

Chapter 1 : Greatest Songs in Christian Music - Sample by Pavlin Nikolchev - Issuu

Drawing on its unique history and extensive resources, CCM Magazine presents this entertaining and informative book, which brims with intriguing details about the songs, plus a wealth of fascinating, fun sidebars and behind-the-scenes stories that bring Christian music, its artists and lyrics alive to readers.

No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the publisher. List Crafting by Michael Nolan. Interior design by Jay Smith at Juicebox Designs—info juiceboxdesigns. Would my favorite artists be represented? What would the top 10 look like? We at CCM wholeheartedly agree—this conviction served as the starting place for our approach in creating this book. That said, we did feel it necessary to create two tangible man-made guidelines for the sake of practicality and to specifically honor the history of the Christian music community. Secondly, after much debate, we came to the conclusion that it would be most helpful for the purposes of this book, if eligibility required that songs be distinctly faith-evident. Actually, all of the above. If you asked me to list my 10 favorite Christian songs of all time, for instance, chances are the results would look quite different than a list of what I considered to be the 10 most influential or popular songs of all time. But if it was a radio hit, eventually ended up in hymnals, made unprecedented inroads into culture, or was covered by multiple artists, then its chances were significantly better. And the actual selection process? First we began by referencing decades of groundbreaking albums, radio airplay charts, Dove Award wins, and downright personal opinions. From these sources we were able to easily list hundreds of landmark songs. We then took this list to a panel of industry pioneers and executives. And did I mention that it was surreal? One moment I would find myself feeling like a relevant contributor, and the next an astounded spectator, a fly on the wall of Christian music history. I had to see it to believe it. And just what was I thinking during those moments when I actually challenged the opinions of such Christian music giants? It had to be my love for the music. It made me audacious. After all, these were some of the very people who literally helped form my tastes in music. When this phase was completed, we still had about songs on the list. There was only one appropriate way to go from here—it would come down to votes cast by industry leaders and fiercely loyal Christian music fans. On the industry side we contacted dozens of key executives, artists and producers and then randomly selected more than 2, CCM Magazine subscribers and invited them all to cast their votes. The historic book you now hold in your hands. We hope that as you read through its pages, you will experience the same joy, wonder and nostalgia that we did in creating it. Today virtually every religion in the world uses music in its ceremonies and rituals. Still, when it comes to sacred scriptures, the Bible that Jews and Christians read and study is the most musical holy book of them all. Some were solo laments that the ever-moody David would sing to his God. Others were joyous choruses of praise that were designed to be sung by thousands of thankful voices. In Psalm 150, a song of praise, David catalogs some of the most important reasons for praising God. His greatness is unfathomable. His splendor and majesty are glorious. His works are many and wonderful. He upholds those who fall. And His power is awesome. This, in a nutshell, is one of the main messages of this book. Or to put it another way: A long, long time ago, God created humanity in His image. As a result, people have been creating songs and other things from the beginning of time. And many of the best Christian songs humans have created in the last few decades are described in the pages that follow. Later on Christians sang hymns. By the 1950s, most worship services in the Western world were based around a select list of classic hymns, many of which had been created a few centuries earlier by reformers like Martin Luther or John and Charles Wesley. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, or Ira Sankey, who was evangelist Dwight L. Moody. By the time the 60s got rocking and rolling, popular music was undergoing a radical transformation. Spirituality was in the air—along with plenty of idealism, incense and marijuana smoke. A mushrooming youth movement offered a chaotic cornucopia of causes and creeds, including campus sit-ins, anti-war demonstrations, political radicalism, communal living, sexual liberation, recreational and religious drug experimentation, a parade of Eastern gurus and home-grown cults, and revolutionary—even revelatory—kinds of music. After realizing that free love could be costly, trips could be

bad, and cults could be expressways to the heart of spiritual darkness, millions of young people turned to Jesus. I say I feel so good I gotta get up and dance. Norman and dozens of other unlikely pioneers were the true founders of contemporary Christian music, which was becoming the lingua franca of a growing network of coffee houses, communes, street-corner concerts and newfangled fellowships. The pulpit of this generation and the next is the guitar. Contemporary Christian music borrowed heavily from folk and rock idioms, as well as more traditional southern gospel forms. Gaither also served as a mentor to many contemporary Christian artists who appear on the list, including Michael English 17, 82 , Steve Green 44 , Sandi Patty 56, 65, 73 , Russ Taff 29 , Larnelle Harris 85 and members of White Heart But while many contemporary Christian musicians borrowed from earlier musical forms, others made a clean break with the past or anything that sounded like traditional hymns. Lyrically, the new music expounded on five key elements of Jesus movement theology. Theme 2 The Holy Spirit The third member of the Trinity played a renowned role in the lives of many late 20th-century Christians, so it should come as no surprise that the Spirit has also played an emphasized role in contemporary Christian music. Christianity was seen as more than dry, dusty dogma. It was a powerful daily reality. Anne Herring was the principal songwriter and vocalist for 2nd Chapter of Acts, a group which took its name from the New Testament account of the day of Pentecost. Theme 4 Evangelism It only follows that if Jesus is coming back and Judgment Day is just around the corner, Christians ought to roll up their sleeves and get busy proclaiming the Gospel. Believers have urgent work to do: These lively, simple, melodic songs, many of which were based on texts from the Gospels or the Psalms, spread like wildfire from one fellowship to the next before invading mainstream churches and, in many cases, replacing the hymns that Norman and others had found so lifeless. And along with the music came a new, relaxed and informal worship style. In fact, between one-third and one-half of all the songs on the list of Greatest Christian Songs could be considered praise and worship songs, depending on how broadly you define the category. The letter urged an end to all negative album reviews and airplay and sales charts in the magazine, claiming that such trappings of fame only served to tempt artists and others in the industry away from a pure form of ministry: We feel that polls such as these create an unhealthy atmosphere of rivalry between ministries. We can hardly imagine the apostles and prophets being categorized in such a way. Music is just a tool, and a faulty one at that. But during those five years, Green wrote and recorded a surprisingly large and influential body of work. Perhaps gospel, with its Southern roots and twangy, four-part harmonies was easy to grasp. But contemporary Christian music has embraced a staggering diversity of styles, from the crunching hard rock of bands like P. John Michael Talbot, a secular folk-rocker who became a contemporary Christian music pioneer before converting to Catholicism and creating dozens of albums full of liturgically based worship music, agreed. We need to know the awesome reverence of the Gregorian chant. Others, like those mentioned above, started in the Christian market before signing with mainstream labels. Rarer still were mainstream artists like U2 and Lifehouse who recorded exclusively with mainstream labels but were still able to attract a sizable audience of Christian listeners. By far, the most celebrated and most controversial crossover artist of all time was Bob Dylan, the American music icon who shocked the world when he released three consecutive Christian albums: The first and most influential Christian artist to crossover to the mainstream was Amy Grant, who has five songs on the list—more than any other artist. At one point, Christian market-supported artists accounted for an unprecedented six charting hits during the same week. Debuting with a six-song EP in , Stryper was a hard-rocking hair band that created a wailing wall of sound full of screaming guitars and pounding drums. Though their lyrics were explicitly Christian and the band routinely threw New Testaments to members of its audiences, some anti-rock critics felt their hard rock image spoke louder than their music. Attired in spandex and decorated with chains, leather and studs, Stryper initiated a whole new round of anti-Christian rock hysteria. But he felt Stryper went too far. Even a decade later, rock music could still send some Christians into a frenzy. Just ask Pat Boone, that paragon of American virtue who ran afoul of the music police in In a move that was an even bigger risk than his decision decades ago to loan a struggling Randy Stonehill enough money to record his first album, Boone released In a Metal Mood: Nice Guy , a collection of heavy metal hits arranged for big band. The album was certainly a sin against heavy metal, and maybe even good taste. But was it a sin against God Almighty? Today such battles seem silly, and rock bands like Third Day and Audio

Adrenaline blend meaty rock hooks with powerful praise lyrics. Wayne, Indiana Christian hangout. The rest, as they say, is history. In its day, each new Petra album pushed the envelope for cutting-edge audio production and snazzy graphics. In , the Gospel Music Association, which had originated within the southern gospel culture, announced that it would add rock and heavy metal categories for its annual Dove Awards. Chapman, who has become one of the best-selling and most acclaimed artists in Christian music history is represented on the list by four of his dozens of hits: The band came on like gangbusters. One day the four members were sitting in their dorm room at Greenville College singing songs to each other. The next, their self-titled debut had sold 1. Their sequel, *Much Afraid* , debuted at number eight on the Billboard chart.

Chapter 2 : various artists, "CCM Top Greatest Songs In Christian Music: Volume 1" Review

Covering nearly 30 years of music history, this entertaining and informative book brims with interesting details about the songs, plus a wealth of fascinating behind-the-scenes stories that bring Christian music, its artists, and lyrics alive to readers.

Volume 1 Various Artists Album length: September 28, The Christian music industry has come a very long way over the past couple decades. Many artists have come and gone, leaving their mark and changing history. Thanks to extensive research from industry vets CCM Magazine, polling artists, industry folks, and fans, a list of the Top contemporary Christian songs of all time has been painstakingly compiled. The songs have been divided up into a multi-CD set with Volume 1 releasing Fall Volume 1 is a collection of the first 25 songs in the list. While in no particular order, the songs on Volume 1 are rather varied in age and style. Much of the record continues this rollercoaster ride through CCM history. The biggest thing the project lacks is order. If each volume was counting down till the final volume, ending with the number one song, or if the songs were in order by the year it was put out, it may feel more thought-out and structured. Also, the liner notes simply list the song titles and credits in a similar fashion to earlier CDs or vinyl LPs. With a collection that could be one of the most significant and unique ever to be released in Christian music, it feels like CCM may have dropped the ball. It would have been a real treat to have a booklet insert with pictures of the artists and album covers and perhaps comments on the songs from the artists or other artists whom the songs have impacted. An explanation to why certain songs were included may have helped as well. To be honest, I did find myself wondering why certain songs made the cut, and wondering which ones were sacrificed to save some of these here. In addition to 23 classic songs, the collection has included two brand new songs especially recorded for this set. It seems a bold move to include it. The other new song is from another newcomer, Warren Barfield. However, in the grand scheme of the series of songs, it seems somewhat odd to include newer versions of favorite songs on such a collection. The song itself is important, but often the artist who performs it originally helps make it all that more significant and memorable. Perhaps having an installment of this series devoted exclusively to new, tribute recordings of some classic songs would have been more efficient? Volume 1 is essentially a tossed salad of CCM hits. A valuable trip down memory lane, sadly without much structure or organization to it, this set is a great collection of songs, but it deserves to have been put together with a little more thought and consideration. Creative Trust Album length:

Chapter 3 : Top Christian Song Charts Of All Time | PraiseCharts

Find album reviews, stream songs, credits and award information for CCM Top Greatest Songs In Christian Music, Vol. 1 - Various Artists on AllMusic -

Chapter 4 : MediaNet Content Experience: Browse Top Christian/Gospel Artists

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Chapter 5 : Popular Songs From CCLI | PraiseCharts

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Chapter 6 : Best Christian Songs Of All-time

iTunes Top Gospel & Christian Songs The current top Christian and Gospel songs on iTunes, including contemporary Christian music, pop, rap, traditional, and praise and worship music. To listen to the top selling songs and to purchase

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and download the music you must have Apple's iTunes player installed on your system. iTunes chart of the.

Chapter 7 : Positive, Encouraging K-LOVE

This week's most popular Christian songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Nielsen Music, sales data as compiled by Nielsen Music and streaming activity data provided by.

Chapter 8 : CCM's Top Greatest Songs Names Track Listing For Volume Two

Updated November 3, - - Playlist managed by SFCH Worship. Top Worship Songs (indexed A-Z) (CCLI November) SFCH Worship.

Chapter 9 : SONGLYRICS " Top Christian Songs

The Billboard Hot chart ranks the top songs of the week based on sales, radio airplay, and streaming activity.