

shoulder to the stone

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HOUSTON MUSICIANS BAND TOGETHER FOR MUSIC VIDEO BENEFITING HAITI ORPHANAGE

(Houston, TX) In response to the January 2010 devastation in Haiti, a group of songwriters, musicians and visual artists from Houston, Texas decided to pool their collective talents into a multi-faceted musical project known as “*Shoulder to the Stone*”, to raise money for both an orphanage and a Haitian relief worker. The earthquake leveled the home of Jimmy Jean-Noel, killing everyone in his family except one brother. The Orphelinat Petit De L’Enfant Jesus De Prague is devoted to the care of 35 children whose parents are deceased or otherwise unable to care for them. The small orphanage was seriously damaged by the earthquake, forcing the staff and children onto the street in tents, and in search of water and basic necessities.

Shoulder to the Stone began as a simple CD compilation fundraising effort by area songwriters, but rapidly expanded into other areas as more of the Houston production community became involved. Soon an original song was co-written by songwriters/artists Saylor White and Jack Saunders, and then the concept expanded again into forming a group of singers to record the song to include on the compilation disc. A video documentarian came into the project to capture the spirit of the team effort during the recording session.

“When I thought about writing a song”, White commented, “the phrase, ‘sometimes we feel broken by nature or by man’ came to me, but the song never quite got to the stage that it felt complete. Jack Saunders agreed to meet me and read the lyrics and possibly take part in finishing the song. He solved the problem with his first thought when he said this whole thing is about putting a ‘shoulder to the stone’.”

The CD is available for sale at www.mytexasmusic.com and contains eighteen songs contributed by some of Houston’s top Folk and Americana singer/songwriters, along with the group recording of the signature song, “*Shoulder to the Stone*”. All proceeds benefit the relief efforts of the organization, which will expand its scope in the coming days to benefit others in crisis, beyond the current situation in Haiti.

The music video will debut on YouTube beginning May 16th, 2010. For more information, visit www.shouldertothestone.com.

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