



Mary Donnelly Haskell
iMOM Ambassador

Certain vocalists have a way of fusing experience, talent and passion into compelling art. Mary Donnelly Haskell is one of those performers. Well-known as an actress of considerable depth and emotional range, Mary expresses these same gifts as an inspirational recording artist, wife and most importantly as a mother.

In addition to her successful recording and acting career and main job as full-time mom, Mary is joining iMOM as an Ambassador to offer information, ideas and inspiration as well as life lessons to other mothers. "I've always had a great support system, which includes my mother, sisters, husband and pastor," says Mary. "I deeply value the fellowship, love and support I receive from and give to other mothers of all ages and stages...not to mention the sage advice."

With two children on the brink of adulthood, Mary still feels like her job as a mother is far from over. Instead, it is transitioning as her children prepare for their independence while she faces the struggle of "letting go" of her long time roles as chauffeur, cook and personal shopper.

"Watching my children follow their dreams and strive towards a goal, no matter the outcome, gives me true satisfaction as a mother," says Mary. It's the "reaching" and the hunger that grows them as individuals."

Among her dedication to church, charity and family, Mary also has maintained a successful film and television career. She has appeared in over 20 television movies and has had recurring and guest starring roles on shows such as "Sisters," "Touched By an Angel" and "7th Heaven." "I had a stage career for over six years," she says. "When we had our two children, I just found myself not willing to tour or to go to theater six nights a week and leave my babies. So at that point, I started to look at television as a lot more conducive to being a parent. I could do a guest star appearance on a show, maybe work hard for seven to nine days filming, and then be off for a while. So that's how my career was redirected with acting in television and film. I've been really fortunate to work quite a bit."

One of Mary's movies, "Twice Upon A Christmas" was even chosen by First Lady Laura Bush, to be screened at The White House for one of her charity events. Though she enjoys acting, music has always remained her first love. "I've always continued to sing, whether it was singing at our church or singing with a symphony here and there," says

Mary, who has performed in countless venues, including The White House for the George W. Bush pre-Inaugural gala, The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and on board the Presidential Yacht, Sequoia.

In the late 80s Mary launched My Songs, a children's music company, to fill a void in the children's music market that was lacking positive, uplifting songs for kids. Mary later recorded *Inspired: Standards—Good for the Soul* on Concord Records. The critically acclaimed collection introduced Mary's talent to the Christian market and paved the way for her newest effort *Power Of The Cross*, released May 22 through Martingale Music.

Mary grew up in Beaumont, Texas with a love and appreciation for music. She joined the children's choir at her church when she was only five. Later she attended the University of Mississippi, where she majored in music and became active in theater. It was there that she met her husband, Sam Haskell. The couple moved to Los Angeles where he became the Worldwide Head of Television for The William Morris Agency.

"We were both raised in families with a very strong sense of faith and family, so when we began our lives together out in California, those two components were the rock of our lives together," Mary says. "You don't have to forgo your sense of self, faith and family to be successful and to have productive and wonderful lives and children in Hollywood. This is what I want most to come across to other mothers."

Mary and her family reside in Encino, California.

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