

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Will Ackerman

The Sound Of Wind Driven Rain

Will Ackerman's unique acoustic styles led to the creation of Windham Hill Records and the entire genre of "New Age" music almost twenty-five years ago. Ackerman's current release The Sound of Wind Driven Rain, his tenth for Windham Hill, is the guitarist's first studio recording in six years.

When asked about The Sound of

Wind Driven Rain, Ackerman tells his questioner, "Listen to the music." Pressed for details, he says the recording, with engineer Corin Nelsen at Imaginary Road Studios, "was a fairly long process, taking about fifteen months. Some of the song I did, without exaggeration, twenty-three versions of, because I could. Sometimes the notes were there, but I didn't really think I had gotten the

emotional feeling, so I went back and did it again."

The cd's opening cut, "Pictures," was inspired by his wife Shella's fine paintings, one of which appears on the cover. "Mr. Jackson's Hot" honors "a crazy desert rat who lives in a ghost town on the edge of Death Valley, just one of the sweetest guys alive."

My Friend Kimberly Scott



Kimberly Scott

This is my report about the person I admire most, my friend Kimberly Scott.

Kim is only eleven but she can sing like Mariah and Whitney and Janet rolled into one! She sounds like Buttah! Sometimes when I go over to her house, she'll be singing and I think it's the radio.

When Kimberly was little, like about five-years-old, they used to sing, "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" around the house. That's how Kimberly's mother discovered her daughter has a gift. She decided Kimberly's talent should be heard, so when Kimberly was eight her mother took her to perform at the world famous Apollo for amateur night.

Kimberly says she was real nervous. She had butterflies in her stomach and she kept thinking: "Are they going to pick me, are they going to pick me, are they going to pick me?" but there's nothing you can do about nerves except ignore them. Kimberly marched on stage, rubbed that old piece of wood for luck, and started to blow. Her song was Mariah Carey's "Hero," which is really hard, especially for a kid. She sang so well that she won first place! Then she came back a different night and won first place again. She won five times in all. That's probably a record. A few months later, she sang "Hero" again at the Washington Times Building in Washington, D.C. That's when Ernesto Philips and Renee Diggs came into the picture. Ernesto and

Renee were in the big 80's soul group Starpoint and wanted to help Kimberly, so they did! After that, Kimberly was on a talent contest on the TV Show "Jenny Jones" and she won that too!

Now Kimberly has an album named after her, "Kimberly Scott" on Columbia/Longevity Records. I play the CD every single day. Sometimes my mom yells at me to take it off, but I just can't cause it's so good. Anyway, I know my mom is only playing because she likes Kim as much as I do!

I bet if you turn on the radio you can hear Kimberly's first single, "Tuck Me In." It's such a beautiful song, my mother says she cries when she hears it. Everyone loves that song. It's a big hit all over the country.

Even though Kimberly is a singing sensation, she's still doing regular kid stuff. She's in sixth grade and her favorite subject is science. The best science experiment was when she brought in a peach and watched it get moldy. It was so disgusting she got an A.

Kimberly says when she grows up she wants to be a professional basketball player or a lawyer or a pediatrician. I don't care what she does as long as she keeps singing. She's dope and that's why Kimberly Scott is the kid I admire most.

By Keisha Smalls, class 6B

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