



## Jaime Cortez

### ADVIENTO

It's finally here – the Advent song collection I've been waiting for. Jaime Cortez' *Adviento* captures all the beauty, joy and expectation of Advent in this 15 song CD through its use of contemporary and Latin styles.

Many of the songs are sung in Spanish (Cortez' native language) and the rest are either in English entirely or in both languages. The liner notes contain the lyrics in both Spanish and English so every listener can understand.

Cortez makes wonderful use of the rich scripture offerings of Advent. The Advent Litany or "Letanía de Adviento" draws on Isaiah 11 and the O Antiphons to create a beautiful litany that can be used as an entrance hymn for liturgy (this song is done in both English and Spanish). "Dios Mismo Vendrá" captures the joy of Isaiah 35:2-6 ("The desert shall bloom with abundant flowers..."). "Abran el Camino al Señor" draws from Isaiah 40 and the words of John the Baptist: "A voice cries out, 'Make way for the Lord.'"

And here's a new idea – an Advent anthem – "Rejoice Over Us with

Gladness," drawing from Zephaniah 3:14-17.

There are glorious songs concerning the Blessed Mother including "Mi Alma Glorifica al Señor" (Magnificat), a beautiful new "Ave Maria" in Spanish, and the inspiring "Nothing is Impossible."

As a song leader, choosing hymns for Advent has always been a real chore. The hymns were often so dreary and didn't reflect the incredible richness of the scripture readings. With *Adviento*, some real choices are now available. Hurray!

You can purchase *Adviento* from the Oregon Catholic Press website, [ocp.org/products/20246](http://ocp.org/products/20246).



## Trish Foti Genco

### IN HIS PRESENCE . . . THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Trish Foti Genco has teamed up with her faithful and talented accompanist, Dreux Montegut, producer Joe Hand and co-producer Chris Finney to create this absolutely beautiful collection of Christmas songs entitled *In His Presence . . . The Gift of Christmas*.

Genco's formal voice is so well suited to these songs. You will immediately be swept away to cold nights and snowflakes falling on a peaceful scene.

*In His Presence* begins

with a stunning version of "What Child is This?" A lovely classical guitar plucks out the melody and flute and cello join in to accompany Genco. The arrangement is refreshingly different in its simplicity. Each instrument is used with restraint and beautifully complement Genco's vocal. She also wrote her own third verse to the song which adds a rich dimension.

Other familiar songs follow suit: "Breath of Heaven," "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," Gounod's "Ave Maria" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Dreux Montegut's piano accompaniment is very tasteful, as always. He makes the piano "sing."

Genco made a point of using musicians from her native New Orleans as a show of support to the area so devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The trumpets, flute and cello complement the piano accompaniment nicely.

The album winds up with a rousing Dixieland jazz rendition of "Christmas in New Orleans," a fitting way to say Merry Christmas to New Orleans.

You can purchase *In His Presence . . . The Gift of Christmas* through Genco's website at [tfotigenco.com](http://tfotigenco.com).

## Angelina

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Just in time for Advent and Christmas comes Angelina's newest offering, *Light of the World*, featuring traditional Christmas hymns. The lovely orchestral arrangements coupled with Angelina's warm voice really put me in a holiday mood.

All of your Christmas favorites will be found here: "O Holy Night," "Away in a Manger," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" and "What Child is This?" Each song is performed faithfully, and beautifully.

A surprise offering was "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" in its original German. This was a pleasant departure from the original setting.



My favorite piece was "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Angelina definitely has a feel for gospel and sings this song in a breezy way. She seems to take more vocal chances in this genre and I'd like to see that translate to other genres.

I welcomed the additional background voices in "Go Tell It on the Mountain." As pretty and as varied as the orchestral arrangements were, I did find myself wishing there were more harmony and background vocals on these songs.

All in all, *Light of the World* is a lovely offering for Christmastime and it will be in my CD player during the holidays.

You can purchase *Light of the World* from Angelina's website, [angelinasings.com](http://angelinasings.com).

*All reviews by Susan Bailey*

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## Martin Doman GOD'S GOODNESS SO FAR



Martin Doman has clearly delighted in the Lord over the last ten years and his latest album, *God's Goodness So Far*, a compilation of his greatest hits, is a testament to that delight. There's no doubt from the very start that the well-known worship leader feels called to evangelize with his Catholic faith. In "Open Wide The Doors to Christ," Doman pours out his desire to bring all to Christ ... and it is quite the reflection of the call of Pope John Paul II to whom the album is dedicated. Right from the a cappella, reflective start, Doman pulls you in. The song, written for the Jubilee Year 2000, builds into a rousing anthem to evangelization featuring beautiful harmonies and instrumentation.

The next two songs are adaptations of prayers and take you into a meditative place. The skillful use of the penny whistle and other Celtic flavor on

"St. Patrick's Breastplate" captures the essence of the Prayer of St. Patrick and calls the listener to the daily commitment to follow Christ.

Doman's passion for that commitment amidst the struggles of life is evident in the beautiful "Press On" and "John (Good Friday Song)." Drawn from the prayer by John Henry Cardinal Newman, "Lead Kindly Light" gently speaks of surrendering to the will of God.

There are several tracks recorded "live" at the 2003 Steubenville East Conference which showcase Doman's obvious ability to inspire in a concert setting. Rich Mullins' fans will love his rendition of "Sometimes by Step." His version of the John Michael Talbot song, "Holy Is His Name," with its simple and gorgeous guitar accompaniment and beautiful harmony, demonstrates Doman's ability to inspire in the balladeer tradition of Talbot. His rich, melodic tenor voice needs little instrumentation to capture your ear.

Doman's love for the Lord is mirrored in his love for his wife that is captured in the touching "I Am Here to Stay" and piano instrumental "Charlene's Theme." The whole album is basically one inspirational love song to God.

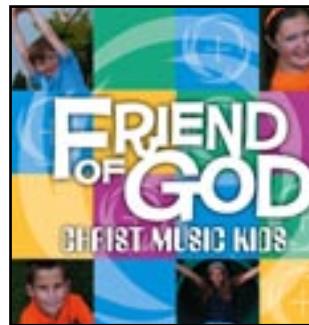
If you are a fan of the likes of Rich Mullins, Michael W. Smith, or pop troubadour Dan Fogelberg, and are looking for prayerful, meditative music, you will fall in love with *God's Goodness So Far*.

*God's Goodness So Far* is available through [martin-doman.com](http://martin-doman.com).

*Bill Tonnis*

## Christ Music Kids FRIEND OF GOD

*Friend of God* is the second album from the music ministry of Natalie Burt and Christ Music Kids. Formerly called Catholic Kids Worship, this follow up CD features performances from some of the former group participants, as well as new voices who have recently joined the



group. According to executive producer Natalie Burt, the goal of this project is to provide appropriate music for kids' adoration.

*Friend of God* features ten songs and a bevy of vocal talent. Joining the twelve Christ Music Kids are talented adult musi-

cians including Monica Valenti, Bob Rice, Martin Doman, Paul Burt, Sarah Hart, and Brian Keith. The songs range in tempo and style from the upbeat to the serene. Mike Ofca at Innovation Studios in Steubenville, Ohio produced this project.

My personal favorites on *Friend of God* include "Enough" with solo vocals by Monica Valenti and "Tantum Ergo/Adoration" a mix of the traditional Latin classic and Matt Maher's more recent English version. Both songs evoke the sense of compelling call to adoration which is at the heart of this CD. Martin Doman and the Kids also do a marvelous rendition of the wonderful standard "Here I Am to Worship" which starts quietly and builds to a stirring conclusion.

While you may think that you are purchasing *Friend of God* for the special kids in your life, these songs will draw in your entire family. *Friend of God* is perfect for either quiet adoration or purely for the pleasure of hearing great musicians bring praise to our wonderful God with hearts full of love.

You can purchase *Friend of God* at [christmusickids.com](http://christmusickids.com).

*Lisa Hendeey*

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# Reviews

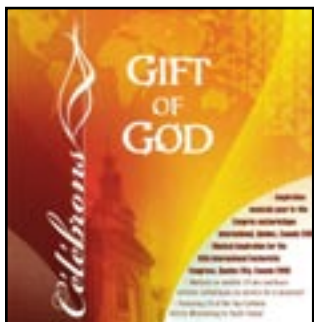
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## Various Artists, 49th International Eucharistic Conference GIFT OF GOD

The 49th International Eucharistic Conference (with the help of David Wang) has produced a new CD called *Gift of God* as a means of preparing young people for the event. Assembling 14 of the best Catholic artists from both the local Quebec and the international scene, this



compilation is one of the best collections I've seen of bands that minister to today's youth. *Gift of God* begins and ends with Canada's own award-winning band Critical Mass. The hard-hitting song "Reverend Larebil" speaks of the consistency

and honesty needed in our message. Following that is Cheer Up Charlie with "Only One." The driving beat compliments lyrics that speak of our daily struggles, and the answer, which is only found in God.

Also on the CD are some of the biggest names in CCM today, including Rachel Lampa. Lampa has sold over 600,000 CDs and lends her "Savior Song" off the CD *Blur* to this star-studded line-up. Matt Maher sings his highly successful song "Your Grace Is Enough" as well as the super group

Ceili Rain with a fast paced number, "Barely Stay In My Own Skin" that exemplifies the Celtic rock style we've come to love from them.

With the 49th International Eucharistic Conference being held in Quebec, it's fitting that there are two numbers on the CD performed in French. Glorious performs the song "Seul" and Guylain Prince sings "Par-Dela Les Forntieres". While I don't speak French, I can still tell a quality production in any language. Other

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## Now Available through Spirit Wing Records



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On the heels of the overwhelming success of their Catholic Music 2007 project, Spirit Wing Records proudly announces the release of two new projects, *Catholic Music 2008* and *Catholic Christmas*.

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# Reviews

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top Canadian artists on this CD include Janelle, Devine, Salt and Nancy Bodsworth. With this caliber of music coming out of Canada, I can only imagine how exciting the conference itself will be.

From end to end, *Gift of God* is filled with the highest quality, best written and best produced music in the Catholic rock world today. The whole CD blows me away. From the rap of Righteous B to the multi-award winning song "Amazed" by Sean Clive, and Spirit and Song recording artist Curtis Stephen, every song represents the best of the best. The CD closes with a new version of "Body and Blood" by Critical Mass, which wraps the project up perfectly helping us to never lose sight of the purpose for this CD: to prepare the hearts and minds of the listener for the beauty that is the Eucharist.

Write to Dave Wang of Critical Mass for ordering information at [dwang@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:dwang@uwaterloo.ca).

*George Leite*

## Chris Padgett IMPACT

If you have ever seen Chris Padgett, you already know one thing: he is multitalked! He is a hilarious comedian, amazing

speaker, and a great singer. He can make you laugh, learn and also lead you to prayer. The prayer is the focus of this CD.

*Impact* is a prayer from the first words (that come in before the music) to



the end of the CD. The tracks are a combination of new songs and some of Padgett's classic crowd favorites, but don't call it a "Greatest Hits."

Featuring collaborations with Matt Maher, Jeff Thomas and long time producer, Mike Ofca, this new CD takes some of the old songs and gives them a new twist. The production on *Impact* is great with tight bass lines, wonderful harmonies, occasional dance beats and even "bada badas."

This CD can compete with any of the CCM praise and worship albums out there. From the full-on dance track, "I am Yours" to the stripped down prayer for a daughter's purity in "Madeline," to a broken Christian's need for something more in "Be My Everything," *Impact* captures all the emotions

we go through in our relationship with God. It's a great sounding CD with wonderful lyrics. Get yourself some good speakers and enjoy!

You can purchase *Impact* at [chris-padgett.com](http://chris-padgett.com).

*Kyle Heimann*

## The Sword in the Spirit IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Beginning in the mid-1970s, some charismatic-oriented Catholics



and Protestants banded together in what is now known as "covenant communities." Entire families would move in

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## Happy Birthday Jesus! A Christmas Album by Donna Lee



1. Joy To The World
2. Home For Christmas by Donna Lee
3. What Child Is This
4. Do You Hear What I Hear?
5. Rudolph, the Red Nose Reindeer
6. One Little Baby by Andy Smith
7. As I Kneel Before You by Maria Parkinson
8. Happy Birthday Jesus by Kristin Goffman
9. Come All Ye Faithful
10. My Christmas Song by Donna Lee

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6. Jesus, I Trust in You
7. The Grace of God
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9. Thank You Lord
10. I Will Worship You
11. Forgiveness I Seek
12. I Am Here (with Marty Rotella)

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The Grace of God

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near-proximity to one another, committing to supporting one another in the Christian walk. Oftentimes, a music ministry is birthed from this, and new songs result.

“The Sword of the Spirit” is a larger network for covenant community life, and *In Spirit and Truth*, its latest effort, stems forth from the songwriters of these communities. It is not only a congregational-tested and accessible recording, it’s a wonderful example of what individual churches and ministries can do today in order to get their songs out.

Here, individual songwriters from separate parts of the country, wrote songs that were meant to be sung, but held back from completing an album until it had enough quality songs. It is in this environment that the songwriters (Ed Conlin, John Hughes, Melody Wilson, among others) tested these songs in their communities, making tweaks whenever necessary, to be assured that the final product would be the best it could be in regards to lyrics, melody, and congregational-friendliness.

Standout tracks include “While We Still Breathe” by Daniel Knaggs, a very touching meditation based on Psalm 103. Likewise, “Return O My Soul” by Tony O’Neill brings Psalm 116 to life. “By Your Steadfast Love” by Frank Docherty breaks into a spontaneous “Alleluia” round that serves as a background to the original verse. Lastly, “The House of God” (Conlin), is a great combination of a hook-y melody married to lyrics that challenge and motivate—it’s hard to not sing along.

“We Enter In” has some of the most vivid Revelation imagery put to paper: (“You are worthy, Lord” we cry / Face to face and eye to eye / “Hallelujah, Yours the power, Yours salvation, O Most High.” And so we adore You).

The vocals, shared by a varied group of singers (including Oki Varona, Sonya Devoir, among others), are simply done. This project was not meant to show off one’s vocal gymnastics, but to introduce exceptional songs to the church.

*In Spirit and Truth*, as well as information on community living, is available at [wordoflifecommunity.org](http://wordoflifecommunity.org). Lead sheets and lyrics are available there for free download. Any music minister on the search for new, powerful, congregational-friendly worship songs ought to have a listen. †

*Nick Alexander*

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## Spirit Wing

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over the years in our own music ministries and began with the established relationships.” From there the project grew: “There was a ripple effect all around the country as well as (in) parts of Canada, because the artists were all promoting the compilation in their own regions as well.”

From those humble beginnings their seed has grown and the response they have received has been overwhelmingly positive



Mike Beloud shows off Spirit Wing’s collection of CDs.

to say the least. *Catholic Music 2007* spent 12 weeks topping the Catholic Music Network charts and remained on those charts for over eight months. To add to that success, the Spirit Wing Records 2007 release won the Catholic music Unity Award in the Special Events category this year.

“It just seemed like the whole thing was Divinely guided from the start; the artists have been great to work with, and customers, bookstores and web sites (including [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [Target.com](http://Target.com)) were all very positive about the whole concept,” says Mike.

The artists featured on *Catholic Music 2007* have been able to enjoy the success of the compilation as much as Beloud and

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