

## **Haskell Cooley Bio**

Without a doubt one of the most recognized names over the past 30 years in Southern Gospel Music has been [The Cathedral Quartet](#). Names such as [Gerald Wolfe](#), [Mark Trammell](#), [Scott Fowler](#), and others come to mind when you speak of the Cathedral Legacy. One of the early names to be associated with **The Cathedral Quartet** was **Mr. Haskell Cooley**.

**Haskell Cooley** was born in Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma, a town that only just a few years ago, “made it on the map,” **Haskell** chuckled.

“My playing technique is somewhat unique I guess,” **Haskell** began. He started playing piano at the age of 13, and was for the most part, self-taught. His first group to play for was **The Cooley Brothers**, consisting of **Haskell** and his two siblings. They sang mostly in the Oklahoma-Arkansas region.

**Haskell's** formal training began at the [Stamps School of Music](#) in Dallas, he then studied classical music while attending college. Incorporating both styles of music helped to set-apart **Haskell** and made his piano playing very recognizable.

After college **Haskell** took a job teaching piano at the Easmon Napier School of Music in Wichita, Kansas one of his first students was a young lady named **JoLee**. She began bringing chocolate chip cookies to the teacher and after a few lessons the cookies became payment; **JoLee** had won the heart of her teacher! Soon they were married.

In 1972 **Haskell** joined the [Weatherfords](#) playing piano. “I am eternally grateful to **Lily Fern** and her late husband **Earl** for giving me a chance to play gospel music for the first time on a professional level,” stated **Haskell**. **Glen Payne** with the **Cathedral Quartet** called in April of 1974 and the **Cooleys** made the move to Stow, Ohio, the home base of the **Cathedrals**. “I spent four wonderful years with the [Cathedral Quartet](#) that included some special memories for me personally,” said **Haskell**.

In 1978 their son **Cason** was born. The **Cooleys** made the decision to move back to Wichita, desiring to be closer to their families again and enabling **Cason** time to be with his grandparents.

Little **Cason** was just 5 months old when The **Cooleys** began traveling and singing on their own, by the age of 2 he had joined them on stage. “We have a daughter, **Camissa**, who graduated from high school this past May,” said **Haskell**. **Camissa** still travels with her parents on occasion. **Cason** works in music production and lives in Nashville, Tennessee

Several recordings on which **Haskell** is the pianist have been nominated for Grammy Awards by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. In addition, **Haskell** has been the nominee for several [Singing News](#) Fan Awards.

**Haskell** and **JoLee** are also accomplished songwriters. Two of their best known songs are, “I’ll Sail Away Home” and “Gonna Shout All Over Heaven”, both made popular by [The Cathedral Quartet](#).

When asked if it had been worth it, **Haskell** replied with a resounding, “Oh Yes! Gospel Music has been my life. Looking back on my career, I was honored to have been associated with two of the great names in Southern Gospel Music, **The Weatherfords** and **Cathedral Quartet**. Now for the past 25 years to be able to travel with my family has been the ultimate reward for me personally.”