

# JASON COLEMAN

Jason Floyd Coleman was born in Nashville, Tennessee on April 2, 1985. Blessed with talent inherited from his maternal grandfather, legendary keyboardist Floyd Cramer, he has played the piano since he was barely able to reach the keys. Over time, Jason's playing style has progressed and matured into an uncanny reflection of the signature stylings of his Granddad, and he currently enjoys entertaining audiences by giving new life to Floyd's beloved music.

At age five, he began taking piano lessons and continued for the next eight years. Though this formal training was important to his musical development and complemented his innate ability to play by ear, Jason always preferred to play the songs he heard on the radio and in movies rather than his classical pieces. "I never liked to practice at the piano – I just wanted to play," Jason says. "But when you think of practice as just playing the piano, it's not so bad."

Throughout his school-age years, he was constantly involved in church musicals and school choirs as both a vocalist and accompanist. After high school, Jason continued his studies at the Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business at Belmont University in Nashville. In May 2006, he graduated Magna Cum Laude, at the age of 21.

Jason began to follow in his grandfather's footsteps at an early age, singing when he was only two years old on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry at one of Floyd's concerts. He performed twice with Floyd on national TV: at age four, he sang while Floyd played on "Nashville Now," hosted by Ralph Emery; and as a nine-year-old, he played a memorable Christmas piano duet with his Granddad on "Music City Tonight," hosted by Lorriane Crook and Crystal Gayle. Jason also fondly remembers playing on occasion at his grandfather's live concerts.

Today, Jason's love for music finds him growing busier by the day. As the Music Associate at Parkway Baptist Church in his hometown of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, he takes great joy in leading the church's dynamic contemporary worship service every Sunday morning.

Jason got his first taste of live touring experience at age 17, when he played keyboard for a number of concerts across the country with Dove-nominated contemporary Christian artist Greg Long, who is now a member of the Grammy-winning group Avalon.

As a solo artist, Jason has been featured in a number of local and regional concerts, festivals, and radio shows in recent years, and he has also performed for countless benefit concerts, receptions, and other events in and around Nashville. One such event is the annual convention of the Chet Atkins Appreciation Society, where, since 2003, he has been able to play alongside a host of incredible musicians – including Meagan Taylor, Chet's great-niece and a fine guitar talent and vocalist in her own right.

Jason and Meagan are currently working together in and out of the studio, with a unique sound that recaptures the early days of the timeless recordings created by their famed forerunners. In May 2007, they released their first album as a duo, *Revival*, recorded at Nashville's Historic RCA Studio B.

Jason was thrilled to make his Grand Ole Opry debut at age 17, when country music legend Hank Locklin asked him to play the piano for him on the classic song, "Please Help Me, I'm Falling," which Floyd originally recorded with Hank more than 40 years before. Jason also had the privilege of playing in the studio for what would become Hank's final recorded album.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of Jason's burgeoning musical career occurred in May 2004, when he was given the honor of playing for the Country Music Hall of Fame Medallion Ceremony recognizing Floyd's induction into the Hall of Fame. It was an unforgettable performance with Jimmy Capps and the Opry Band, Hank Locklin, and Maura O'Connell, all in heartfelt tribute to his Granddad's life and legacy.

In recent years, Jason has recorded and produced three of his own solo instrumental albums. In November 2005, he released his first album, an independently produced holiday collection entitled *Merry Little Christmas*.

In September 2006, Jason released his sophomore album, *Legacy*, a collection of the songs for which his grandfather is best remembered. Included are several of Floyd's self-penned hits, most notably Last Date, as well as instrumental arrangements of country classics by other notable artists – all of which featured Floyd on the original sessions.

Most recently, Jason debuted his much-anticipated gospel album, *Faith*. Released in October 2007, the album features uplifting instrumental renditions of a blend of traditional hymns and modern songs of praise.

Jason, now 24, stays busy recording and performing, carrying on the legacy left behind by his grandfather. While audiences love hearing Jason perform the music of Floyd Cramer, they also enjoy discovering his own stylings, as well. Jason's concerts are exciting and nostalgic experiences – and they always leave the crowds wanting more!

For more information, visit Jason's website at [www.JasonColemanMusic.com](http://www.JasonColemanMusic.com).