

HONORING SANDI—MICHAEL TAIT, NATALIE GRANT, NICHOLE NORDEMAN + MORE!

CCM

A close-up portrait of Sandi Patty, a woman with voluminous, wavy blonde hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark blue top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

SANDI PATTY

*THIS IS HER STORY,
THIS IS HER SONG*

THE FINAL
CCM MAGAZINE
CONVERSATION WITH
CHRISTIAN MUSIC'S
MOST CELEBRATED VOICE

MAY 15, 2016

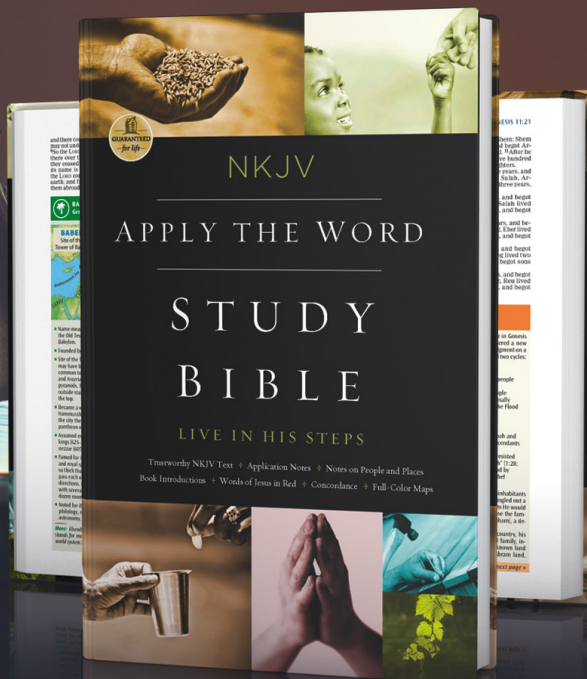
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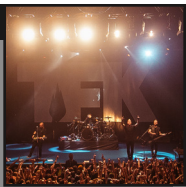
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Out & About

The latest industry sightings & events in images.



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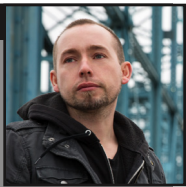
Sandi Patty

CCM Magazine pauses mid-year to offer unprecedented coverage—including Michael Tait, Nichole Nordeman, Natalie Grant, Jason Roy of Building 429 + many more friends & favorites!



We Are Messengers

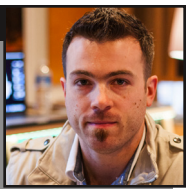
Darren Mulligan, front man for one of Christian music's hottest new acts, recounts his journey from atheism to belief in this must-read feature.



(photo: ???)

Seth Mosley, Pt. 2

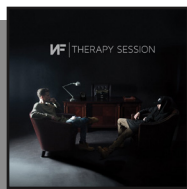
In anticipation of GMA's Immerse Conference 2016 next month, we offer another excerpt from guest speaker & super-producer Seth Mosley's podcast, the Full Circle Music Show.



(photo: ???)

Reviews

New music from: NF, Urb Rescue, Seth + Nirv, VRose + much more!



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Walk into the light | A former colleague permanently planted that quote, “Live generously, and love wastAlthough we often ignore them, streetlights more than aid in our depth of vision on a nightly basis and in most of the places we go. But have you ever been out at night—where there are no streetlights—with only a flashlight to guide you through the darkness? It’s a much different experience! We are only able to see our next step.

As we prepare the **May 15, 2016** edition of *CCM Magazine*, we celebrate the life and career of **Sandi Patty**. While this issue is full of unprecedented coverage of the most awarded female vocalist in gospel music, one of Sandi’s friend’s, **Amy Grant**—best known for her song, “Thy Word” (**Psalms 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path*)—has been on my mind recently.

We will hear from Sandi, and many more of her friends, in the pages ahead and on the posts at CCMmagazine.com throughout this month, including **Michael Tait** of **Newsboys**, **Nichole Nordeman**, **Nicole C.**, **Jason Roy** of **Building 429**, and **Natalie Grant**. But I wonder, as she is preparing to bid farewell to a decorated recording and touring career, has Sandi also caught herself humming her buddy’s tune?

If all we can see is our next step, what happens if we stand still? We’re vulnerable, we go nowhere.

How do we see beyond the next step? *We have to walk forward. ...but we can’t see the next step...and then the next step...!* How do we move forward? Reading and trusting God’s Word. Having faith in Christ.

Soon, the last light on Sandi’s stage will be turned off—bet your bottom dollar she won’t stumble in the darkness. Where do you find your light in times of darkness?

Read, trust, have faith,



A stylized, handwritten signature of Kevin Sparkman in black ink.

Kevin Sparkman
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OUT & ABOUT

may 15, 2016



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Explore the world of Aethasia™, and join the Resistance in their fight against the tyrannical emperor and his army of mechanical men!

Once a beautiful land, Aethasia is now covered by a sickly pervasive fog that corrupts everything it touches. But all is not lost. Rumors are spreading of a fledgling Resistance, who have the courage and audacity to try and restore Aethasia to its former glory, and to reinstate the The Great Engineer back to the throne of Aethasia.

And that Resistance needs you!



SANDI PATTY



Sandi Patty

This is Her Story, This is Her Song

The Final CCM Conversation with Andrew Greer

For those of us who grew up listening to gospel music, the scene is all-too familiar: a sold out arena, crowds abuzz with anticipation, the prelude of the piano and a chorus of background singers, and then ... that voice. From the first electrifying verse to the last tender note, **Sandi Patty** would sound those celestial soprano pipes, transporting our hearts and souls to another time (and yes, another place) in a concert chalk full of rafter-raising anthems expressing faith, hope, and most of all, love.

When Sandi sings our spirits experience nothing short of revival. Yes, her musicianship is unmatched. And her downhome demeanor and witty storytelling have a way of making us feel like we belong. But it is her heart, so transparently beating throughout the soundtrack of her shows and recordings that hooked us for life.

Perhaps, as a kid, like me, your parents shuffled you to one of Sandi's concerts. Inevitably, towards the middle of her pristine performance, Sandi would break it down and invite all of us youngsters to join her onstage for a little choreography, and a whole lot of fun. Whether she wanted to be sociable with the children's portion of her audience, or was simply crazy for scattering the platform with a gang of gawky kids, I didn't care. I felt like a million bucks.

For the woman who had giggled it up with **Johnny Carson** on ***The Tonight Show***, accepted a gaggle of GRAMMY's and kept company with presidents, was asking me to sing along with her. And though I was sharing the stage with the most celebrated

female artist in gospel music history, it felt like I was spending time with a friend. I think everyone in the audience felt a bit like that.

But after fifteen years of standing ovations and platinum recordings, Sandi's personal life began to crumble. As her private pains became public affair, her professional influence diminished, and, for a time, her stage became silent.

And our hearts were heavy.

You see Sandi's story was now our story. Sure, I may have never been on television, or palled around with politicians, but I had messed up a time or two. I knew what it was like to feel human. And it seemed Sandi did, too.

Through the arduous road of recovery and a humble re-entry to public singing, Sandi's career again gained momentum. The scandal that threatened to void the message and cripple the messenger only firmed her testimony and strengthened her connection with listeners. A Sandi show was no longer just a performance, it was a safe space where the generous God she had so flawlessly sung about night after night for years could commune with imperfect saints and sinners under the gracious guidance of music.

Now, after decades headlining the national stage, Sandi is retiring. But before she takes her final bow, I sat down with the Gospel Music Hall of Famer to candidly discuss her final tour, currently selling out venues across the country, her final recording, aptly titled ***Forever Grateful (Stylos Records)***, and her future.

But this isn't merely a tribute to a legend. Nor is it simply a survey of Sandi's incomparable contributions to Christian music

(and beyond). This conversation is a way for us to make peace with the obvious void gospel music will experience, the void we all will feel, when Sandi steps down.

As I pored over concert footage from her extensive career, I discovered one of Sandi's signature sign-offs. At the close of the evening, Sandi would look out over the audience and in her big-hearted way say, "You are so very loved, today."

I think it is only appropriate we sign off from this interview with the same generous fashion. So Sandi, from all of us, to you, "You are so very loved, today."

CCM Magazine: Sandi, we are so excited to have you here. Looking back at some of your older CCM covers, I'm sure you would be interested in the...hair?

Sandi Patty: It's never been a haircut. It's a statement. So whatever is going on in my life, you can look at the hair and go, "Oh, okay. I see." [Laughs]

CCM: The question that is resonating in everyone's mind, "What is gospel music going to be like without Sandi Patty?" Because more than a voice, we've fallen in love with who you are. Why retire? And, why now?

SP: I'm a very introverted person, believe it or not, so I've really thought it through. Don [Sandi's husband] and I have raised eight kids, and they're all grown. So that basically makes us empty nesters. We have one grandson, and two grandkids on the way. So that's a new season for us.

CCM: A good season?

SP: A very good season. I know some people want to hear me say, "Oh, it's so hard being an empty nester." It's awesome. [Laughs]



Another reason [to retire], according to the **Metropolitan Opera**, a woman's vocal prime is between the ages of 45 and 60 years old. I'm definitely closer to one end than the other. I love music so much that I want to be mindful of the art form. I don't want to be like one of those athletes and you think, *They should have retired*. Had **Peyton Manning** not retired this year, he and I were going to have to have a conversation. *[Laughs]*

The interesting thing, Andrew, thirty years ago there were a lot of people listening to what I had to say, but I didn't feel like I had a lot to say. Fast-forward to now, there are less people listening, but I feel like I finally found my voice and have more to say. So just because the singing is going to be set aside, I will always have something to say.

CCM: *You currently have quite a bit to say in the form of your final concerts on the Forever Grateful Tour. What inspired the tour?*

SP: Honestly, it's for the fans. I don't like the word "fans" or "friends," so we kind of say "frans." They are who I have worked for. They are the ones who have come alongside and held us up, and walked us through tough times, and spoken a word of encouragement here or there.

At the end of the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples feet, taught them what he had just done and then taught them to go and do it. I love the scripture when it says, "And then he loved them well to the end." That is the lens through which, for me, I see this tour. To love the people well who have loved us all these years.



CCM: You talk about working for your “frans.” Sometimes in the context of Christian music, there is confusion about who bought that ticket. I don’t remember God paying for those tickets. Because you are a Christian musician, do you ever sense confusion from audiences about who you work for?

SP: Someone came up [after a concert] and said, “Thank you so much for singing, but I wish you would sing it more for God.”

Before I found my voice, I would have let that comment go. But I gently tugged her back to me and said, “You need to know that everything I do is for God. I live for Him. I also want to be mindful of the people who are in the same space as we are. And if I can invite you to come alongside and turn your worship to God, then that is what I want to do. So don’t misunderstand my eye contact with you as not turning it to God. It’s trying to be a leader in a worship setting so in that experience, all of us can turn our hearts and minds to God.”

CCM: I hear one new venture you are looking forward to expanding in retirement is teaching, which was really your first love and your first career goal. Right?

SP: It really was. I was one of those kids who didn't play with dolls or play dress up. I played school. My parents got me a chalkboard and we put it on the inside of my door. I got empty Kleenex boxes and turned them upside down, and those were my rows of desks. So I got to choose anyone to be in my "class."

CCM: How real. [Laughs]

SP: John, Paul, George and Ringo were in the front row. And they all did well. [Laughs]

I have always loved teaching. I studied voice and piano [in college at **Anderson University**], but was going to teach. **Bill and Gloria Gaither**, who are alum of Anderson, heard me sing, called and said, "Hey, we're looking for a back-up singer to travel with us." I said, "Let me pray about it. Yes." So my life really took a different direction.

So one of the things I am very much looking forward to is teaching. I'm starting to teach now. I'm the artist-in-residence at **Mid-America Christian University**, and we're doing a Christian Worship Arts & Leadership certificate.

CCM: Tell me some about that program and how it's helping shape a culture of music leaders.

SP: The word "worship," which is a fabulous word, has become very limited. When we say, "Stand and worship," we mean stand and sing. Or [if we say] "worship leader," we mean music [leader]. Worship is so much bigger than music. It's how we are every single moment of every single day. Every breath we take is an offering to our Father. When we gather together in a worship setting, that's to experience our faith in community.



Three or four years ago, I started doing a Biblical study. I'm a "why" person. Why do we gather together? Why is corporate worship important? I started to take a look at where that began in the Old Testament, in the tabernacle, and then in the temple. When the scriptures talk about who was responsible to build the tabernacle, if you were a woodworker, you were skilled and trained. If you worked with iron or gold, you were skilled and trained. No less with the musicians. [You were] skilled and trained.

So one of the things we talk about in class is, what is my job as a person who leads music in a worship setting? So often we want to go right to the leading music part. We often overlook that it is important to be skilled and trained. Skilled in your instrument. Understanding music. What does it look like to be a leader to a group of people? To facilitate the opportunity for others to encounter Christ?

I get really excited about helping empower those who are leading music in worship settings.

CCM: You talk about facilitating the opportunity for us to worship together. Because of your precision and practice, a lot of people would think of your show strictly as a performance. But when my parents and I were at your show in Texas the other night, I kept overhearing people comment, "We have experienced worship tonight." When you're preparing a set list, is facilitating worship a part of your thought process?

SP: Later on in my career, I began to understand what it meant to facilitate worship. Before then, I would have called it communication and relatability.

For years, I watched my dad as a minister of music get congregations to sing better than they ever thought they could. He has this way of communicating and encouraging and being relatable. So I watched him connect and really get the best out of that audience.

Then when I began to travel with Bill and Gloria Gaither, it was a master class.

One night someone came up and put a note on Bill's piano at intermission. This was when they were in-the-round. It was a big production. The note said, "Why don't you sing 'The King is Coming' like you used to sing it when I first heard it?"—because they used to go to churches with just Bill on the piano. I asked Bill, "What you do with that?" He said, "I know enough to know that if they heard it like they first heard it, they would not like it. What they want is to *feel* like they felt when they first heard it."

Technology looks different than it did thirty years ago. Concerts look different. Audiences are very wise. But we want to create an evening where they can feel what they felt when they first heard a song.

CCM: *And expectations from audiences evolve over time.*

SP: They're very savvy. Very smart. They can sniff out authenticity or inauthenticity very quickly. They can be with you, or they can-not be with you.

CCM: *As someone who has worked his own personal recovery, my draw to your communication has always been your transparency. Over the past 20 or 25 years, the vulnerable parts of your story have really begun to take root in the message you share. What has it been like to be so transparent with your story on such a public platform? I'm interested in that journey of truth telling while growing in grace.*

SP: For the first ten years of my career this was what was going on in my mind, *I just want to be an encouragement to people, so I don't want to bother them with my stuff.* Well, maybe I didn't even have stuff. Maybe my life was perfect. And my husband was perfect. And my kids were perfect. That's the Queen Of Denial, right there.

When life came crashing down, that was hard. And yet I began to really understand what freedom looked like. Jesus says, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." If it is a truth about ourselves, and it is ugly, but we speak it out loud ... Yup, I had an affair. Yup, I went through a divorce. Yes, my children were really hurt in the process. There's pain in that, but there's also a lot of freedom, because shame is what keeps you silent. Freedom can come when you speak it out loud.

Now, there are consequences that still have to play themselves out. I've had to learn forgiveness is not the same as consequences. God's forgiveness is there, and He is all in forgiveness with me, but there are still consequences.

I began to understand the freedom that comes with telling my story because I heard other people be brave and tell their story. And I thought, *Thank goodness, I'm not the only one.* It made me feel a lot more brave. When I was invited to be a part of the **Women Of Faith** team, that was when not only the freedom, but the empowerment came for me to share my story.

CCM: Permission?

SP: Permission. No judgment in the sense of, *Well, you got a story. Sorry. But, We invite you to tell your story, and walk us past the hard times into how God has been faithful. What has restitution looked like for you?* Then I realized it was an encouragement to other people.

The letters I used to get were, "I love your song. I love your music. Thank you." The stories I hear now are mind-blowing. And what I say to them is, "Now it's your opportunity to be brave so somebody else can come along and hear your story, and you can encourage and empower them."

CCM: Sandi, think about how you telling your story has given so many people an opportunity to then tell their story. People root for restoration. And they root for healing. And what your story allows us to do is to identify our brokenness, and not cover it up...

SP: I think one of the most effective mechanisms of the enemy is to make us feel like we are the only one. And when you feel like you're the only one, you're going to be quiet. When we begin to share our stories with one another, there is such beauty in that brokenness because we're not alone.

CCM: Is there a song that has become more powerful to sing now because of your story?

SP: It's this right here. [Singing] *I sing because I'm happy / I sing because I'm free / His eye is on the sparrow / That's why I know he watches over me.* That's my story. **CCM**

Sandi Patty

Head to **CCMmagazine.com** between May 16-31, 2016 for full video coverage of this interview + moments captured on camera not printed in this issue, including:



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Sandi Patty



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WE ARE MESSENGERS

We Are Messengers —A Tale Of The Heart

Darren Mulligan Reminds Us That God Is Always At Work And Writing Our Story, Even When We're Not Willing To Recognize It

By Daniel Ritchie

If there could be a poster boy for a contemporary Christian version of the American dream, **Darren Mulligan**, front man for **We Are Messengers**, would likely be it.

“[Ever since I was] a young boy, I wanted to write music so that people would understand what was going on in my heart,” says Mulligan. “Now at age 36, I get to [release] an album [containing] fourteen songs that tell people exactly what is going on.”

Mulligan's journey from childhood dreams to studio and stage realities have come from as far away as the sea that was crossed which now finds the **Ballinode, Ireland** native living in Nashville “Music City,” TN. In fact, Mulligan would admit that even from a very young age, he was facing an ocean's depth of challenges, “I couldn't go to bed at night without thinking about dying, or imagining some of the blackest things possible,” he says.

It's uncertain where this deep, dark shift actually occurred in his life. Growing up in a devout, cultural Catholic region of Ireland—probably something that could resemble, say, living one's formidable years in the buckle of the Bible Belt—Mulligan went from staunch religious upbringing to virtual atheist by the time he was legally old enough to spin a motorbike or enjoy a pint. “In my later teens I was just sad—even morosely sad,” he admits.

Back to the poster, and the dream. Like in so many Hollywood-type scripts, a striking and noticeable change occurs when “the girl” enters and suddenly becomes the center of the story. Her saving, redemptive character “rescues” the wayward hero and helps to right his ship. “I connected so deeply with Heidi because she [was able to relate to] the same sadness I was experiencing,” says Mulligan.

At the time, and at age nineteen, little did he know that meeting a seventeen year-old Heidi, still searching for spiritual answers in her own right, would be a crucial genesis into their eventual transformation—and would give Mulligan a life-mate that would stick around for better, and even way-worse. “I had just come off studying philosophy at the university and I was certain I was smarter than this ‘God’ they had been talking about. I was just an arrogant, prideful, silly young man.”

Aimlessly after riches and fame, Mulligan departed Ireland, his relationship, and took his music—along with his presumptuous heart—to the United States as a member of a heavy metal band in the year 2003. All the while, empty voids perpetuated deepening wounds. And yes, like many other unfortunate American tales, fortune hunting led to thrill seeking.

Heidi, on the other hand, stayed home and eventually found eternal salvation.

Not long after Heidi’s spiritual breakthrough in 2007, Mulligan returned to Ireland broke, and brokenhearted. For the first time in their relationship, Heidi was truly happy—but after three-plus years of endless searching and promiscuous living, Darren was miserable. Still searching, and with nothing to his name and little prospects, Mulligan proposed. “So, I think out of desperation, I asked her to marry me,” he disconcertedly concedes.



Now experiencing a difference in alignment with Mulligan, Heidi's answer was, "No."

Knowing God was still at work somehow, Heidi never gave up. "She took to praying for me with another lady from her church. They prayed that I would come to know Christ, and that one day I would write Christian music," says Mulligan.

Through this, God began to speak, making His Own holiness and Mulligan's sin very apparent to Darren. "Everything I had ever done came flooding back into my mind," he remembers. "I felt like my bones were rotten, and that my skin was crawling with dirt and uncleanness. I couldn't help but know that this 'God' the preacher was talking about was *real*, and I am a dead man walking."

Oftentimes, the American dream/Hollywood story lives into a cliché. With the hopes of actually fulfilling one, Mulligan's wife prayed on behalf of her beloved, that he would ultimately be cast as leading role in, "Be careful what you pray for..." However, this was a careful prayer, not one to be lost on ingenuity, but one that Heidi and those surrounding Mulligan certainly wanted to come to fruition. After one Sunday night at church, God had particularly rocked Mulligan's world, and that evening he chose to fully love the Savior he had hated for so long.

Now betrothed, the newlywed's growth in grace became a journey full of beautiful new birth, but for Mulligan, it also resurfaced times of great pain. Almost a year into their marriage, he was convicted that he needed to confess his moments of infidelity that occurred during his first stint in the U.S. Fresh into experiencing the high's of God's ultimate gift and the reconciliation of his relationship with Heidi, the struggle was real for Mulligan. However, God provided a moment of clarity that was quite

stark—He reminded him that God knew every single thing he had ever done, and now it was time for his wife to know.

“She told me that she forgave me, and that she loved me,” Mulligan recalls in humility. “For the first time, I *truly* knew of what the cross meant and how Christ loves us.” This forgiveness, these revelations...they shook Mulligan.

His spirit-led confession was the first of many steps of faith that would eventually lead Mulligan to where we have now been introduced to him, fronting We Are Messengers.

A notable first came when he gave of his time to sing at a local youth revival. After a move of God, He seemingly increased a “one-time singing opportunity” for Mulligan into a regular touring gig, leading worship around churches in Ireland. Then in 2013, Mulligan quit his job, started a food bank, and began preaching. In the span of nine months, his ministry experienced over 1,000 people giving their hearts to God.

The next year, **Word Entertainment** got wind of Mulligan’s work and in the form of a recording contract, God increased their territory one more time. “It was hard to leave Ireland [again]. In the days before we left, we just cried and cried,” says Mulligan, remembering how difficult this step of faith was for their family. “But that day we walked onto the plane, we stopped crying because we knew God was sending us out.

“For us, the gospel is a call to leave and to go.” Despite adjustments and certain sets of hardships that come from moving an entire family to a new country, the call remains the focus and the heart behind Mulligan’s ambition. “What we remind ourselves is that we are on mission,” he says happily. “When people come

alive in Christ, we get to celebrate that as a family. Christ says, ‘Give yourselves away,’ and as a family that is what we do.”

Mulligan is continuously leaving and on the go. In addition to an ever-growing touring schedule for his band We Are Messengers, Mulligan was a special solo guest on the West Coast swing of the most recent ***Winter Jam Tour Spectacular***, including his band getting an opportunity to perform the opening slot on *Winter Jam*’s main run. Mulligan even found his way into the recently released ***This Is Winter Jam*** movie, an event that was seen in theatres across the country on April 19, 2016.

For Mulligan, a man once seeking name recognition and fame for personal glory, these opportunities only provide wind in the sails to furthering the desires that lie within the meaning behind his own band’s moniker—the message of Jesus Christ. In fact, much of the self-titled debut album (*We Are Messengers*, Apr. 22, 2016, Word) listens like a real, honest, face-to-face conversation with Mulligan himself.

Experiencing this collection in its entirety, one could wonder if part of Mulligan’s method to his message-madness is to create an intentional dissonance, heightening the awareness of our own sin nature. “When I sat down to write all of these songs, I sought to be honest about how I feel and who I am,” spelling out his plan of vulnerability, “Then, I am going to explain how Jesus meets us in that place—in our humanity.” Merely reading these words won’t capture the intensity and conviction with which Mulligan speaks—he is *intensely* in love with Jesus, and if given the opportunity, he *will* let you know about it!

To speak with, or even just see Mulligan perform (whether as an acoustic solo act or with We Are Messengers), it is immediately apparent that his heart’s aim is to always put Jesus on display.

“Point To You,” an anthemic standout on the album, supports this claim. “I’m going to point everything back to You because I cannot keep Your glory for myself,” Mulligan boldly states. “I can live in Your glory, rejoice and rest in it—but everything that is beautiful, pure and good I am going to point that back to You.

From that transformational post-church-service night to now, Mulligan’s heart begs the question that drives everything he does. “How am I going to impact people with something that is real, truthful, and that honors God?” Mulligan poses the question to us, as if he has yet to even pen a word or record one strum from his guitar.

And perhaps he’s now stealing a little nostalgia from his American dreaming days? That age old and seemingly endless pursuit of it—why it doesn’t begin or end with a set of fourteen songs, a record deal, and a move across the Atlantic. The message—written on his heart before he even knew it was there—and tirelessly living to speak of it with anyone who will listen. [CCM](#)

SETH MOSLEY



Seth Mosley – The Balance Of Greatness with Reid Shippen

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 you are in the presence of producer/engineer/mixer, **Reid Shippen**, you can feel a calm confidence resonating off of him. I guess that would come after 7 GRAMMYS, but don't misunderstand me; confidence is quite different than cockiness. Reid is assured of his abilities, but he is the first to say that he is still finding his way like everyone. His career has been a balance of pursuing his passion but staying realistic to the hard work and dedication that is necessary to becoming one of the music industry's top go-to professionals.

When Reid speaks on following a dream he is certain. "You've got to do what you love, because you get one trip on this planet."

Reid says, even at an early age, it is important to recognize your desires and abilities. He's trying to impart that to his own children.

"The Bible says raise your child up in the way that they should go. I think a lot of people read into that as, 'tell your kids [what] to do.' The way I see it is, 'identify the talents that your kids have, and try and fan those flames as much as possible' because that is the way they should go. I had to figure that out by myself, which

was very difficult. I am going to make sure that my kids get that from me as much as possible. If you are stuck doing what you hate you're wasting it. You got to go for it. If you love what you do you never work a day in your life. It's kind of a motivational poster type of talk, but it's totally true.

"At the same time, especially now, you have to be an entrepreneur. You have to go into this [business with] eyes wide open. You have to plan. You have to think. You have to be strategic, and be smart about it. Three chords and the truth isn't a business plan. You have to think about that stuff too.

"The people who are going to be successful in the music business, now and going forward, are people who are their own business. There's not enough room now to rely on other people to do that other stuff for you.


"The people who fail are like, 'My manager didn't do this, or my attorney didn't do that...or my producer didn't do this...'

"The people who succeed are the guys and girls who [say] this is what I want, and they get it.

"**Kenny Chesney** is the hardest working person I have ever met in my life. That guy is killing it. I get calls from him at six in the morning or at midnight or two in the morning all the time and he's like, 'Hey man, I'm hitting the gym at 5:30. I had an idea for a song. Can I stop by the studio at seven and we can tweak it?' He'll come in, we'll mess with something, and he's like, 'Cool, thanks bud' and he's gone, on to something else."

That is amazing motivation! Reid and Kenny Chesney are at the top of the mountain, but they realize that the only way to stay there is to work harder than everyone else.

If you are lucky enough to know what you want to do, or are already pursuing your career, you already have a head start on others who are still working that out. Although it is not enough to wait on opportunities to fall into your lap—you must make each opportunity happen. Is it any wonder that Reid has seven GRAMMYS, or that Kenny Chesney has his own island? Those accomplishments are not dumb luck. They are the rewards of intense work and dedication to the craft. I'm sure Reid would say that the pursuit of being excellent at his passion is just as important and meaningful as any award on his shelf.

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**. 

WF | THERAPY SESSION



REVIEWS
may 15, 2016

URBAN RESCUE



SETH & NIRVA
never alone



WILD HEART



V.ROSE

NF

Therapy Session

(Capitol CMG)

FOR FANS OF:

Andy Mineo, Lecrae

WE LIKE: "Intro 2"

★★★★☆



Nate Feuerstein admits the sophomore recording “can be tricky,” but **NF** deftly follows up last year’s powerful debut ***Mansion*** with another confessional, ***Therapy Session***. “Intro 2,” the title track and “How Could You Leave Us” come out swinging from an emotional, even abusive, background.

Given the title, NF is baring all, from how little money he’s bringing home as an artist to the questions for those who abandoned him as a kid. Such honesty is often avoided, but NF has built a substantial audience very quickly because of his raw, open approach. There’s no need to turn back now, and fortunately NF digs deeper on an impressive second album.

—Matt Conner

Urban Rescue

Wild Heart

(Rend Family)

FOR FANS OF:

The City Harmonic, The Brilliance

WE LIKE: "Fling Wide! Fling Wide!"

★★★★☆



If you're scanning the airwaves for this year's favorite new worship band, you can call off the search. **Urban Rescue** is here. The flagship signing to the **Rend Collective's** new label imprint, **Rend Family**, is more polished and reigned in than their Irish friends, but the band's melodic talent and crystal clear heart for the church help them carve out their own niche.

The formulaic "Alive in You" kicks things off before the album gives way to more interesting tracks like "Never Stop" and "Wild Heart." The juxtaposition shows that Urban Rescue is still finding its voice, even as they showcase such great potential. The sweet synth touch of "Fling Wide! Fling Wide!" shows what's possible, and it's easy to see why Rend Collective and **Capitol CMG** made it work. The potential here is great.

—Matt Conner

Seth & Nirva

Never Alone

(Integrity)

FOR FANS OF:

TobyMac, Israel Houghton

WE LIKE: “Never Alone”

(feat. Shonlock)

★★★★☆



Three years after **Seth & Nirva** released their debut EP, ***I Need You***, the married couple have committed to fusing an already expansive musical palette with the release of their new full-length album, ***Never Alone***. The group infuses gospel, dance, slight R&B and even funk flavors into familiar pop structures that should earn them significant attention at radio with enjoyable songs like “You Are In Control” and “You Are With Me.”

The killer guest list elevates several tracks, from **TobyMac**’s appearance on “Brother” to **Shonlock**’s killer turn on “Never Alone.” If it sounds like a diverse offering, it’s because it is. There’s a lot to like here on Seth & Nirva’s debut LP

–Matt Conner

V.Rose

Young Dangerous Heart

(Inpop Records)

FOR FANS OF:

Group 1 Crew, Rihanna, Ke\$ha

WE LIKE: "If I Don't Have Love"

★★★★☆



Now 27-years-old, pop/hip-hop/dance artist **V.Rose** talks of making the transition from her teens and early twenties to young adulthood on this high-octane album stacked with potential hits. The singer/songwriter's audience may skew towards the younger side, if only for the electronic explosions and trendy production, but standouts such as rhythmic "If I Don't Have Love," the slick electro groove "Not Afraid Of The Midnight" and the stripped down finger snapper "Young Dangerous Heart" can certainly serve as a faith-centered example to any age.

Special guest collaborators **Trip Lee, FLAME, Derek Minor** and **Angie Rose** add all the more star power and stylistic variety to this lively, coming of age collection that always keeps Christ at the center, even though it sounds right in step with any of today's top pop stars.

–Andy Argyrakis

Various Artists

All About Worship: My Pursuit

(Integrity)

FOR FANS OF:

: Michael Farren, Benji Cowart, Alisa Turner

WE LIKE: “Lift My Eyes”

★★★★☆☆



All About Worship is a community of worship leaders, songwriters and instrumentalists united around a goal to resource the body of Christ with songs of praise. Their newest release, via **Integrity**, is **My Pursuit**, a vertically-focused set of ten songs that reveal a God enthroned above all else.

“Lift My Eyes” sets the theme as a mid-tempo opener and “God Most High” and “Great is the Lord” carry the torch through to the final track, the memorable “Royal Blood.” Every song stays focused on the glory and greatness of God, yet each also feels intimate and warm. For persons or congregations looking for a spirit-filled compilation, *My Pursuit* is a welcome, heartening recording.

—Matt Conner

Jason Fowler

I Fall In

(RCity Records)

FOR FANS OF:

Daughtry, Third Day, Collective Soul

WE LIKE: "You Give Me a Reason"

(featuring Peter Furler)

★★★★☆



After deliverance from homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, **Jason Fowler** (formerly with mainstream rockers **Ultraphonic** and **Speed X**) turned his songwriting focus to faith for 2014's ***Letters From The Inside***. Two years later, ***I Fall In*** showcases his growth as a mighty creative force, alongside the considerable strides he's made to conquer those personal demons now ten years sober. And even without substances in his life, the singer/songwriter still can kick up a hearty southern pop/rock storm on meaningful material such as "Come Alive," "Smile" and "We Rise."

The project also benefits from the production of GRAMMY-nominated veteran **Billy Smiley** (**White Heart**, **Johnny Cash**, **Newsboys**), plus that latter act's former front man Peter Furler on the praise-filled "You Give Me A Reason" and **Sixpence None The Richer's Leigh Nash** on the rootsy "Family," all of which further enhance Fowler's redemptive direction.

—Andy Argyrakis

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LoveCollide

Resonate – A Ripple To A Wave

(Abs Entertainment)

FOR FANS OF:

Jamie Grace, V.Rose, 1GN

WE LIKE: “Fox”

★★★★☆



Taking a slight, one degree shift from electric-lady cohorts like **1GN** and **V.Rose**, **LoveCollide** release ***Resonate***, which showcases the sisters DeLeary’s wide range of musicianship. Make no mistake, this is still girl-pop at its finest—the opening and title track “Resonate” makes a strong case for this, although the driving chorus hints of the gal’s love for rock ‘n roll and of things to come throughout the album.

Succeeding tracks “Fox” smartly incorporates sax and brass, while “Storms” and “Atmosphere” give the discerning listener a real taste of their depth as complete musical packages. All together, *Resonate* rings true as an album representing a very talented group on the rise.

–Staff

Steve Hess & Southern Salvation

CARRY THE MESSAGE



Steve Hess & Southern Salvation is comprised of Steve Hess singing baritone, Jay Arview providing the lead and John McCall at the tenor position. Their brand new project, 'Carry The Message', through Mansion Entertainment (distributed by Sony RED) and is available NOW! Their debut single, "Ready", already has hit the Singing News Top 80 and their follow up single, "Mercy Still Flows", is playing now on your favorite station. This trio is making a major impact with more than 200 live appearances across North America! SHSS will be coming to a city near you. Check the 'Tour' section at SouthernSalvation.com for upcoming concerts and make plans to hear them live!

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—Tonya and Mark



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