

## Metro/ Religion

## Trin-i-tee and Spiritual Love



CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

They exploded onto the music scene in a phenomenal fashion that most new artists can only dream about: a debut that soared to the top of charts, multi-format radio and video success, prestigious industry awards, ongoing international media coverage and a featured spot on one of the year's most popular concert tours.

In addition, Trin-i-tee 5:7 performed on the nationwide NU Nation Tour and historic Pay-Per-View event with Kirk Franklin and CeCe Winans and were the first gospel group ever to perform at the ultra-trendy New York Spring Fashion Show, Most recently, Trin-i-tee 5:7 was chosen as spokespersons for the Revlon Gospel Diva Search of the New Millennium and contributed to the success of the The Prince of Egypt Inspirational Soundtrack.

Although cutting edge in style, Trini-tee 5:7, named for a verse in the New Testament book of 1<sup>St</sup> John, is clearly about substance reliant solely upon God's grace. The group's lyrical clarity and musical cache, a contemporary blend of R&B, hip-hop and gospel, is the artistic expression of the genuine and unapologetic Christian faith of these young women. Trin-i-tee 5:7 consists of two former high school friend from New Orleans, Chanelle Haynes and Angel Taylor, and new member Adrian Anderson. Appropriately, Anderson's new role with Trin-i-tee 5:7 is a fitting reflection of the spirit of the group: the friendship and sisterhood that springs naturally from their shared commitment to God and the recognition of His grace. It was friendship that brought Anderson to Trin-i-tee 5:7. In her role as a successful makeup artist, she had worked with the trio and their labelmates for two years. I always cared about my artists and was thankful that God allowed me to touch them last and pray for them before they went out; I grew so much spiritually being a part of the B-Rite Music Family.

"I also knew I'd have to be ready for a lot of hard work," says Anderson. "And I wanted to make sure I would be able to make a real contribution. I knew people respected them, and the songs really ministered to me." As soon as Anderson said "yes," the trio was off and running to concert dates, meeting with producers, and recording their new album, SPIRITUAL LOVE. Fortheir highlyanticipated sophomore release on B-Rite Music, the trio co-wrote four songs with their producers. "We've written songs before, but didn't record them," says Taylor. "Getting to sing our own songs was a real thrill...they are dear to our hearts." "If They Only Knew," one of the song co-written by the trio, is a smooth R&B number that expresses their

desire to communicate their Christian faith. Other co-writing credits on SPIRITUAL LOVE include the fun. yet in-your-face "How You Living," "We Know," a youthful anthem aimed at reaching a mass audience with the message of God's grace, and the retro show-stopper "Put Your Hands," which pays homage to the 70's hits, "Back In Love Again" and "Put Your Hand In The Hand."

Working with so many heroes has been a treat for the women of Trin-itee. "Kirk's like a big brother to us ... it's always joy to work with him," says Anderson. For Angel Taylor, meeting gospel legend Tramaine Hawkins was a moment to remember. We spent a couple of hours with her in the studio, just talking," she says. "That was a real thrill for me, because she was such a big influence... I found out I could sing when I was five, trying to duplicate what she did on

her albums ." Chanelle Haynes appreciates Hawkins' willingness to share hard-won wisdom with the trio. "She told us all about the criticism she received at first, for wearing makeup and nail polish. There were so many things that we could relate to...and she was so kind and encouraging. Under the spiritual and professional influence of such talented and committed artists, the women of Trin-i-tee 5:7 have nurtured their own particular gifts and honed their vision for reaching out to a wide-ranging audience with the gospel of grace. Unlike other youthoriented groups that share the urban airwaves with them, Trin-i-tee 5:7 has an uncompromising message of sexual purity and personal faith that goes against the grain of popular culture. In "My Body," a young woman makes a self-assured choice and refuses to be manipulated: "If this is love then you can take it/If this is not then don't ya fake it/My body is the Lord's temple/Don't mess with God's property.

"There's so much pressure out there for young people," says Taylor, "...so much sex on TV, radio, and movies, that they think it's normal to be intimate at 16. We want to get the message out that they have a choice. The physical stuff can wait," At average age of 21, Chanelle Haynes, Angel Taylor and Adrian Anderson reach across generational boundaries and musical genres with their immensely appealing sound and articulate expressions of their Christian faith. "Our hope is that these songs will show people the way to a relationship with God, that they will know God loves them," says Taylor. Adrian Anderson adds, "Trin-i-tee 5:7 is a ministry...nothing more, nothing less."

### In loving memory of

Birl Govenor Simington Sr.

Sunrise November 12, 1923

Sunset December 22, 1999

Sunrise November 12, 1923 Sunset December 22, 1999 Mr Birl Govenor Simington Sr. was born In Doddrige, AK on November 12, 1923. He moved to Portland in 1945. Birl was a Residential Contractor, self employed.

Left to cherish his memory:

Mamie Lee Simington Spouse Portland, OR Rosie Simington Daughter Portland, OR Janice Simington Daughter Portland, OR

Betty and Barbara Simington Daughters Portland, OR Carl Simington Son Portland, OR

Birl Simington, Jr. Son Portland, OR Sevedious Simington Son Portland, OR

Lewis and Tony Simington Sons Portland, OR Timothy, Sylvester, and Herman Simington Sons Portland, OR One Daughter preceded him in death, Joann Simington

### In loving memory of

#### Oswald Eugene Williams

Sunrise December 7, 1933

Sunset December 21, 1999

Sunrise December 7, 1933 Sunset December 21, 1999 Mr. Oswald Eugene Williams was born in McAllister, Oklahoma on December

7, 1933, he moved to Portland in 1967 from Kansas City, Missouri. Oswal worked as a Commercial Painter, he painted service stations, ect.

Oswald leaves to cherish his memory: Christine E. Williams Spouse Portland, OR Gwendolyn Goods Vancouver, Wash. Patricia Strickland Portland, OR Linda Isadore Vancouver, Wash. Eugene Williams Portland, OR Karen Williams Kansas City, Missouri Michael Williams Vancouver, Wash. Paul Williams Portland, OR Wendell Williams Vancouver, Wash. Loretta Jack Vancouver, Wash. Danielle Larry Vancouver, Wash. Tyrone Williams Vancouver, Wash. Vicky Williams Deceased Kathy Lincoln Vancouver, Wash.

Step Children: Randy Foster Portland, OR Gary Foster Portland, OR Sherry Stephens Portland, OR Corey Scott Portland, OR Vikki Scott Portland, OR

Edward Williams Portland, Wash.

Also survived by his former wife-Mildred Williams of Vancouver, Wash.

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