



Sheldon Jones is...  
**A Man On A Mission**

Uniting Harrisburg Area Musicians  
to Fight Homelessness

At Christian Churches United ([www.ccuahbg.org](http://www.ccuahbg.org)), we're excited to introduce a project a local man has launched to help the homeless. We sat down with Sheldon Jones to discuss his project: **Joy To The Burg**.

**CCU:** What is Joy To The Burg?

**Sheldon:** Joy To The Burg is an album of 14 Christmas songs by local musicians. Most are fresh renditions of well known classics, with a few rare tracks and one original recording.

**CCU:** How did this come about?

**Sheldon:** My wife and I moved to Harrisburg about two years ago to be closer to family (specifically grand-daughters!). As we were familiarizing ourselves with our new location I was struck by the number of homeless people downtown. After we began to settle, I found myself wanting to engage in the community and my thoughts went to the homeless -- especially the ones I saw on the streets. In retirement, I had picked up the guitar again and was also getting involved in the local music scene. I somehow came up with the idea to combine the music with my concern for the homeless by getting local artists to donate a Christmas song and sell a Christmas album to help the homeless. I had already established a relationship with rock legend Shea Quinn (of *The Sharks* and *The Luv Gods*) and lead guitarist of *Grumpy* and guitar store owner Greg Platzer and as we discussed the idea it just sort or gained momentum and took on a life of its own. That's how Joy To The Burg was born.

**100% of album sales and concert ticket sales proceeds will go to support the homelessness programs of CCU: HELP Ministries and Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven.**

**CCU:** How is the album being released?

**Sheldon:** The album will be released on November 7 at CCU's United In Love Banquet. Then at 3pm on December 8, we're having a live Christmas concert at HACC's Rose Lehrman Performing Arts Center. A little more than half of the artists will perform. Glenn Hamilton of The River 97.3 is emceeing the concert.

**CCU:** And you have a song on the album, right?

**Sheldon:** Yes, I sing John Denver's *Christmas for Cowboys* under my stage name: Loco Lobo.

**CCU:** How does this help people who are homeless?

**Sheldon:** 100% of album sales and concert ticket sales proceeds will go to support the homelessness programs of CCU: HELP Ministries and Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven. All production costs and album/concert expenses are being covered by a number of generous sponsors and donors. We're hoping to raise a significant amount of money to help fight homelessness.





**CCU:** How did you pick HELP Ministries and Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven?

**Sheldon:** Early on I ran the idea by my pastor, Tom Sweet at Market Square Presbyterian Church downtown. Being new to the area I asked him who is making an impact on homelessness. He loved the work CCU was doing through HELP Ministries and Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven, and the new partnership the church and CCU were forming along with a few others to work directly at getting people living on the streets of Harrisburg into housing. Tom and I met Darrel Reinford and Steve Schwartz over Mexican food, and the project took off.

**CCU:** Have you faced any challenges in the project?

**Sheldon:** When I look back I figure I must have been crazy to think we could get 14 or so artists into the studio to record a song in time for this Christmas, not to mention final mastering, artwork, cd production, copyright issues. Everyone was been so excited about the project and helpful. If we had more time, there are a few more artists that would have liked to be on the album. Maybe next year.

**CCU:** Next year?

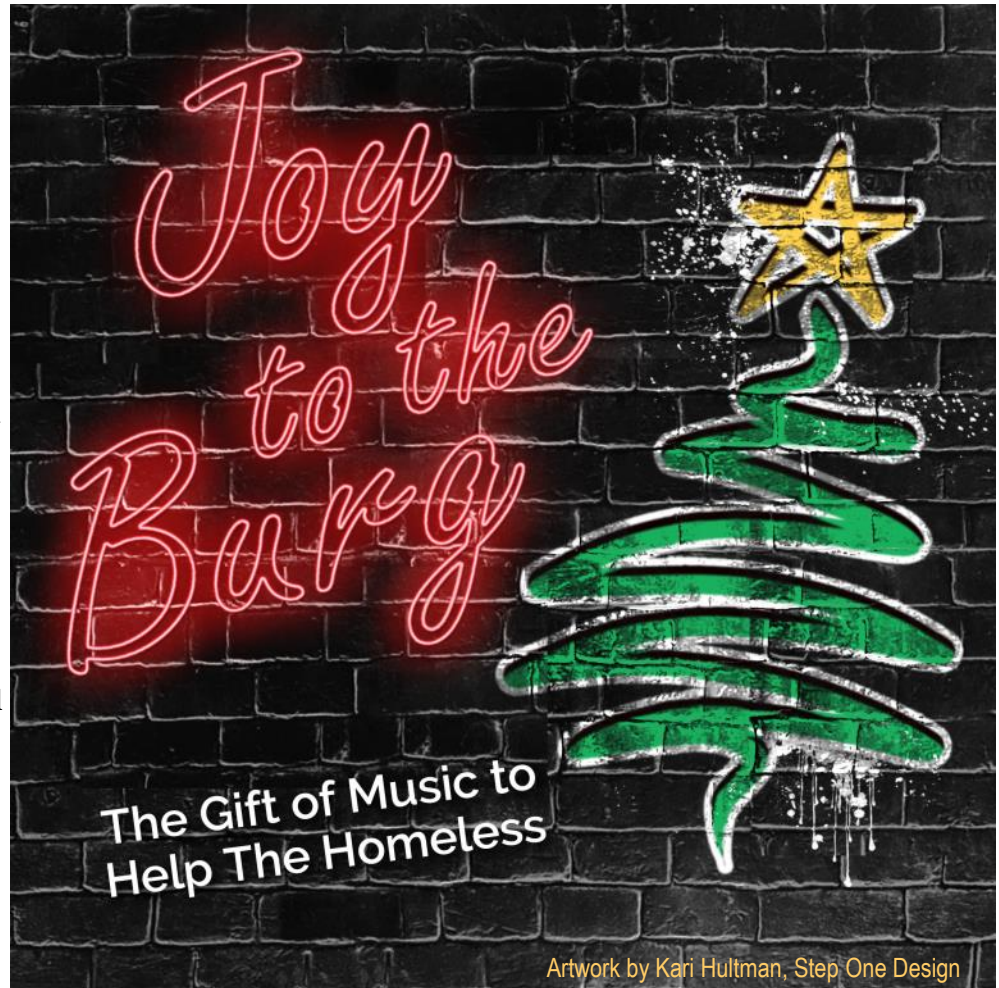
**Sheldon:** Let's see how this year goes.

**CCU:** How will someone be able to order the album or get concert tickets?

**Sheldon:** Go to [www.joytotheburg.com](http://www.joytotheburg.com), all the details are there. Or call the CCU offices at (717) 230-9550. Everything will be on sale starting November 7.



Sheldon meets with HELP Ministries Program Director John Scarpato on the street outside Market Square Presbyterian Church (MSPC) in downtown Harrisburg. CCU is partnering with MSPC on a new HELP Ministries initiative that places a HELP staff member at MSPC to directly connect with people living on the street: to build relationships and help them find housing. Since the program's launch this past April, 15 people have been aided to go directly from the street to long-term housing. John and Sheldon have also worked closely on the Joy To The Burg project as John is also a local musician. Two of the songs on Joy To The Burg came from John's contacts and were recorded in John's recording studio.



#### Joy To The Burg Track List

1. O Holy Night, *Shea Quinn*
2. Joy to the World, *Anthony Pieruccini Trio*
3. Go Tell It On The Mountain, *Canaan's Land*
4. Angels We Have Heard On High, *Crossfire3*
5. We Three Kings, *The Steve Rudolph Trio*
6. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, *The Goods*
7. Run Run Rudolph, *Grant Bryan Band*
8. Rescue\*, *Leap of Faith*
9. Winter Wonderland, *Grumpy*
10. Christmas For Cowboys, *Loco Lobo*
11. Carol Of The Bells, *No Last Call*
12. Greensleeves, *Ryan Chilcote*
13. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, *Dred "Perky" Scott & The Steve Rudolph Trio*
14. The Work Of Christmas, *Susquehanna Chorale*

\* Original Recording for Joy To The Burg

**Album Sales Begin November 7, 2019**

Suggested Donation: \$20 (CD)/\$15 (download)

[www.joytotheburg.com](http://www.joytotheburg.com)

#### Mark Your Calendars

#### Joy To The Burg:

#### A Live Christmas Concert Experience

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3pm

Rose Lehrman Performing Arts Center

at HACC Harrisburg, One HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Tickets: \$10, available at [www.joytotheburg.com](http://www.joytotheburg.com)