

## **Song Story #19 – *One True God***

Over the years, I've been blessed to somehow be able to write songs in many different genres and thankfully not have them turn out like caricatures! One of my great challenges and joys in doing this, has been to be able to write songs that our various, ethnically diverse singers in the Heart of the City Band can be featured on that would reflect their ethnic heritage.

After we had done our third CD, one of our East Indian vocalists, Jessica McIntosh, approached me about writing a song for her. She had come from a Sikh heritage but had become a Christian when she was 18. She said, "I'm so glad that I became a Christian, but I feel like I lost my culture when I did. We used to sing and dance to Bhangra music all the time at weddings, parties, birthdays and many other regular festive events. Do you think you could write a Bhangra song that I could sing?" I had to ask her what Bhangra was. I had never even heard of it. She said that's it's an exciting form of music that comes from the Punjab area of India. She gave me a CD with some Bhangra songs. I told her that I didn't know if I could pull it off, but I would start listening and see what would happen.

So, I spent the next six months listening to various Bhangra songs as much as I could on YouTube. It was a whole new realm of music that I was unfamiliar with and most of the songs were in a different language. So, I was really struggling.

While I was trying to get familiar with the musical style, I was also wondering what the lyrics should be about. During that time, an evangelist friend of mine sent out a newsletter about his recent outreach in India. In it, he told the story of how he had led a doorman at his hotel to Jesus when he first arrived. And when he went to leave the country, he saw the doorman again and he said he was so excited to have encountered "the One True God". When I read that line, I knew it would be the title and the theme for the lyrics of this song and that I would attempt to lyrically contrast the God of the Bible with the Hindu beliefs of thousands of deities.

The first verse speaks of how God is one and that there is no one like Him – in contrast to Hinduism's many deities.

The second verse speaks about how we can't earn our way to God or Heaven but how God sent His Son to atone for our sins instead. This contrasts with the Hindu idea of Karma and reincarnation based on the good or bad we do.

And the third verse talks about how in God's kingdom the least shall be the greatest and the greatest the least – in contrast with the Hindu caste system that says the poor deserve it based on their behavior in past lives.

And those three verses, that speak of such good news, call forth the chorus about dancing!

To try to get the music right, I went out and bought a Dhol drum, a Tumbi (one stringed gourd guitar) and a Chimta which is a tambourine made from a coal prong! I kept working on my song ideas and finally thought that all my efforts were going to be a waste and that what I'd come up with so far was going to be a bad caricature of the music. So, I told Sandy that I was giving up. But after a little more time, I decided to give it another shot. At that time, I listened to another Bhangra song on YouTube that had a hip-hop feel to it. When I heard that, a bell went off and I felt like I had an idea of how it could work. So I went back to work on it and it suddenly came together. Then, Ryan Daniel — our amazing vocalist and Reggae/Dancehall artist — added a great rap to part of the song and the song came fully together! It is now one of our most popular songs on YouTube with people from all around the globe having made videos of their various groups dancing to our song!

You can click on this link to hear this song and see a slideshow of a mash-up of various videos of “One True God” on YouTube. [Dancing Around the World with One True God - YouTube](#) This song is recorded both on our Heart of the City “Listen to the Sound” CD. If you don't have this CD already, you can order it or download it at [www.danandsandyadler.com/musicstore](http://www.danandsandyadler.com/musicstore)

**One True God** Words and Music by Dan Adler

1. He's the Maker of the Heavens, He's the Lord Most High  
He's the One God that we glorify  
There is no one who is like Him  
He's only One  
Nations will bow to the Risen Son

**CHORUS:** So we dance and we praise His name  
We dance for He took our shame  
We dance because of what He's done  
He's the One true God, He's the only One  
He's the One true God, He's the One true God  
Oh, He took our shame so we praise His name

2. There is no one who is good enough to earn His love  
Nothing we could do could ever be enough  
But the Father sent His Son to atone for us  
Great is the Lord He is glorious (to CHORUS)

3. In the Kingdom of our God there's no great or small  
Valleys will rise and the mountains fall  
So we follow in the path of the Servant King  
“Worthy is the Lamb” is the song we sing (to CHORUS)

**BRIDGE:** Oh, He is the Lord of all! He is the Lord of all!  
He is the Lord of all! So, we dance and celebrate!”