First Seventh-Day Adventist, has benefited from his talents, but other churches are inviting him now. It was the First Presbyterian Church that gave him his first invitation to minister away from his home church. First Christian quickly followed up with an invitation, hearing the enthusiastic reaction to his singing.

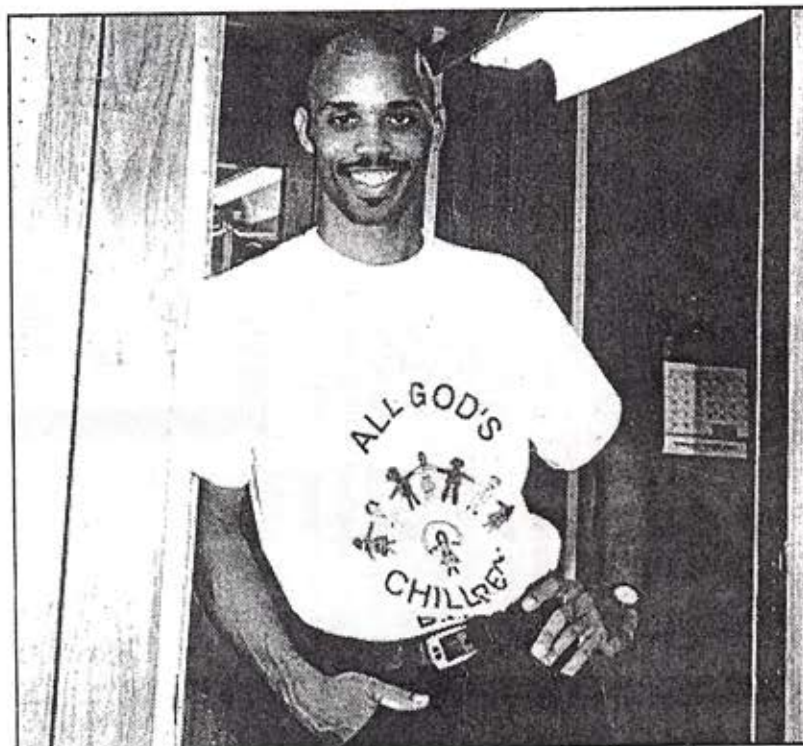
Troy is blessed with a powerful and rich voice. In a word, his talent is stunning. He wants to producing an album soon to showcase his voice. Another ambition is to simply travel and make music. His chief joy is his 22-month-old daughter, Tiffany. He knows already that she will carry on his musical tradition.

Between music and graphics and printing, Troy has little spare time. But he manages to occasionally take a walk with

his border collie, Laddie. He also has his eye on a saddle horse. He vows to find time for riding some in the beautiful middle Tennessee setting of Flat Creek, where he lives with his

parents, Garry and Jean Simons.

Troy's motto gets its inspiration from Lombardi's famous comment on winning, but Troy insists that, "Singing is everything."



T-G Photo by Bob Scruggs

## *Simons Sings Gospel*

**Troy Simons, multi-talented musician, sings and plays the keyboard. He is also a graphic artist. He's being heard more and more here in Shelbyville. Listen for him during Saturday's AutumnEve.**