

Marsha Stevens-Pino is widely recognized as the “mother of contemporary Christian music.” She penned the deeply beloved song “For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)” at age 16, and her influence helped shape the early Jesus Movement and contemporary Christian music scene.

After publicly coming out as a lesbian in 1981, she faced severe rejection: her songs were removed from hymnals, performances were canceled, and she was largely ostracized by the mainstream Christian music industry. In response, Marsha founded BALM Ministries (Born Again Lesbian Music), creating a vital artistic and spiritual home for LGBTQ+ Christians.

Justin Ryan—a queer Christian singer-songwriter originally from Paducah, KY met Marsha through the Metropolitan Community Church after a period of personal crisis and disenfranchisement from traditional gospel circles.

Encouraged by Marsha, Justin moved to Nashville to record with her, which led to studio work and background singing for renowned country artists.

In 2024–2025, BALM recognized Justin’s contributions by appointing him to their Board of Directors. In this leadership role, Justin helps steer outreach efforts, shares his training experience, and continues producing his popular Southern Gospel Sissy Series on Facebook and YouTube.

PRESENTS

BALM MINISTRIES Marsha Stevens-Pino & Justin Ryan

In Concert



In concert on

Saturday, April 11th

at 5:00 PM

Maple Street Chapel

220 S. Main Street, Lombard

Admission: Free will offering

For info call: 630-629-2630 ext. 210