

# RELIGION

## Candi Staton - 'I Will Trust The Lord'

The legendary Sweetheart of Soul, Candi Staton (of "Young Hearts Run Free" fame), has released a new album which is a uniquely creative exercise. It may well be the first gospel album boasting covers of classic pop, soul and gospel songs.

Pouring over several of the great Top Forty tunes she's heard over the years, Candi Staton found a dozen or so that she toyed with transforming into gospel epiphanies.

She narrowed those down to the rollicking Stax staple "Hold On, I'm Coming," a #1 R&B and #21 Pop smash when released by Sam & Dave in 1966 and a funkified rendition of Simon & Garfunkel's classic "Bridge Over Troubled Water" which was a #1 Pop hit in 1970.

Backing Candi on the record is the Atlanta Super Choir, a grouping of twenty-five thunderous voices that backs Candi throughout the album.

In addition to the pop-soul re-makes, Candi covers five standard church songs. She took Dorothy Love Coates & the Harmonettes' "Old Landmark" and let's seque into "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There," another shouting standard.

"It's more like on the beat of the Holiness church," Candi remarks "rock of My Salvation" isn't nearly as old, but Candi first heard it on the island of St. Thomas

when a Caribbean singer named Harella first recorded it.

Following this, Candi goes back to the old hymn book and picks out "Tis So Sweet" which she sings with the only keyboard accompaniment. This track glides into the poignant "I Will Trust In The Lord."

Candi wasn't satisfied to just cover other artists though. She even covers herself, bringing in the Mighty Clouds of Joy's raspy lead singer, Joe Ligon, for a rousing cover of Candi's 1987 Grammy nominated gospel hit "The First Face I Want To See."

As a bonus, the album features five completely new songs which are sure to become classics in time.

After the great success of her #1 gospel single "Mama" in spring 1996, Candi was surprised when the words to "The Tears That Mama Cried" came to her.

It's another poignant southern soul number which she dedicates to her late mother.

Candi loves the old time gospel feeling, so she wrote two other new songs with that era in mind, "It Won't Be Too Long" and "Fix It."

Candi's keyboard player, Kelvin Broughton, has worked with the Pace Sisters and several other gospel stars, also contributed two great songs. "Set My Spirit Free" is a fast choir song and "The Anointing" is a pretty ballad showing off some of the higher range of Candi's unique vocal instrument.

Candi is pleased with the overall

message and vibe of the album.

"I will never again do a MIDI gospel album where the keyboard puts down the basic track and everybody builds off of that," Candi says.

everybody was vibing off each other. I was singing the song as they laid the track down so they could feel me. I was the picture and they painted around me."



Candi Staton is the legendary Sweetheart of Soul.

"We did this album the old time way. We did it live. The guitar would hear me do something and he would get a lick on it. It was a live to track,

Candi first sang in church when she was a mere four years old. "The crowds would get very emotional," Candi recalls. "At the time I didn't

really know shy they were crying so much...once I remember the audience go so emotional, throwing their pocket books at my feet and so on, that I got really scared and ran off to my mother."

Candi's moody, gambling, hard drinking father drove her mother to move Candi and her siblings to Cleveland to start a new life without him. After an impromptu song by Candi and her sister Maggie at a church, they were discovered by Bishop Jewel, a woman who presided over several churches throughout the country. She formed the Jewel Gospel Trio around the Staton girls and Naomi Harrison.

The trio was an immediate hit with church audiences.

They recorded several singles for Nashboro, Savoy and other recording labels. Their sons such as "I Looked Down The Line (And I Wondered)" and "Too Late" earned them radio airplay and their success led to sharing stages with the Staple Singers, the Soul Stirrers, and Aretha Franklin among others.

When she came of age, Candi left the group to marry singer Lou Rawls, but exercised a woman's prerogative to change her mind and married someone else. However, after seven years of housewifery, Candi had grown tired of her husband's abuse. At that point, she decided to resurrect her singing career and the big break soon followed. Her brother dared her to sing on amateur night at the 27/28 Club in Birmingham. She

sang Aretha Franklin's "Do Right Woman" and won a booking to open for R&B singer Clarence Carter, her future husband. He liked her style and asked her to open for him on the road.

After dabbling with a couple of small labels, Candi landed her first million-selling single, "I'd Rather Be An Old Man's Sweetheart (Than A Young One's Fool)" for Fame/Capitol Records in 1969.

She soon followed-up with a string of southern soul classics such as "I'm Just A Prisoner (Of Your Good Lovin')," "Sweet Feeling," and "As Long As He Takes Care of Home." Two other million-sellers from this period, "In The Ghetto" and "Stand By Your Man" were nominated for Grammy Awards.

In 1976 Candi became a disco star, scoring with "Young Hearts Run Free." Other dance anthems such as "Victim," "When You Wake Up Tomorrow," "Chance" and "Honest I do" made Candi the third best-known disco lady in the world after Donna Summer and Gloria Gaynor.

After a series of personal traumas, Staton became a born-again Christian in 1982.

Her initial gospel album "Make Me An Instrument" peaked at #7 on Billboard's gospel charts and won a Grammy nod.

She's recorded eight other hit gospel albums.

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This delightful and energetic eleven-year-old is in need of a forever family!

Victor is one of over 350 Oregon children waiting to be adopted. Singing in the church choir, playing sports and riding his bike are ways in which Victor likes to pass the time.

Going to movies and sampling different restaurants provide

some additional spice and variety.

Victor is an inquisitive child, liking to investigate new things and striving to decipher "how things works."

Thriving on individual attention and quality one-on-one time, he has been working hard to overcome the traumas of his past.

Victor is a terrific kid who



Victor, age 11

would brighten a home!

A patient, loving family with reliable structure could really benefit Victor.

Oregon agencies waive or reduce fees for the adoption of Oregon's children in state care, and pre-adoption training's are offered statewide.

To learn more about adoption and the children awaiting homes, contact The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society, (503) 222-9661.



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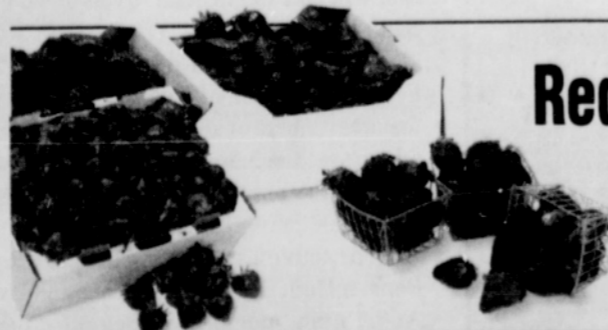
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### Obituary

#### Willie McNair

Funeral services were held Thursday for Willie Beatrice McNair (Maiden name King) at Killingsworth Little Chapel of The Chimes.

Willie died May 14, 1997 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital of death congestive heart failure.

Willie was born June 3, 1923 in Little Rock, Ark. She has lived in Portland for over 50 years. Her husband, Luther McNair died in 1959. She was a homemaker and a member of First AME Zion Church in Portland.

#### Peace camp

The 1997 Parenting for Peace and Justice family camp will be held June 12 to June 15, 1997.

The camp will be held at the Aldersgate Conference Center near Turner, OR.

The theme for this year's camp will be "nurturing and empowering families for a just and peaceful world."

The theme reflects the great need in the Pacific Northwest to encourage peace in the home and solidarity in our communities.

For registration information contact the Archdiocese Office of Justice and Peace, 2838 E. Burnside Street, Portland, OR (503) 233-8361.

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