



## Upon Destiny's Song

Mike Ericksen  
Sage Steadman

### Empath Media

**Category**  
Historical Fiction

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TellMyStoryToo.com  
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**Contact:** Mike Ericksen  
P.O. Box 1191, Farmington, UT 84025  
801-560-0335  
[ericksen.empath@gmail.com](mailto:ericksen.empath@gmail.com)  
[www.UponDestinysSong.com](http://www.UponDestinysSong.com)

### Pioneer tale of a close-knit Danish family chronicles the ripple effect of the many heartbreaking decisions they make on their 1,300-mile trek to Utah Territory, pulling a handcart and seeking an American Zion.

The newly released historical novel *Upon Destiny's Song* co-written by Mike Ericksen and Sage Steadman is based on the true-life story of Ole and Ane Madsen, who with their children left their native Denmark in 1856 to answer the call of early leaders of their religion, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

After docking in New York City, with two-thirds of a vast continent still lying before them, they signed on to the Willie Company, one of ten pioneer companies that helped travelers without horses or wagons make the long trek to Utah Territory on foot. Packing a company handcart with their meager belongings and pulling it all the way, they set out.

*Upon Destiny's Song* details how the family's already arduous challenge took a harrowing turn when oxen were lost, food ran out, and harsh winter storms descended. Still hundreds of miles from their destination, they huddled together on the crest of Wyoming's Rocky Ridge. Starving and freezing, say Ericksen and Steadman, the Madsens made brave choices that collectively reflected "the true meaning of faith, sacrifice, and family."

Interspersed throughout *Upon Destiny's Song* are Ericksen's reflections of how his ancestors' story parallels his own life. He comments, "I was so moved by their sacrifice and courage that I felt their story deserved to be told. Because of the selfless acts of my great-great-grandfather Ole Madsen, my great-grandmother Marie lived to become a thread in the tapestry of Sanpete County in central Utah – and in our own lives."

*"Ericksen and Steadman have given a tremendous new voice to the Ole and Ane Madsen family, and the pioneer experience. Veterans of the 1856 Willie handcart pioneer company, the Madsen family's trek spanned the spectrum of that experience – from steely determination to the most sacred sacrifice of all...Interwoven with Ericksen's own 'trek' and the story of 'how he awoke' is a story that is guaranteed to awaken every reader. The writing has taken me into their homes, their lives, their hearts, and their dreams."*

- Norm Bosworth, BCI Video

*Upon Destiny's Song* is based on the documentary *Walking in Obedience: The Ole Madsen Story*, which received special screenings at various film festivals and won Best Documentary in the Westates Film Festival in 2012. For more information or to request review copies or media commentary, email [ericksen.empath@gmail.com](mailto:ericksen.empath@gmail.com), visit [www.UponDestinysSong.com](http://www.UponDestinysSong.com), or visit the trailer on YouTube at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEiE5\\_zKl4s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEiE5_zKl4s).

Music is interwoven in the content of the book, which contains a cd of four songs that are important to the story, including a song arranged by Ericksen and written by his brother Greg called "Light up the Land" and other songs by Cedar Breaks. "Light up the Land" has become an anthem of the journey as well as highlighted in the Salt Lake Olympics' cd of 2002. See additional information about the music of *Upon Destiny's Song* and the band Cedar Breaks at [www.cedarbreaksband.com](http://www.cedarbreaksband.com).

#### AUTHORS

Mike Ericksen has been a devout student of the trail of the hand-cart pioneers since learning of his family's trek from Denmark to Utah in 1856. In the last ten years, he has spoken in many programs and firesides across the country and has produced films and music related to the stories and events of the pioneers. The documentary *Walking in Obedience: The Ole Madsen Story* produced by Ericksen in conjunction with Groberg Films and Dreamchaser won Best Documentary in the Westates Film Festival; heralded as a "historical masterpiece," it has been shown around the country, receiving acclamations and awards at film festivals and firesides. An accomplished classical guitarist, Mike has also produced four musical albums to date and is currently playing with the band Cedar Breaks. He is passionate about music, writing, faith, and family. He enjoys nature, tennis, and yoga and currently resides in Utah with his wife Cheri. Together they have four children and eight grandchildren. Visit Mike online at [www.musicforthetrail.com](http://www.musicforthetrail.com) and [www.cedarbreaksband.com](http://www.cedarbreaksband.com).

Sage Steadman has a master's degree in social work from the University of Utah. She became a licensed mental health therapist while pursuing her passion for writing. She is the author of the inspirational self-help teen novel *Snowflake Obsidian: Memoir of a Cutter*, written under her pen name The Hippie. Heralded as a talented new writer who tackles her novels with a witty, raw, and honest approach, she currently lives near Salt Lake City, Utah. Visit Sage online at [www.thehippiewriter.com](http://www.thehippiewriter.com) and [www.snowflakeobsidianbook.com](http://www.snowflakeobsidianbook.com).

