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THE  
**STAMPS-BAXTER**  
**QUARTET**

Travel On

# THE **Travel On** STAMPS-BAXTER QUARTET

## The Stamps-Baxter Quartet

by Richard Weize

1. date; 2. personnel • 3. title no.; 4. title;  
5. Sesac catalogue no.; 6. composer/writer

poss. 1949

The Stamps-Baxter Quartet:

'Ma' Baxter: alto;  
J.R. 'Pap' Baxter: baritone;  
Vernie Fossett: tenor;  
Clyde Roach: bass  
with Katherine Fossett: piano

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <b>Travel On</b> .....R 751<br>(Luther G. Presley - V.O. Fossett)           | 7. <b>He Keeps My Soul</b> .....R 752<br>(J.R. 'Pap' Baxter)      |
| 2. <b>He Had To Go To Calvary</b> .....R 751<br>(Charles E. Moody)             | 8. <b>Somebody Knows</b> .....R 752<br>(J.B. Coats)               |
| 3. <b>Let Me Travel</b> .....R 751<br>(Luther G. Presley)                      | 9. <b>He Took Away My Burden</b> .....R 752<br>(Mary E. Naylor)   |
| 4. <b>My God Is True</b> .....R 751<br>(Arville Lilly)                         | 10. <b>A Beautiful Prayer</b> .....R 752<br>(Luther G. Presley)   |
| 5. <b>I'll Shout And Shine</b> .....R 751<br>(J.B. Coats - Eugene Wright)      | 11. <b>In The Shadow Of The Cross</b> .....R 752<br>(E.A. Welch)  |
| 6. <b>I Love My Saviour Too</b> .....R 751<br>(J.B. Coats - J.R. 'Pap' Baxter) | 12. <b>Nothing But The Blood</b> .....R 752<br>(Robert Lowry, PD) |





Launched as a promotional adjunct to the South's most successful publisher of religious songbooks, the Stamps Quartet and the Stamps-Baxter Quartet share a convoluted, intertwined history.

The original Stamps Quartet actually predated the Stamps-Baxter Music and Printing Company. In 1924 Virgil O. Stamps left the James D. Vaughn Publishing Company to set up a singing school and publishing house in Jacksonville, Texas. About the same time his younger brother Frank formed the Stamps Quartet, modeled after the successful Vaughn Quartet.

In 1926 V. O. brought J.R. 'Pap' Baxter into his business, and Stamps-Baxter Publishing Company issued its first shape-note songbook, 'Harbor Bells.' One 'Harbor Bells' song, *Give The World A Smile*, became a syncopated showcase for Frank Stamps's group, its four-part harmonies driven by Dwight Brock's piano. When Victor signed The Stamps Quartet in 1927, *Give The World A Smile*

became a runaway hit. Along with Brock's lively turnarounds between verses, the record established the standard 'four men and a piano' template used by many gospel quartets for the next thirty years.

Meanwhile, V. O. Stamps created a rival group, The Original Stamps Quartet. When V. O. challenged his brother over use of the Stamps name, Frank renamed his Victor recording group Frank H. Stamps and His All-Star Quartet. If two competing Stamps quartets weren't enough, V. O. allowed quartets that bought Stamps-Baxter songbooks to use that name in concert.

V. O.'s quartet inevitably became the definitive Stamps ensemble, promoted by broadcasts on KRLD in Dallas, transcriptions over XERL in Del Rio, Texas, and recordings for Vocalion. When V.O. died in 1940, Frank disbanded his Iowa-based group and returned to Dallas to become Baxter's partner and bring his distinctive low bass vocals



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to the company's quartet. In 1945 he sold his interests in Stamps-Baxter to form the Stamps Quartet Music Company, a move that caused more confusion among gospel music enthusiasts. By some estimates, about forty quartets toured under the Frank Stamps and Stamps-Baxter umbrellas.

About 1949 Pap Baxter's flagship Stamps- Baxter Quartet made these transcription recordings for SESAC (R 751/752). With his wife Clarice 'Ma' Baxter singing alto, this particular ensemble sounds more like the popular Fort Worth-based Chuck Wagon Gang than its prewar Stamps predecessors. Vernie Fossett sings tenor; Pap Baxter handles the baritone part; and Clyde Roach sings bass. Katherine Fossett accompanies on piano.

By 1951 the Blackwood Brothers and the Statesmen heralded a new renaissance of gospel singing. Though Stamps-Baxter fielded a dynamic new quartet led by tenor Clyde Garner, the publisher no longer dominated the gospel market as it had in the past.

**Dave Samuelson**  
 Battle Ground, Indiana  
 June 2007



## ...and more bears RECORDINGS

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For the very first time you now can acquire – exclusively through ...AND MORE BEARS – the PT Master Recording catalog, formerly known as 'SESAC Transcribed Library'. Extensive parts of this catalog will be available worldwide for downloading through the regular channels and platforms, as well as CD-on-demand albums.

The most important point for music lovers and collectors is the material's exclusiveness: the music was unavailable elsewhere.

The musicians and band-leaders were given studio time to record exclusive sessions of extra songs. Successful artists liked SESAC because it meant some extra money. From the very beginning, the repertoire was only available on a loan basis for radio stations - every month the stations were given 40 cm transcription discs (later LP-sized discs) that were delivered with complete text information for the radio presenters. For DJs, SESAC transcriptions meant interesting and rare material for their audiences. And the sound quality is brilliant, as the recordings took place in some of America's best studios, and outstanding arrangers worked on these sessions.

These recordings were initially produced for SESAC, America's second-oldest copyright society. The library was active from the late 1940s until the early '80s. The rights to the recordings were owned exclusively by the heirs of the SESAC founder and, with a few exceptions, have never been used for vinyl recordings... much less CD.

Highlights of the catalogue include:

- A catalog of more than 7500 songs;
- Exclusive recordings from jazz giants such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Woody Herman and many others;
- Ace session musicians and supporting players who were stars in their own right like Alice Coltrane, Nat Adderly, Thad Jones, Kai Winding, Si Zentner, Gary Burton, Andy Williams, Eric Dolphy, Zoot Sims and many, many more;
- Rare and sought after session recordings with Chet Atkins, The Jordanaires, Anita Kerr, Richard Maltby, Tony Mottola, Nathaniel Shilkret, The Stamps Baxter Men, The Statesmen, Webb Pierce and Faron Young;
- Extensive classical repertoire with symphony orchestras.
- 1950s material in categories like Swing, Lounge, Country, Folk, Barbershop, Choir, Cowboy Music, Southern Gospel, Hawaiian, Latin, Marching Bands, Polkas among others.

Go to [www.and-more-bears.de](http://www.and-more-bears.de) to explore the full catalogue and see the latest additions

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- 1. Travel On .....1:41
- 2. He Had To Go To Calvary .....2:17
- 3. Let Me Travel.....1:26
- 4. My God Is True .....2:52
- 5. I'll Shout And Shine .....2:02
- 6. I Love My Saviour Too .....1:48
- 7. He Keeps My Soul .....1:59
- 8. Somebody Knows.....2:41
- 9. He Took Away My Burden.....1:59
- 10. A Beautiful Prayer .....2:15
- 11. In The Shadow Of The Cross.....2:12
- 12. Nothing But The Blood .....1:11

*Original: SESAC R 751/752 © 1949*



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sind Ausländer.  
Fast überall.