



## Contemporary Christian Music History - 1969

If you were around in 1969, what was the Lord doing in your life?

After 147 years, the last issue of the Saturday Evening Post was published. In January, Richard Nixon succeeds Lyndon Johnson as President of the United States. The Beatles last public performance took place on the roof of Apple Records. Major League baseball player Mickey Mantle announced his retirement. After CBS canceled the program, the Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour was broadcast in June of 1969. Woodstock took place in August of that year in upstate New York. The children's program Sesame Street premiered that year. The Jackson 5 released their debut album in December. Some of the popular songs from 1969 included: The Boxer by Simon & Garfunkel, Aquarius by Fifth Dimension, Proud Mary by CCR and Pinball Wizard by The Who.

And in contemporary Christian music, David and the Giants formed as a rock group in 1969. John Fischer was an influential songwriter during the late 1960's Jesus Movement. He began recording in 1969. Larnelle Harris, well known for many hits and duets with Sandi Patty also well known for his 1985 hit "How Excellent Is Thy Name" graduated from Western Kentucky University in '69. Larry Norman had turned down the lead role in the Broadway musical "Hair" and in 1969 he recorded contemporary Christian music's first album "Upon This Rock". Time Magazine described him as "Jesus Movement's Poet Laureate". John Michael Talbot joined the country rock band Mason Proffit that was started by him and his brother Terry. Danny Taylor was a form of spokesman for the early Jesus Movement scene as a columnist for "Harmony Magazine". 1969 is the year that Danny began recording.

I hope this brought back some memories for you. It is encouraging to look back, remember where we were then and see the hand of God in our lives. This has been a brief look at the year 1969 in the history of contemporary Christian music.