

POWER OF TWO

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure spread the love around with a second duet CD, Between the Covers

by Inga Sorensen

If Cris and Tret could only bottle it. "We've been together for 16 years and it gets better every year. That's the absolute truth," swears the folksy and freshly-turned-50 Cris Williamson, one of the few "women's music" pioneers still in the biz, in this era of thrashing queer grrrl bands and mainstream Melissa.

"We just adore each other," chimes in Tret Fure, 45, Williamson's partner in life and music.

MUSIC

"Tret's my best friend. She loves me for who I am and she makes me laugh every day," says Williamson.

OK, it's sweet and gooey—like a merciless stream of molasses—but it's forgiven in light of the fact that our interview with the captivated couple occurred on Valentine's Day.

By no small coincidence, Feb. 14 also marked the official release date of the duo's second full-length collaborative effort, *Between the Covers*, a collection of 14 original works which celebrate Fure and Williamson's love for one another.

"We wrote a lot of it together and it really took on a life of its own," says Williamson, whose celebrated career commenced more than three decades ago.

Despite the astronomical changes, however, Fure and Williamson seemed to have burrowed in and secured a niche, and they say there's something about this latest release in particular that grabs listeners.

"*Between the Covers* is a reflection of our relationship," says Williamson, referring to her partnership with Fure. "Celebrating and sharing that seems to be very meaningful to a lot of people."

That may be because one thing that never goes out of style is love—and in all probability finding a soul mate is an appetizing concept whether you are a multiply pierced 16-year-old living on the streets of L.A. or a seventysomething woman residing in a Florida trailer park. It simply speaks to people of all stripes.

"We're being more open and sharing with our relationship," says Fure, whose résumé is vast.

Fure has produced and engineered several Williamson projects including *Blue Rider*, *Live at Carnegie Hall*, *Prairie Fire*, *Snow Angel*, *Wolf Moon*, and their first full-length collaboration, *Postcards from Paradise*. She also has three solo works—*Terminal Hold*, *Edges of the Heart* and *Time Turns the Moon*, all of which were issued on Second Wave Records, an offshoot of Olivia Records.

Not surprisingly, it was their professional passions that initially brought Fure and Williamson together when, in 1981, Fure engineered a children's record for Williamson.



Cris Williamson and Tret Fure

It has, in fact, been 22 years since she recorded the now-classic *The Changer and the Changed*, which was created during a period when women's music was unabashedly fueled by politics, and the voices of Williamson, Holly Near, Margie Adam and Meg Christian beckoned women to "fight back," among other bold deeds.

"People would flock to those shows by the thousands," recalls Williamson, who co-founded Olivia Records, an independent women's label which issued 14 of her titles. *Between the Covers* is Williamson's 20th release and the debut of Williamson and Fure's new record label, Wolf Moon Records.

"A lot of our friends [from the pack of '70s musicians] are out of work now, and our shows certainly don't draw the way they did 15 years ago," says Williamson, acknowledging head-on the seismic shifts over the past decade-plus in dyke culture, the music world and society as a whole.

The rest, as they say, is herstory.

Between the Covers, which was recorded at the Institute for Musical Arts in Bodega, Calif., and the couple's home studio in Marcola, Oregon, offers a glimpse into the twosome's long-term relationship.

The disc, which was produced by the couple and June Millington, includes a track penned by Williamson for Fure's birthday chronicling their honeymoon in Taos.

"Sixteen years," says Williamson. "Some people think that if you're that content and happy it must be boring. We're here to tell them that it's not."

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure will perform at Portland's Aladdin Theater on March 1 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance at TicketMaster outlets, 224-4400, or It's My Pleasure, 236-0505. For more information call 335-0221.



Lombard

FLOWERS

Located in Historic St. Johns

8302 N. LOMBARD • PORTLAND, OREGON 97203

Proudly Serving
The Greater
Portland Metro Area

503/ 286-1330



Coventry Cycle Works



All 1996 **TREK** models
on Sale Now.

Featuring Portland's largest
selection of recumbents.

Open Tuesday-Sunday
230-7723
2025 SE Hawthorne

DUTCH TUCH ACRES

Gay owned and operated!

- Native plants
- Fruit, nut, shade and flowering trees
- perennials and shrubs
- ORGANIC CONTROLS!!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN and MAINTENANCE AVAILABLE!!
No tax to Oregon buyers!!



From Interstate 5, take Exit #16 to La Center, cross the bridge, turn right on 4th St., left on Highland Ave. 2.9 mi. through S curves to 369th St., left on NE 369th St. and then left on NE 31st Ave. **263-1505**


Hours: Fri. Sat. 9-6, Sun 11-5
36009 NE 31st Ave, La Center, WA

SEE US FOR ALL YOUR COLLISION REPAIR NEEDS

Ferguson

AUTOBODY

(503) 232-3600
2454 E. BURNSIDE • PORTLAND, OR 97214
Family Owned & Operated Since 1952



Portland Center Stage

February 8 - March 8

In the Intermediate Theatre of the
Portland Center for the Performing Arts
1111 Southwest Broadway

Box Office Phone:
274-6588

Ticket Prices:
\$11.00-\$35.00

also available at
FASTIXX: 224-TIXX

"I like to plan it so we have at least one peak experience each day. When you got aliens in from out of town, you want to do something special!"
-Trudy



Experience the drama in someone else's life!

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe

BY JANE WAGNER

GERDING/EDLEN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CONSULTING & DEVELOPMENT

IRH

just out