



Virginia Andrews

Fun and Challenging Christian Contemporary

Grier White's recently released "Feed His Sheep: 25-40" is a departure from mainstream Christian contemporary music in its sophistication and unpredictability. It demonstrates a mastery and comfort in interweaving various musical genres that climaxes in the third track, "Spirituals 101," where such rhythms as reggae and carnival meet the voice of Elvis.

Although focused on communicating the truths of the Christian faith, the CD is never preachy or mired in the language of scripture, which people not raised going to church might find off-putting. It is always accessible. Neither does it take itself too seriously. For example, in the last track, "Spirits Still Live On," Grier consciously tells how the deaths of close friends affected him; yet, the piece is in rap form set over a breezy jazz accompaniment that is strangely uplifting.

My favorite songs, based on their sound alone, include the first track, "Word, Sent to Save." (See if you can listen to it without tapping your toes or dancing?) And Someday, Heaven, which introduces a Santana-esque quality to the mix.

If you are looking for Christian contemporary music that is fun and moderately challenging, something that doesn't settle into mindless repetitions of the same instruments, ideas, and rhythms, I would recommend "Feed His Sheep." It is nourishing in all the best ways.



Sol Knopf

Outstanding!

Hey buddy, thank you so much for sending your CD. I just wanted to tell you how amazing I think the project is. The musicianship, the performances, the songwriting, the quality of the recording and mastering, even the packaging is all spectacular! Congratulations to you on a fabulous project my friend. All the best, Sol



Wil Gifford

Powerful debut CD

"Feed HIS Sheep," the debut of Grier G.B. White, contains eight Christian lyric songs. G.B. deems his compositions as "songs of faith and conviction." His lyrics combine beauty and passion with power. Each song has a distinctive message within the Christian faith. For those purchasing a hard copy (CD, not digitally), there's a treat: an eight page insert booklet details lyrics with scripture references.

Musically, White, along with recording engineer, drummer/percussionist, and keyboardist Martin LeMaire, explores an incredible variety of musical genre. "Someday, Heaven" is a hybrid Latin-Motown with a touch of funk in a Bootsy Collins-like praise bridge that makes the listener want to dance while joining in singing its choruses. "Spirituals 101" is a tour-de-force of World Music, starting with a Negro spiritual "Somebody's Knockin'" in reggae form and ending with another spiritual "Guide My Feet," played with a Southern soul feel. In between, along with multi-instrumentalist and multi-vocals arranger/singer Ken Tonge and pianist Doug James, White and LeMaire channel Blind Boys of Alabama with West African drums and romp through a snippet of "Amazing Grace" in a Dixieland jazz format. The opening track, "Word, Sent to Save," the story of the birth of the baby Jesus and why he was born (for those who follow the Christian faith) is so unique, it causes the listener to recall how Steely Dan could almost reinvent itself in sound from one album to another. "Remember Jesus" is a beautiful hymn-like ballad, detailing events surrounding the Last Supper.

Not to be overlooked are the challenges G.B. White issues in three songs. In particular, this listener was moved by both the music - a hypnotic Middle Eastern sound meets West Coast post-hippy rock (think Spirit's "Twelve Dreams of Dr. Sardonicus" from 1970) - and the words, based on Jesus' message that we are to help those we find in greater need, found in his title track, "The Least of These." Challenges arise, too, in "Judgment Man," a song in which White convicts himself before song's end, and in "America, Bless God." (These songs "rock at ya!")

Grier G.B. White ends "Feed HIS Sheep" on a melancholic note - within his words - with the very personal "Spirits Still Live On." Musically, this song could have been found on Hall and Oates' "Abandoned Luncheonette" - a hint in 1973 at what could become known as neo-soul. White's final words hopefully reflect how he feels about releasing another CD: "And my lord helps me face the future; Holy Spirit gotta hold on me." Let's hope the Spirit leads him to a follow up to "Feed HIS Sheep!"