

How God Thwarted the Enemy's COVID Plan to Mute the Christian Music Industry

In 2020, COVID-19 has hit the Christian music industry hard. The pandemic not only forced the shutdown of concerts and live events for Christian artists, but Gospel Music Association President and Executive Director Jackie Patillo says Christian artists have been forced to make personal sacrifices throughout the year.

Yet, Patillo says, Christian artists have marched on as “modern-day” Christian soldiers, promoting the gospel on the internet and social media and inspiring people to worship Christ in ways they’ve never had to before.

Even the recent 51st annual Dove Awards, which celebrates the excellence of artists, was executed virtually.

“It’s sad, but this year, we were unable to gather,” Patillo told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of *Greenelines* on the Charisma Podcast Network. “So there was no arena, no audience. But people still need to be inspired by our music and our artists. It is really a blessing for me to be at the helm and to be able to facilitate a shining light that is all about Christian music.

“These artists on the front lines are really making huge sacrifices, and ambition was very tough. COVID shut down the entertainment industry, and the performance industry was the first to shut down and probably the last to open up. We’re very proud of artists to see how they took to social media to inspire folks right from their living rooms. There are many artists who just pulled up their iPhones to their pianos at home and shared with people.

“With the Dove Awards, we got to interview artists and really hear their heart. Generally with the Dove Awards, you hear the songs, you see the nominees and the acceptance speeches. This year, we were able to interview artists and really hear their commitment to their calling. We were able to share some of the stories behind how some of the songs, and that’s powerful to me. I love the fact that we were able to honor the Lord and show how when people are dedicated and turn their ears to heaven.”

For the rest of this interview with Jackie Patillo, tune into this *Greenelines* podcast.