

ALSO FEATURING: JJ WEEKS BAND | SETH MOSLEY & FULL CIRCLE MUSIC

# CCM

A man with long dark hair and a mustache, wearing a black cowboy hat and a red and black plaid shirt, stands with his arms outstretched against a rustic, weathered wooden wall. The background is a mix of brown, tan, and grey tones, suggesting a barn or old building.

Jordan Feliz

**A CLEAR CALLING &  
A BREAKOUT YEAR**

What Drives Him Far From Home

MAY 1, 2016

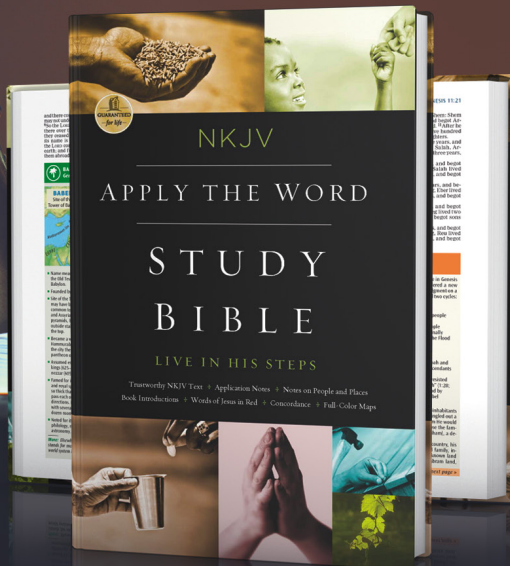
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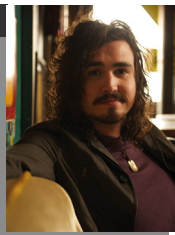
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## From the Editor

### JORDAN FELIZ

From parking cars to rising star—in the 2 years since Jordan Feliz moved to Nashville, he's become Christian music's next big thing.



### JJ WEEKS BAND

From regional to national success seemingly overnight, CCM Magazine catches up with Georgia's JJ Weeks Band front man, JJ Weeks.



### SETH MOSLEY & FULL CIRCLE MUSIC

Many artists make the move to Nashville at the speed of sound, some travel in circles to know where they're headed. In an ongoing feature profile, enjoy this snippet from the popular Full Circle Music Show podcast.



## Reviews

Gateway Worship, 1GN, The Gray Havens, Dogs of Peace + much more!



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**Associate Publisher |  
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**Contributors**  
Lindsay Williams

**Assistant Prod. Manager**  
Paula Rozelle Hanback

**Fulfillment & Customer  
Service Manager**  
Suzanne Solinger

**Customer Service Reps**  
Janice Collier Arsenault  
Jason Lloyd

**Executive Dir. of Advertising**  
DeDe Donatelli-Tarrant  
805.987.5072  
dede@salempublishing.com

Joel Stombres, 630.584.0213  
jstombres@salempublishing.com

**Account Executives**  
Jon Edlin, 913.231.7333  
JEdlin@salempublishing.com

Troy Hargrave, 615-312-4242  
THargrave@salempublishing.com

**Web Ad Traffic Director**  
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**Bloom where you're planted** | This note is meant to encourage anyone who is questioning God's call on their life, to sit down—be still (and pray, **Psalm 46:10**)—take a look around you, and bloom where you're planted. In the May 1, 2016 issue of *CCM Magazine*, you will read about two artists who are fulfilling the call of God on their life to bring His message through music—**Jordan Feliz** and **JJ Weeks**.

As you read the pages or posts ahead you might wonder, "How did they discern and/or receive such a clear calling?" Since we are a mostly music magazine, there are no doubts that many reading this are aspiring singers, musicians, songwriters, or even worship leaders. If so, ask yourself and ask God, "Why am I at [add your location, situation, vocation, etc.] right here, right now? Lord, what can I do for Your Kingdom in this place that I am currently planted?"

Again, seek encouragement, not discouragement! He might have even bigger and better things just around the bend, but perhaps He's using our current situation(s) to prepare us for those? Feliz valeted in downtown Nashville (just think of all the "stars" cars he had to park!) while scraping up gigs and writing sessions, Weeks remained faithful to leading his local congregation and performing regionally... they bloomed where they were planted.

What can you do for God, and for those around you in His name, right there on your own street, school, church, or community today? Our Heavenly Father knows all of our needs! **Matthew 6:33-34** *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.*



Blessings,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Sparkman'.

**Kevin Sparkman**

Editor, *CCM Magazine*

[KSparq@CCMMagazine.com](mailto:KSparq@CCMMagazine.com)



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# OUT & ABOUT


may 1, 2016



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A portrait of Rick Lee James, a man with a receding hairline and blue eyes, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark blue V-neck sweater over a grey t-shirt. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

# HYMNS, PRAYERS, *and* INVITATIONS

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HYMNS, PRAYERS,  
*and* INVITATIONS  
RICK LEE JAMES







# JORDAN FELIZ

# JORDAN FELIZ: FROM VALET TO RISING STAR

In the two years since Jordan Feliz moved to Nashville, he's become Christian music's next big thing.

By Lindsay Williams

**Jordan Feliz** was just a kid when he and his dad were cruising down State Route 168 in Clovis, California. From the passenger seat, Feliz began to reflect on his current gig: leading worship for the youth group at his church. And that's when it happened—a clear calling from God.

“I remember thinking about how much fulfillment I was getting from being able to lead people and to utilize a song to inspire people to worship God,” Feliz recalls. “I just remember [the Lord] literally saying, ‘This is what you’re going to do.’ That was it... And from that moment, I think it just lit a fire in me... I feel like that was the moment I felt called to it, and it’s still one of the most significant God moments I’ve ever had in my life.”

To look at Feliz now, you’d never know the road from teenage calling to Christian pop sensation was anything but smooth. After all, Feliz, 27, seems like an overnight success. His story feels like the stuff dreams are made of. And, in many ways, it is.

A chance encounter with **Jennifer Deibler**, from '90s Christian pop group **FFH**, led to some of his songs being passed to **Centricity Music**, who quickly signed Feliz and worked with him to craft his debut EP, ***Beloved***. When the label sent a single to radio, "The River" immediately shot up the charts, landing Feliz a No. 1 hit before he had even released a full-length album. The song left program directors begging for more, and in turn, the label moved up the release date of his full-length to April. Now, with his album—aptly titled ***The River*** after his first radio hit—officially in stores and his second single, "Never Too Far Gone," impacting radio, Feliz is poised for unprecedented success, not unlike his label mate **Lauren Daigle**.

"Having the support from Christian music listeners and everybody at radio has just blown my mind and made me feel so welcome," Feliz says. "The time has been overwhelming. That has been my word for my career thus far—overwhelming. But here's the thing: I would not have it any other way."

## THE ROAD TO MUSIC CITY

Until last year, Feliz was valeting cars downtown. When he first moved to Nashville, he scoured Craigslist for work as a handyman—anything to help pay the rent to support his wife and forthcoming baby, who is now nine months old.

"I can do little things," he says, adding, "I'm not about to go build you a house, but I could install your fan or a light fixture or something."



While working a “day job” on the side to make ends meet, he slowly began honing his passion for songwriting.

“The first couple months were tough,” he says of his move to Music City. “When you want to be a songwriter and a singer, you have to build a résumé... I just started pouring into the craft of songwriting and what my artist life was going to look like.”

His “artist life” had been a hodgepodge of musical experience that, on paper, appears incongruent. Right out of high school, the California-native took a job as a lead singer for a mainstream heavy metal band. The style of music wasn’t necessarily his *forté*, but the mission to take the love of Jesus into places you wouldn’t normally find it was a cause he could rally behind. “The band I used to be in—it was never my passion,” he shares. “I just loved the heart behind it. Our goal as a band was just to spread the name of Jesus.”

Once the band broke up, he started writing his own songs and leading worship at a local church. While the music on his debut is unabashedly about Jesus; sonically, pop, soul and R&B flavors overrule any hint of worship overtones.

“It’s kind of funny because my story doesn’t really have a whole lot of musical consistency, but it does have a heart behind it that’s consistent,” Feliz offers. In fact, he would argue that *The River* is the most accurate reflection of who he truly is as an artist and the musical path he wants to forge.

While he grew up on a steady diet of '70s rock and soul, today, he's also heavily influenced by modern pop. It may seem like an incompatible concoction of mismatched genres, but one listen to his debut from front to back, and his influences all fall into place.

It was during his season as a worship leader that he felt God put Nashville on his heart. After he told his wife, the couple started deliberately praying about making a move cross-country; and after a year of serious prayer and planning, they packed up their belongings and began the trek to Tennessee.

Feliz, a self-professed planner, had booked numerous concerts along the way to cover their moving expenses, but at the last minute, all of the gigs were cancelled. The couple once again found themselves on their knees, wondering if they had misread the signs. However, they both still had a confirmation that Music City was ultimately where they needed to be, so they literally stepped out in faith and started driving.

Feverishly, the aspiring singer attempted to book gigs, mile-by-mile, state-by-state, as he made his way to Nashville. "I was literally calling churches while I'm driving," Feliz recalls.

Miraculously, the Lord provided every step of the way. "Literally, I would show up, and it would be almost the exact amount that we'd need to get to the next place," Feliz shares.

“By the time we got into Nashville, I had made money... That, for me, has changed by whole mindset on everything, and I feel like it was Him teaching [me] like, ‘Hey, I can do so much more with this if you let Me.’ ... So that’s been what I’ve built my career around.”

## **BABY, BABY**

Feliz immediately connected with Music City’s creative community. It was in Nashville where he was able to find his voice as a singer and songwriter. He discovered that the music of his youth had formed a foundation deep within his soul. “The moment I got to Nashville, all these things just kind of came out,” he says. “It’s just been so fun for me to be able to create something that I’ve been so influenced by my entire life.”

Nashville is filled with struggling songwriters, many of whom work for decades before catching their big break. Yet, in the two years since moving to Music City, Feliz has managed to find his footing as an artist, sign a record deal, score a massive No. 1 hit and release an album. In music industry years, his career has progressed at lightning speed.

No one has been more amazed by the rapid pace of his success than Feliz himself, but it’s not the only thing that’s taken him by surprise. In the midst of developing his musical identity, Feliz and his wife found out they were pregnant with their first child. **Jolie Bennett Feliz** was born in the summer of 2015, and his baby girl has been a source of inspiration for the singer every day since.



“There’s little flickers of her all over the full-length,” he admits. “Even though [all the songs are] not directly about her, it’s like they’re all inspired by the way she has changed my life.”

Before she was even born, Feliz penned “Beloved”—the title track of his initial EP—for his daughter.

“I knew the world was going to tell her all these things, like, ‘You’re not going to be skinny enough’ and ‘You’re not going to be pretty enough.’ To the world’s standards, she’s not going to be good enough, but I wanted her to know, no, no, no, you stomp on those lies and you realize that you are loved by the Most High, that you are His cherished creation,” he says.

And then she was born, and he couldn’t get her out of his head and heart while he was writing. “It’s like a whole new flood of stuff came once I held her for the first time,” he confesses. “When you become a parent, you just realize there is nothing that my baby girl could ever do to make me not love her. Literally, there’s nothing. I will always love her unconditionally.”

This love translated into the lyrics for his current infectious single “Never Too Far Gone.” “When I held her for the first time, my mind was already going to the fact that, man, that’s the way the Lord views us. We are His kids. There’s nothing we could do... There’s nothing that will separate us from the love of Jesus,” Feliz maintains.

## **FAR FROM HOME**

Leaving Jolie and his wife, **Jamie**, has been one of the hardest parts of this new musical adventure. He and his wife have been together since he was fifteen and she was fourteen. "It's a little difficult to be away from them. It's actually really, really difficult," Feliz admits, "but the beauty in it is that [Jamie] knows I'm not here just to play music... It's a lot bigger than that... Even though it has been a crazy, overwhelming time, I am just seeing so much Jesus in it, and that is just an incredible feeling.

"One of the things that has been such a help outside of just seeing the Lord in everything is my wife," he continues. "She has just been an amazing support... She's seen me through all of it."

Feliz's parents moved from California to Nashville shortly after learning Jolie was on the way, and he says they're also a huge part of his support system and a godsend to help with the baby while he's on the road. "The moment that it was like, 'There's a baby coming' my mom had a 'For Sale' sign in the front yard. It was 30 seconds later. I don't even know how she did it," Feliz shares, laughing.

He says his parents have always genuinely modeled the love of Christ, creating a solid foundation for him early on that's only gotten stronger through the years as he's pursued his calling and become a husband and father. They remain his two biggest cheerleaders.

“They’ve never been part of working for a church, but they’ve always been a massive part of building the Church,” Feliz says of his mom and dad.

Even on the lonely nights when he misses his family, Feliz has his sights set on a greater mission, and that’s inevitably what fuels him. And when the bus heads back to Nashville, he knows Jolie’s wide smile will be waiting for him. And for the up-and-coming artist, that’s a sweeter reward than any No. 1 song.

“I just want to try to serve God the best I can [with my music] and also serve my family and serve the people who have been so supportive of me,” Feliz says. “So long as I can do that, that’ll make me really happy.”

Despite his simple goals of loving and serving people well, he continues to be amazed at how the music career he’s always dreamed about has finally come to fruition. “I feel like the Lord has poured out so much provision and favor on this,” he concludes, “and I just wake up every day with this eternal thankful, humble and grateful attitude, because I don’t really understand why He has me where I’m at, but I’m humbled by it.” [ccm](http://ccm)

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# JJ WEEKS BAND



# JJ Weeks Band – He's On Our Side

CCM Magazine sits down with JJ Weeks of Centricity's newest hit, the JJ Weeks Band

By Daniel Ritchie

Talking to front man **JJ Weeks** of his eponymous **JJ Weeks Band** can be as easy as sipping on sweet tea with your best friend on the front porch during a warm summer day. Their rise has seemingly been just as effortless. With the debut of their first national release in 2013, the group earned a Top 10 single with “Let Them See You,” and the song stayed on the chart for more than half the year. Since their entry to the national scene, they’ve garnered the opportunity to share the stage with acts like **MercyMe** and **Casting Crowns**, to name a few, and have enjoyed their music featured in film soundtracks to ***God’s Not Dead*** and ***Four Blood Moons***.

However, the guys from Georgia have remained true to seeking God in everything they do along this journey—despite the apparent brevity in the limelight. Their latest opportunity manifests itself in their most recent album, ***As Long As We Can Breathe*** (Centricity Music, April 8, 2016). Additionally, they have stuck close to their homegrown formula of easy honesty paired with powerful vocals and hooks. We jumped at the chance to chat with their easy-going leader, JJ Weeks.

***CCM Magazine: You've gone from worship leader in a church in Georgia to having your songs played on national radio in just a matter of a few years—did you see this coming?***

**JJ Weeks:** It's been so crazy, because when we first started we were just a band that played in the South—mostly Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina—and had gotten so good at that. When “Let Them See You” took off on the radio, it kind of threw us for a loop. So we had to figure out how to make things work on a bigger scale.

Earlier on in life I felt like God was calling me to sing, and He has reminded me of that all along the way. I remember standing on the stage after a sound check in Memphis, TN—just me and some guys working on the stage lights. I looked over the large and mostly empty arena and I remember praying, “This feels like home. This is what You have called me to do.” So, to say I didn't dream of this, I would say no. But all of this has been very amazing and very humbling.

***CCM: Having been a church worship leader for such a long time, do you intentionally bring that same worship-filled approach into your live shows?***

**JJW:** I think approaching our shows as worship just comes naturally, but it does take a conscious effort for us to stay that way. As a band it would be really easy for us to drop our songs and just rock out. But we don't feel like as a band that is

who God has made us to be. We feel like the heart of who we are is to be worshiping Him in spirit and truth. We can't just "sing" for two hours and expect people's lives to be changed. But if we allow God to move in, it can change everything in just a moment.

***CCM: You're very open about your trials and storms that God has brought you through in your music. Is it difficult to be that honest about your hurts?***

**JJW:** Honestly, God has stepped on my toes a few times with my own songs. Some nights I will stand on stage and say that, "God can move this mountain, or He can do this amazing thing in your life." Then I'll sit at home and almost get depressed because something isn't moving like I want. There are definitely times when I ask God to give me the strength to live what I talk about.

I have found that if I just write a song out of a [random or clever] thought, it is going to be terrible. For me, the only way that I can write for impact, is to write it out of the circumstances of life. You see in Matthew 5 that God brings rain on the just and the unjust—that simply means that hard times are going to come. The hope for the Christian is we don't have to go through hard times by ourselves. Those storms that we have to face, we get to walk hand in hand with the God of the universe.



***CCM: Tell us a little about your new song “Count Them All.”***

**JJW:** This is a song that really reminds me of the old hymn “Count Your Blessings.” This is my heart for this new record. It is really easy to get focused on the big issues in our life, and that can become overwhelming. Yet, we forget that our phones vibrated to wake us up this morning—that breath has simply filled our lungs. I can walk to my kitchen and make a cup of coffee. I can sit on my couch and not keep count of the number of blessings that God has given me. Every heartbeat is a blessing, every breath is a blessing—that phone is a blessing, even that coffee is a blessing. Don’t let that one challenge in life block out the blessings that God has given us.

***CCM: We hear a theme on As Long As We Can Breathe. Your current single from the album, “Alive In Me,” deals with some of the same stuff, right?***

**JJW:** That’s another song that reminds us storms will come, but the King of the universe is alive inside of you. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive in us! The same voice that spoke the world into existence calls us “loved.” This record is our reminder that God isn’t going to leave us. He is on our side. CCM

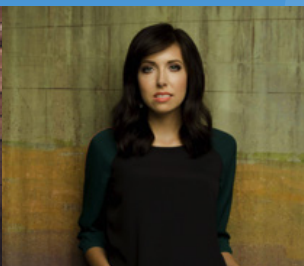


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# SETH MOSLEY



# Seth Mosley

## Cannonballs & U-Hauls

Many artists make the move to Nashville at the speed of sound, some travel in circles to know where they're headed. In an ongoing feature profile, *CCM Magazine* shares a snippet from Seth Mosley's Big Bang Moment as part of his popular Full Circle Music Show podcast

*A Full Circle Music Show podcast excerpt*

When songwriter and producer, **Seth Mosley**, arrived in Nashville eight years ago he was ready to take the town by storm...as an artist. Although, a long stretch highway, a rickety van and new opportunities helped him make a change that would alter his original plans, and move him into path that has still allowed him to dominate Music City.

Seth and his band mates arrived in Nashville in 2008 as the Christian pop-rock trio **Me In Motion**. Several years of “living the dream” and touring around the world began to take its toll. As he played hundreds of gigs and racked up miles of interstate he continued working his trade of not only fronting a band, but also songwriting and production. His band was trending upwards, but he wasn't happy with his lifestyle. Then it all came to a head.



“There was a really clear moment [driving] in the state of Iowa. Every time we went through Iowa on tour it seemed like something was against us. The last straw was that we were on tour out there, and it was, of course, snowing and sleeting and everything. We were outside Sioux City, and we heard a giant bang. The van just grinds to a halt. We got out, and it looked like someone had shot a cannonball through the bottom of the van. Something literally blew up under it.

At that point we had to call a U-Haul, sit in the cold for two and a half hours and wait.

Afterwards, we had a choice. Do we fix the van or do we just dump it and leave it there with the trailer and say, “Hasta la vista?”

We never went back for the van or trailer.

Sometimes life makes decisions for you. That’s very clearly what that was.

I had been doing production and writing the whole time, and having some success at it. Honestly, taking care of my family through that side of things. The financials of touring were not in our favor. On the production and writing side I already had some things rolling. It was kind of a natural transition.

Some people say you have to make a leap of faith, but for us it was a no-brainer. That was definitely the situation that sparked it for us.”

He left it. He left his dream of being a rock star because his dreams, goals and aspirations had morphed into something new.

Many of us get so tied up in our dreams that we often don't look up long enough to see if we are actually pursuing the life and dream that we want. It's easy to say, “Yeah, I want to be a rock star”, but until you actually start pursuing it you will not know all of the minutia that actually entails. Maybe once you are on the inside you'll realize that your initial goal is not all it's cracked up to be.

For Seth, he realized that being an artist was fine, but where his strengths and gifts really started to shine was in a more behind-the-scenes role that involved songwriting and producing other artists.

Seth's initial dream led to a new goal that is far more fruitful, rewarding and fulfilling. Had he not pursued his initial dream, or had he given up the minute it was different than he'd imagined, he would have never found his true calling.

Do you resonate? Are you discouraged? Do you find yourself in the middle of a dream that isn't how you imagined it to be? Keep it up. Stay encouraged. Stay motivated that today is just one day in the narrative of your whole life. Today's effort may lead to tomorrow's unveiling of something magical that you didn't see coming.

To hear this full podcast, please [CLICK HERE](#). Subscribe to the *Full Circle Music Show* podcast for access to loads of other interviews with leaders, groundbreakers and stars of the music business, [SUBSCRIBE HERE](#). CCM



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# REVIEWS

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**Kari Jobe**

**Gateway Worship Voices: Kari Jobe**

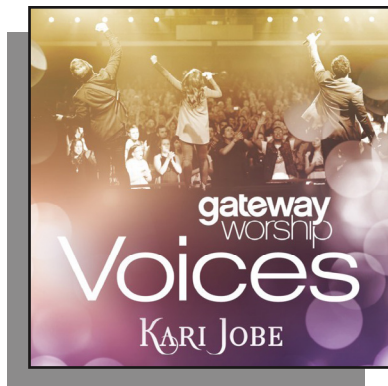
*(Integrity)*

**FOR FANS OF:**

*Christy Nockels, Laura Story*

**WE LIKE:** "You Are Good"

★★★★☆☆



**Integrity Music** has partnered with **Gateway Church** in Dallas-Fort Worth to establish a series of **Gateway Worship Voices** albums featuring several of the faith community's popular worship artists. **Kari Jobe** is likely the most well known of these artists, with such well-known songs "Revelation Song" and "O The Blood" in her repertoire.

This new collection offers nothing new, but it does repackage songs from six different albums to showcase Jobe's catalog in one concise offering. That said, if you're new to Jobe's world or haven't invested in the full Gateway catalog, this could prove a nice addition to your collection. Fortunately an additional resource DVD adds value with sheet music, chord charts, lyric vids and more.

—Matt Conner

**1GN**

***Unite***

(Reunion Records)

**FOR FANS OF:** Selena Gomez,  
Fifth Harmony, Katy Perry

**WE LIKE:** "Guard Your Heart"

★★★★☆



The trio now comprised of **Carmen Hadley**, **Kayli Robinson** and **Lauryn Taylor Bach** may have started out as **1 Girl Nation**, but have simply shortened their moniker to 1GN in response to a more mature sound and expanding audience. Sure, these young women are still smack dab in the center of today's pop trends, but they've also grown into powerhouse vocalists individually and collectively.

In fact, ***Unite*** is loaded with even tighter harmonies than previous projects, while it possesses a wider age-range appeal thanks to a series of confidence-promoting sugar rushes, faith-centered EDM explosions and hopeful power ballads. Granted, 1GN isn't reinventing the wheel when it comes to girl pop, but this is still a solid effort from a revamped act poised to make a positive splash.

—Andy Argyrakis

## Various Artists

**Onething Live: Love Makes Us Strong**  
(Forerunner)

### FOR FANS OF:

*Misty Edwards, Laura Hackett Park*

**WE LIKE:** “Enthroned in Our Praises”

★★★★☆



The **International House of Prayer** in Kansas City has released another installment in their **Onething Live** worship series with the powerful live record, **Love Makes Us Strong**, recorded last December.

Central to the recording is the music of special guest Audrey Assad, who not only sings the powerful refrain “Even Unto Death,” but finds her song “I Shall Not Want” covered beautifully by **Misty Edwards** near the end of the set.

From notable favorites like the aforementioned performers to newer, promising voices that help kick things off in **Chris Tofilon** and **Brenton Dowdy**. In fact, the former’s “Enthroned in Our Praises” is an emotional offering of praise that should echo in congregations all over.

—Matt Conner

**Chicago Mass Choir**

***We Give You Praise***

(New Haven Records)

**FOR FANS OF:**

*Carlton Pearson, Beverly Crawford*

**WE LIKE:**

"Thank You Thank You Jesus"

★★★★☆



Over 25 years have passed since **James Chambers** helped found the now-renowned **Chicago Mass Choir**. The energy and vibrancy of their latest album ***We Give You Praise*** shows their joy still overflows, with plenty of powerful hopeful anthems for the body of Christ.

Undoubtedly the highlight here is "Thank You Thank You Jesus," which features Chicago's great singer/evangelist **Lemmie Battles**. The spirited "Changed Me," featuring **Cassandra Giles**, is another must-listen, as is the moving "Strong Storm." Chicago Mass Choir's first album is five years has been well worth the wait and should encourage believers all around the world.

—Matt Conner



## **The Gray Havens**

### ***Ghost Of A King***

(Artist Garden Entertainment)

**FOR FANS OF:** *Rend Collective,*

*Glen Hansard, Sara Groves*

**WE LIKE:** "Shadows Of The Dawn"

★★★★☆



On its sophomore effort, **The Gray Havens** continue crafting engaging folk/pop compositions with contemplative lyrics, while making noticeable strides creatively and personally. Besides sounding extra seasoned with their already steady craft, the husband/wife duo **David** and **Licia Radford** are baring even more of their souls thematically, tackling issues of longing and the desire to invest in lasting relationships rather than temporary earthly gain.

The project also benefits from the easygoing touches of primary producer **Ben Shive** (Colony House, Rend Collective), plus there's a cameo from Colony House's **Will Chapman** to further supplement the couple's understated yet often times gorgeous musicianship and hand-in-glove harmonies.

—Andy Argyrakis

## **The Fifth Service**

### ***Proven***

(Living Word Christian Center)

#### **FOR FANS OF:**

*Hillsong Young & Free*

**WE LIKE:** "Glory Be"

★★★★☆☆



A Friday night young adult worship gathering at **Living Word Christian Center** in Minneapolis named **The Fifth Service** has given way to an indie worship project entitled ***Proven***. Some tracks have congregational potential and run the gamut from synth heavy fare like "Let's Get It Started" and "Adventure" to lighter or more traditional worship fare like "Found My Place" or "Glory Be."

These songs could use a more polished touch in studio or even a complete move into a live setting to capture a dynamism that's lost here on *Proven*. That said, a fresh voice in the mix has never hurt anyone.

—Matt Conner

## Dogs Of Peace

### Heel

(Suite 28 C Records)

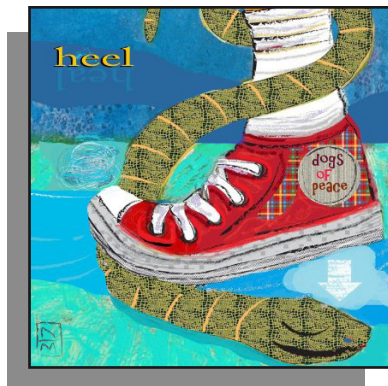
#### FOR FANS OF:

*The Kinks, Tonic, Collective Soul*

#### WE LIKE:

"Light Into The Darkness – Shine Dog"

★★★★★



**Dogs Of Peace** return and unleash their twenty-year-follow-up to 1996's ***Speak*** with their brand new album of eleven originals, ***Heel***. It's not like the group has been relegated to the dog house all this time—quite the contrary, actually. The pack of **Gordon Kennedy, Jimmie Sloas, Blair Masters, and John Hammond**, including **Jeff Balding** at the controls, literally *is* a who's who of musical pedigree, toting a host of accolades most would take 96 years to accomplish (that's twenty dog years, we did the math).

No new tricks needed, Kennedy's timeless vocals along with stellar musicianship and matchless production keep the dog-and-pony-show at bay, proving their signature brand of rock 'n roll sits, and stays. If we're lucky, they'll throw us another bone before 2036.

—Kevin Sparkman

**Rick Lee James**

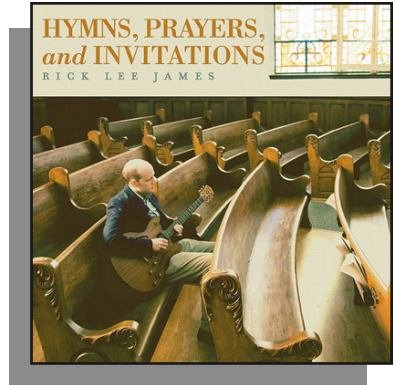
***Hymns, Prayers and Invitations***

(Self-released)

**FOR FANS OF:** *Steven Curtis Chapman,*  
*Caedmon's Call, Rich Mullins*

**WE LIKE:** "O God Our Help In Ages Past"

★★★★☆



Crafted directly from inspiration found in hymnals and prayer books, songwriter and worship leader **Rick Lee James** offers ***Hymns, Prayers and Invitations***. It is with the intentionality behind the last word of the album title, *Invitations*, that makes this project a stand out.

More than a collection of hymny interpretations or simple song book upgrades, James' purposeful use of lyric, timbre, and track synchronism should lead the listener into moments of powerful communication and worship with the Lord. *Hymns, Prayers and Invitations* drip with soundtracks of Sunday morning sanctuaries to intimately personal prayer closet concerts.

–Staff



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