

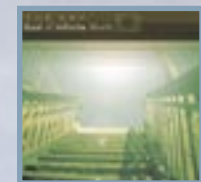
Reviews by Christmas McCaughey

the kry *God of infinite worth*

While it's a far cry from The Kry's original rocky style, their latest worship release, *God of Infinite Worth*, may delightfully surprise fans with its unique instrumentation and genuine feel. "Musically, it's not your typical worship CD," said Jean-Luc Lajoie, lead singer and guitarist of The Kry. "Stylistically, it has a bit of a British sound and a more 'laid-back' feel." Their first worship album "is definitely not our last."



From left: Yves Lajoie, Jean-Luc Lajoie, Steve Marcia, and Nic Rodriguez.



Quebec-born brothers Jean-Luc and Yves formed The Kry in the early 1990s. "Shortly after I was saved in 1989, the Lord made it clear that He was going to use me in music ministry and that worship would be a huge part of it," recalled Jean-Luc. Since then, they have released several albums and have traveled the globe ministering through music. While Yves now travels less frequently because of family commitments, Jean-Luc still ministers at different Calvarys around the world. Both are heavily involved at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, CA, where Jean-Luc leads worship and Yves is the college and career pastor.

"Although I have always loved doing concerts—as part of an outreach or a special event or festival—leading worship is the ultimate musical experience for me," Jean-Luc shared. "*God of Infinite Worth* is a collection of songs the Lord has given me over the last couple years as I have traveled the world for His glory."

With a surprising range of style and instrumentation, the album maintains a worshipful, intimate feel. Original songs include the catchy, Brit-style "Faithful" and the reverent-but-groovy "God of Infinite Worth." Varied offerings include the folksy, harmonica-driven "Be Exalted/We Exalt

Thee;" the sonic-ethereal "I'll Find You There;" and the edgy-but-smooth rendition of "Jesus Lord of Heaven."

"No Earthly Song" was a late addition to the album. Jean-Luc recalled, "I started thinking, *Man, I could write a thousand more songs, and all of them still would fall short in expressing how amazing God is and how thankful I am that He saved me.*" The song holds the intimacy of an afterglow, with gentle acoustics and Jean-Luc tenderly singing: "No earthly song could ever do to honor such a King. No symphony, no melody can quite express the way I feel ... my heart laid bare to worship You," building up to the passionate, anthem-like chorus, "I will now surrender all, I follow You ... I will lay my burdens down; I will bow."

"Although my calling is primarily in music, I also love to evangelize and build up the body of Christ," Jean-Luc shared. The band started To The Max Ministries in 2000, emphasizing missions and evangelism.

Staying plugged in to their fellowship is key. "It's very healthy to have a place where you can serve when you're not on the road," Jean-Luc said. "Not only is it commendable, but it is a great way to remain accountable." He quoted Hebrews 10:24-25, part of which says, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together ... but exhorting one another, and so much the

more as you see the Day approaching." God's grace, His Word, and His Spirit have sustained them through years of the intense pressures of success. "We remain accountable as much as possible, and we ask the Lord to keep us humble—not to take the glory for ourselves but to always give it back to Him."

In tough times, he clings to Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jean-Luc added, "No matter where I am in my walk with Him, no matter what I think should or shouldn't be happening, I can always trust that God is doing or allowing the right things in my life. Nothing comes to me unless it goes through the loving hands of the living God."

Jean-Luc exhorted all believers to stay in the Word and to be faithful to what God has called them to do. "I encourage everyone to count the cost—not only the cost of following the Lord, but of not following the Lord as well," he said. "Be faithful to the Lord and what He has called you to do, and one day you will hear these words coming from the Lord Himself: 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord'" (Matthew 25:21).

www.thekry.com

danny donnelly *be filled*

Known for guitar work on The Kry's *Undone* album and his own *Solo Worship* albums, Danny Donnelly's recent independent release, *Be Filled*, offers a dozen original songs in just about every musical style there is.



Not only does it contain an amazing variety, but it showcases the range of talent in this worship leader/record producer/musician. Danny provides lyrics, music, vocals, guitar, and some beautiful solo piano—not to mention also producing and recording. He calls the collection "eclectic" and "devotional"—filled with meditations and prayers.

It's a far cry from mainstream Christian pop albums that have neat verse/chorus/verse arrangements and snappy sing-along

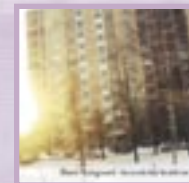
melodies. Instead, the multi-faceted album contains toe-tapping acoustics in "Blues for a Homesick Believer;" a classical/modern piano piece written for his wife, Rachel; airy and soulful electric guitar in "Calm the Rage;" and powerful, rock anthem "Be Filled." Many songs run five minutes or more, packed with lyrics that often ring poetic, as in "No Gravity." His vocal style ranges from fragile and broken to powerful and soulful.

Danny was inspired by his personal devotion times with the Lord during a year touring with a secular band. "I saw people who needed the touch of God on their lives, and I knew the very thing they were aching for was the Lord."

He also cited Revelation 4:11: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (KJV). He added, "When I consider, What is this for? Whose is this? I keep going back to that perspective; it's all

sheri youngward *the words that you left me*

With a liquid-smooth voice and mellow acoustics, Sherri Youngward returns to her early style in the independently produced album *The Words That You Left Me*. With songs full of worshipful adoration and appreciation of Jesus, the album lends itself to quiet mornings with the Lord.



The acoustic, lilting "If I Could" expresses her desire to lift up Jesus for all to admire and was inspired by Isaiah 61:1-3. "I love this description of Jesus—setting captives free, binding broken hearts, giving beauty for ashes," Sherri said. "I can't help but think that if the world could see Him as He really is that they would have to fall in love with Him." The chorus says, "If I could, I'd shine as bright as the sun; I'd shine all over You, and the whole world would see

how lovely You are to me." In the intimate love-ballad, "The Light of Your Face," the chorus conveys a deep sense of longing and resolve: "Oh to know that I have loved You with all my life ... when I see the face behind the name of the One who gave His life for me." More tears went into this piece than any other, Sherri confided: "This song is one of the hardest for me to sing live because I feel like I'm reading my journal out loud." Her frequent prayer for all of her songs is "that Jesus would be revealed. I can't think of anything better to hope for a living soul."

Sherri has played at numerous Calvary Chapel retreats and conferences and has accompanied Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission on yearly trips to Russia. Photographs from the Russia trips grace her web site and serve as the cover shot for this album. Sherri accepted Christ at age 18 and has been in music ministry full time for about nine years. She has released six albums with another currently in the works, which is being produced by Danny Donnelly. When she's not traveling, she

for Him," he said. "We need to keep our eyes on eternity, remembering that He's preparing a place for us."

Danny leads worship at Metro Calvary in Rocklin, CA, where he lives with his wife Rachel and their daughter Ella, 2. He has produced several albums in "The Barn" studio behind his house for different Calvary-affiliated "musicianaries," those who have a heart to share Jesus through music.

www.dannydonnelly.com



photo by Dave Escalante



photo by Michelle Taylor

leads worship at a home fellowship in San Ramon, Northern California.

www.sherriyoungward.com