AN INTERVIEW WITH OREST HRYNEWICH

The Music Of The Passion

Orest Hrynewich is a Vineyard worship leader in the heart of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He had the privilege of partnering to create music for Mel Gibson's ***The Passion****, released in theaters last year. Here is his interview with Inside Worship.*

What do you currently do for a living?
I'm a partner in a company called Smack Dab Music in Toronto. We compose, program and record music for TV and movies. I also have a home studio in which my wife Liana and I write, produce and teach music.

How did you get involved with Mel Gibson's ***The Passion****, and what was your role?*
My company's major client is a composer named Jack Lenz of Lenz Entertainment. He was able to demo for *The Passion* and was hired as the first composer to score the movie. Jack hired me as a programmer, which means I find sounds, arrange and compose some of the music score. I make the cues sound good. I worked on the project for approximately six months.

How did that experience impact you personally?
Jesus is about relationships, with Himself and others. An obvious impact on me was to see some of what Jesus went through as a man for us. You can't watch someone get flogged for six months and not have it change you. The other relationship most notably affected was my relationship with Jack. Jack is a Bahai, and has a strong belief in God and a high reverence for Jesus. I am a Christian who has a personal relationship with Jesus. We used to pray before starting work on the project everyday and our relationship has grown from it. To actually be working on a project with such a spiritual message about Jesus was both an amazing privilege and emotionally draining.

In what ways should a creative Christian be involved in impacting culture?
We shouldn't hide ourselves within our own Christian circles. We are part of our society's culture and thus should help shape it. The arts usually are a mirror of what is taking place in our society. They appeal to our senses and, in turn, help shape society. Creativity shouldn't only apply to the arts but to all areas of our life.

Since God is the creator, and we have a direct link to Him through the Holy Spirit, then we should be the most creative and innovative people around. As people we tend to put everything in boxes so that we know where it is, and how it works. We must remember that God is dynamic. We must be pliable in our ways and try to see what He is doing and move in His direction, not ours. We must get closer to Him.



OREST HRYNEWICH is a composer, producer, songwriter and teacher working in the television and movie industry in Toronto. He is an elder and worship leader, along with his wife Liana, at the Toronto Downtown Vineyard in Canada. They produced and recorded the Downtown Vineyard's *Underground Streams* CD which features some of their original material.

