

*Paige Powell Music Blog for February 27, 2021:*

## *The Story Behind the Song, "Under White Skies"*

If you are one of the many people who love snow and see it as beautiful, pure, clean and even romantic, "*Under White Skies*" is relaxing, soothing and reassuring. I've never featured it before in my newsletter, and it's relatively new, recorded in 2019 by **Allan Harrington** in his studio.

Writing this song was inspired by the hymn, "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*" and it was originally incorporated into the last verse. The one line, "*There is no shadow of turning with Thee*" prompted me to remember **the photographer's friend: a white, evenly overcast sky**. The next time

the weather gives us a white sky, notice how shadows seem to disappear. Look at someone walking along the street and you won't see a shadow in front of them or behind. Of course, something really large, like an automobile will still have a shadow underneath, but other objects are evenly lit, a perfect set-up to photograph a person, animal, place, or object. Now, if snow is added to the scene, you have white light all around you, "*So much like Heaven*" as the song says. And like the hymn says, **I've wondered if it's true, that God has no shadow**. Interesting to think about.

When I brought this song to my fellow songwriters at the NSAI\* meeting, I mentioned "camera" in the lyrics of the bridge, about capturing the moment of the peacefulness of new-fallen snow. But all the songwriters told me not to introduce the camera into the scene of the song, that it just didn't belong. I also merged and added part of the hymn into the last verse, including the "*no shadow of turning*" line, and used the hymn's melody so people would recognize it. I thought it was clever, but one songwriter said to cut the hymn completely because, "*the melody of your song is so pretty — don't ruin it*" and the other songwriters agreed. So, many thanks to my songwriter buddies who were right. However, I DID add a **camera** or two to the video and included some **wildlife photography** that was definitely taken **under a white sky!**

*\*Nashville Songwriters Association International*

