

About...

Create in me

...how and why it was written

I wrote this song because I wanted my own setting of one of my old favourites from scripture. There are so many settings of this Davidic heart-cry (psalm 51), so adding another was just for me and God!

I wrote it in a jazz/blues style with a more free vocal because this is a style I love singing in, and is personal to me – again just for me and God!

But I ended up seeing more purpose in it, and sharing it more widely at a later date. I guess for the very reason that it is my setting of a famous, confessional lyric... because this means it reflects my outlook. So although the opening words are very familiar, the focus on a confession that is as much seeking to love others, as to live a holy life, marks it out as quite different in emphasis.

...how, where and when it could be used

Currently I have used this song to sing over people in a time of individual prayer or response to a sermon, or during ministry times, and it has been very effective in this context.

I think it is more suited, probably because of its musical styling, to this context, than to corporate singing, but there could be exceptions to that, and I have used it congregationally occasionally which has worked.

...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet

This song expresses a desire to think less individually when it comes to pursuing a life lived for God. Issues of personal holiness, lifestyle and devotion matter so much. But we must also focus in on the simplicity of Jesus' words that to love God, and to love others, is the whole fulfilment of the law.

Our wrong actions, and sins of omission should be given to God, but we must remember that he looks at our hearts. The heart-cry of this song is to have a softened heart – towards God, and towards his children – and recognising that even this desire is God-given, and impossible without his Spirit's power.