

entertainment

Cris Williamson to squeeze in Corvallis shows

Concert tour is celebrating 15 years of *The Changer and the Changed* and the birth of women's music

Singer/songwriter Cris Williamson will be performing in Corvallis on Friday, Nov. 30. On Oct. 13, she began a six city tour to celebrate the 15th anniversary of her album *The Changer and the Changed*. In between her San Francisco and Seattle appearances, Cris will make an "unofficial" stop in Corvallis.

Throughout the '70s and '80s, Cris Williamson has been one of the most successful artists in independent music. Having performed in virtually every major concert hall in the U.S. and having sold nearly 1 million albums, Cris has been a shining example of what an artist can do as an independent creative force in contemporary music. A gifted singer and songwriter, Cris has been called a folk hero by some, a teacher and spirit healer by many others. She possesses a voice that Ben Fong-Torres called "a full-bodied, high-soaring thing of beauty."

Cris' musical career began in the folk and rock clubs during the early 70's. Her first commercial album,

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"Cris Williamson," was released on the Ampex label in 1971 and, soon after, Cris was to be instrumental in the creation of a whole new concept in independent music.

In 1973, Cris was invited to a radio show in Washington, D.C. She was interviewed about her music and career and asked to comment on the status of women in the music industry. She remarked on some of the challenges facing women artists and the lack of women in creative positions, such as producing and engineering, and thought it might be an interesting idea for someone to start a company to create those opportunities. The idea was just a passing thought, but, like so many great ideas, became the germinating seed for the creation of such a company . . . Olivia Records.

By 1975, Cris was signed to one album contract with Olivia Records and recorded *The Changer and the Changed*, which sold over a quarter of a million copies to become one of the all-time best selling albums on an independent label.

Cris' unparalleled success has included 11 albums, including one for children of all ages, two songbooks, and an historic, two-show, sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall, celebrating the 10th anniversary of Olivia Records.

For many of us *The Changer and the Changed* is a landmark album which represents the beginning of women's music . . . the real stuff. Not the elevator music a San Francisco radio station played every night at 11 pm on a show called "Music for a Woman" (circa 1972), but real music with real words about real love and joy and giving. Finally, here was music written by women and sung by women for other women. The hair can still stand up on the back of my neck when I remember having heard "Sweet Woman" for the first time. My life changed. No more would I be content to listen to men sing about seducing women, leaving women, being left by women.

When I bought my first copy of *The Changer and the Changed* I carried it to my room in a plain brown paper bag, locked the door, turned the lights down real low . . . and I silently rejoiced as I listened to all the words again and



again and again. Periodically, I glanced over my shoulder, afraid to find my first sergeant peering down her stripes at me. But I kept listening, and I walked a little taller and felt a little prouder, and I began to, thank my lucky stars for being just who I am. I think I wore my first album out that very first night!

Fifteen years later and still we aren't hearing Cris' music on mainstream airwaves. Too bad for Cris. Too bad for all of us.

For 15 years I have followed Cris Williamson, watched her sprout grey hairs, worried she would get old and quit touring before I could say my "thank you." Fifteen years have gone since I first hid in my room and listened to *The Changer and the Changed*. I'm not sure if that makes me feel young again or just older. I guess it doesn't really matter as long as I, as long as all of us have grown wiser with the years.

Cb media productions presents Cris Williamson in concert in Corvallis, Friday, Nov. 30. There will be two shows: 7:15 pm and 9:30 pm in the Majestic Theater 115 SW 2nd St. Tickets are available from Grass Roots Bookstore in Corvallis, Mother Kali's Bookstore in Eugene, and Portland's Artichoke Music for \$10 each. Tickets are also available by mail. To order tickets, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to cb media, 2988 NW 13th Place, Corvallis, OR 97330, along with your check or money order (made out to "cb media"). Please indicate which performance you prefer and include a phone number. Tickets for any remaining seating will be available for \$12 each at the door prior to each performance. For further information contact cb media at 758-7048.

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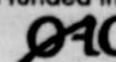

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