

## Jimmy Fortune

- Born in Williamsburg, Virginia, and grew up in neighboring Nelson County, the same area that legendary writer Earl Hamner, Jr. (The Waltons) hails from.
- Began singing with family in Church, as well as playing guitar with his mandolin-playing father at local square dances in the area.
- Got his first guitar at age twelve, and formed his first band – The New Edition – with friends Curtis and David Kidd when he was thirteen.
- Became one of the most popular area bands / artists in the Nelson County / Charlottesville area in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Word of his talent reached Statler Brothers tenor singer Lew DeWitt, who stopped in and saw him one night.
- Upon DeWitt's diagnosis with Crohn's Disease, Fortune was called by DeWitt to audition for the group on a fill-in basis in early 1982. Sadly, DeWitt was not able to return to the group, and Fortune was made a permanent member by years' end.
- Jimmy's first album with the Statlers was titled *Today*, which featured the Fortune-written "Elizabeth." The song became an 80s standard, while also marking the Statlers' first number one in five years.

- Sang lead on chart-toppers such as “My Only Love” and “Too Much On My Heart,” as well as top ten hits “Forever” and “More Than A Name On A Wall.”
- Helped the quartet remain a crowd favorite, by winning numerous TNN / Music City News Awards, as well as the 1984 award for Vocal Group of the Year from the CMA.
- After more than two decades with the Statlers, the group called it quits in October 2002. Jimmy has continued to tour and record with such well received albums as *When One Door Closes*, *I Believe* and 2012’s *Lessons*.
- Inducted with the Statlers to the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2007.
- Co-wrote “On The Other Side,” which was recorded by Bluegrass superduo Dailey & Vincent, and won the IBMA Award for Recorded Gospel Song of the Year.
- Periodically performs with Dailey and Vincent in a show that blends Country, Gospel, and Bluegrass
- Featured performer on such TV series as *Country’s Family Reunion* and *Larry’s Country Diner*.
- Website is [www.JimmyFortune.com](http://www.JimmyFortune.com)