



**Bridget Willard**

# Bridget Willard

Bridget's love of music originates from her first listen to the great jazz singers: Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughn, and Ella Fitzgerald. She grew up with her mother singing the songs of Billie Holiday, Bonnie Raitt, and Barbara Streisand. Her influences vary from those jazz greats to Eric Clapton and James Taylor. Bridget loves a good melody and is evident in her songs with strong melodic lines.

While taking a voice class at San Diego State University just for fun, her teacher had commented that he would pay to hear her sing. That class in 1995 stirred up in Bridget a desire to study music. She realized that it wasn't too late to develop her gift.

It was in 1996 that she began to seriously pursue the development of her craft in music by taking private piano lessons. She began to write songs during that time and began to take guitar lessons as well as piano lessons. After a serious shoulder injury in 2002, she was unable to continue playing the guitar, but still plays piano at a weekly home fellowship.

She has either participated as a keyboardist and/or vocalist on worship teams with her mentor [Chris Falson](#), as well as with Gary Arthur, and [Chariya Bissonette](#), and Mark Perez.

Aside from being a help mate to her husband, Mercier Willard, a pastor of Pardoned Prodigals, Bridget's main gifting and calling is for leading worship. She has lead worship with children, teens, and women as well as in prayer meetings, retreats, and small group Bible studies since 1996.

Bridget is also a gifted teacher and has taught children, teens, and women's Bible studies. She has organized, facilitated, taught, and lead worship for several women's retreats. She focuses her time on exhorting and encouraging believers to be active with their gifts and callings from the Lord.

She has been reaching out to the community of Anaheim for the past few years at the Friday Night Motel Outreach through song, prayer, encouragement, fellowship, and children's ministry.

She is also an author of her essays, poems, and devotionals and is a featured devotional writer for [indievisionmusic.com](#). She has also just completed a devotional journal for worship leaders titled: [On the Mountain](#).

