



Heather Williams

This Time Around

Released: September 27, 2011 on Fairtrade Services

Review Written By: **Laura Chambers**

(laura.chambers@christianmusicreview.org) on 9/22/2011

REVIEW RATING:

Message: 3.7/4

Music: 3/3

Production: 1.5/2

Creativity: 0.7/1

OVERALL RATING:

9.1 (91%; A-)

Main Review:

It always amazes me how people can come out of unimaginable pain and sorrow with a deep faith in God. Heather Williams is one of those people. From childhood poverty and abuse, to abandonment, to addiction, and finally faith, her story is a heartbreaker. The wisdom of one whose ashes have become beauty is found in her album *This Time Around*.

“Beautiful Thing” is Heather’s plea for God to bring beauty of her brokenness. It’s a punchy, triumphant song that seems to believe it will happen. Next, the encouraging “God Is Still God” assures us that at the moments where both we and God seem to have no control, He is still who He is and completely so. She expresses the raw frustration at not having the right words to say to someone who’s hurting. Having lost her baby at 6 months old, she knows both sides of pain. “Hallelujah” is a moving expression of humility and need, a confession prayer of sorts. She is trusting God even though it’s difficult. “You Are Loved” is a message to all the people who feel abandoned and lonely. Though not written by Heather, it sounds like what she’d say to the child she was. A good candidate for a music video.

For anyone who’s ever been weighed down by legalism (works alone), “I’ll Take It From You” is Jesus asking us to leave our burdens with Him. I love the bridge (*All My best for all your worst/And My healing for your hurt/Everything you’ll ever need/You’ll find in Me*). “This Time Around” is a catchy song about finding *real* love that’s so far from the counterfeit the world calls love, the kind that lets you down and asks too much. “Start Over” expresses the idea that we can discover our need of God by being broken, which is possibly why God lets it happen. He is the only one who can satisfy.

We don’t get to decide where our lives begin or how the other people in our lives treat us, but we can decide how to respond and who to cling to. “Always Been Faithful” celebrates God’s unending love for us, even when we didn’t know or feel Him. “Holes” is the story of someone whose life is incomplete without God and is realizing that for the first time. It’s a moment of epiphany beautifully displayed. Finally, “Breathing Again” is Heather’s parting shot at Satan, telling him that God has exposed his lies and she will not believe them anymore.

Closing Thoughts:

There are some people whose lives read like a tragedy. But it is that same bitterness that makes the surprise ending all the more amazing. Heather Williams has the same opportunity to start over that is offered to each one of us, and she is sharing her story with us. *This Time Around* is a quilt made from old and new pieces alike to create a beautiful piece of art. And, so is everyone who’s found new life in Christ.

Track Listing:

10 Tracks; 37 Minutes, 10 Seconds

1. Beautiful Thing
2. God Is Still God
3. Hallelujah
4. You Are Loved
5. Take It From You
6. This Time Around
7. Start Over
8. Always Be Faithful
9. Holes
10. Breathing Again

Please Note: This review is the written and stated opinion of the above mentioned writer and all credit, mention and/or quotes taken from this review need to be credited to the writer and ChristianMusicReview.org.

© 2011 ChristianMusicReview.org. All rights reserved.