

Moms celebrate mother, child relationship in holiday CD

As the merry winter season rapidly approaches, reminders tell us how it all began. One such reminder is a collaboration album by some well-known musicians just in time for the holidays.

Mother & Child, the creation of its executive producer Tena Clark and IRS Records' founder and chairman Miles Copeland, represents the relationship between a mother and her child, felt especially during the holiday season.

Each woman who performs on this CD is a mother, except Motown recording artist Shanice Wilson, who sings a duet with her mother, Crystal Wilson.

In addition to the expressed familial relationship, the CD symbolizes the Virgin Mary's relationship with her child.

Even if you are not a deeply religious person, *Mother & Child* is very good. This project consists of talented artists and great arrangements of holiday songs, ranging from country to rhythm and blues to pop.

CD REVIEW



Mother & Child
Various Artists

★★★

wonderfully smooth voice.

Beth Nielsen Chapman sings a warming version of the traditional, "Ave Maria," a Franz Schubert piece. A cello and string arrangement complement the fingerpicking of Chapman on her guitar.

My favorite song is "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" written by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant and sung by Grant. It includes piano and synthesizer — a combination

Two of my favorite traditional songs, "Oh Holy Night" and "Ave Maria" appear on this CD in great form.

Country artist Martina McBride sings a beautiful version of "Oh Holy Night." The first time she performs a cappella, and the second time a soothing string arrangement accompanies her

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that builds a melancholy but profound sound — which amplifies the intense emotion.

It's not a cheesy pop song by Grant. On this CD, she demonstrates the ability to write powerful lyrics, and she reveals a strong vocal range.

I also like "Through Your Eyes," sung by Suzy Bogguss and written by Bogguss and Doug Crider. The mother describes how

the holiday is for the child and through the child's eyes.

Belinda Carlisle and Olivia Newton-John have been absent from the music scene in recent years, but both are back on this CD.

Carlisle performs a nice, but not excellent "Christmas Lullaby." She sings it with a distinct vibrato in her voice that is somewhat annoying; otherwise, it has a basic pop feel.

Newton-John, on the other hand, performs a pretty song, "Christmas Never Felt like This," about a mother's perceptions of her daughter's wonder of Dec. 25. It's poppy, but it has a nice holiday jingling to it.

Songs by CeCe Winans, Vesta, the Wilsons and Wendy Moten bring out the R & B sounds and Kindred Spirit's folk-pop vocals are similar to the Indigo Girls' harmonizing vocals.

Mother & Child, released in late October, is a good CD to add to your collection if you are looking for new holiday music.

By Kim Weiss

Carol magic

Twenty-one carols played on authentic 19th century instruments from Victorian America evoke a sense of nostalgia for classical music lovers from Willamette University professor John Doan's latest holiday CD.

CD REVIEW



Wrapped in White
John Doan

★★★★

Doan groups the carols together in new ways that make the old new again for listeners familiar with classic favorites such as, "Carols of Kings, Carols of Joy and Carols of Night."

His music recalls the original essence of the holiday season. The enticing music easily sweeps up listeners by the magic of its nostalgia and the vintage acoustic instruments.

Doan's background is in classical guitar and lute. He has gained national recognition on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and has been reviewed by *Victoria Magazine* and *The Washington Post*. His CD is produced by Hearts of Space records.

To celebrate the holiday season, on Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. John Doan performs in concert at the Unity of the Valley at 39th and Hilyard in Eugene.

By Anne Moser-Kornfield

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