

Steve Van Belle – "Are You Ready"

By RACHEL REID

Originally from New York, singer Steve Van Belle moved to San Diego as a child and accepted Christ at an early age. He grew up in the Pacific Beach area and it was in high school that he began writing songs and performing with groups at local churches. After high school he moved back to New York and was mentored and taught how to walk closely with God. In the 80's Steve moved back to San Diego and performed with ministries such as Horizon Christian Fellowship, Miles Ahead Ministries and in 1997 began working with producer Tim Coffman.

Steve ministers with his band along with his wife Sharon on keys, Tom Doogan on drums, T.J. Hill on bass and he leads vocally and on the guitar. Producer Tim Coffman shared, "It is hard to compare what he is doing. His music sounds kind of like Keith Green. Steve is so spiritually minded and his lyrics are all coming right out of Scripture. The way the Bible would describe them, kind of deep. He has a way of pulling out nuggets out of a concept."

With all the music being original you can't help but understand what the producer is saying when you hear the CD. The music has a central theme about the second coming of Christ. If you want to know more about it, then this is the album for you. It describes in detail how to get ready and be ready for His return. "Are You Ready" starts with powerful guitar riffs right from the start on the song "Only What's Done for Christ Will Last". This song will have you thinking about that statement. It has a catchy chorus, I'm sure you will be singing it as you hear it. This song leads you directly to the next message about "When Jesus Comes Back Again". Once again the guitar leads out with a solo at the intro and this time the song tells the story of the second coming, sparing no details.

The album has been put together in an order that tells a story. When Jesus comes back, you will see the "New Jerusalem" which is the title of the next song and it is the very essence of classic rock... "You will know that this world is not your home and you will fly away from here." Pretty much the first four songs have the same vibe, but when you hit track 5 it has a different sound that will surprise the listeners and let them know that God's music brings the message and can still make the sound.

"God So Loved" brings the truth of His love to the forefront with John 3:16 in its lyrics. This is the plain and simple truth for those that like music that way. The song "Hurricane" brings a different style all together with the guitar triplets

CD spotlight



and vocal echoes and reverb in the music. Steve wraps the entire album up with a beautiful song "Holy is The Lord". It has a simple melody line and lyrics that will have you worshipping along and singing to the music.

His desire to write this album started with a burden for God's people and to share the message of His return. The purpose of this CD was to be used as a ministry tool especially for those who have never heard that Jesus is coming back. I recommend this CD for those that have never heard the message of his return. If you have unsaved loved ones or those that are saved and just like to remember his promises then get the CD and enjoy.

To know more about Steve Van Belle, performances, for booking or to purchase *Are You Ready*, log onto www.rolltopmusic.com.



The Good News, etc. features a local Christian band or artist, each month, to be in the spotlight for an album review/artist profile. If you know, or if you are, a local Christian band or artist, with a new CD that you think should be reviewed, please contact Rachel Reid at mail@rachelreid.net.

CD Review - Are You Ready - Steve Van Belle

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By Leif Skartland Sr. Independent Music Reviews

From the first searing guitar track to the final lush vocal, *Are You Ready* delivers a clear message (And he's not talking football here). Jesus is coming back. Are you ready?

Are You Ready is artist Steve Van Belle's debut CD with Rolltop Records. Van Belle delivers Biblical lyrics and prophetic insights with a rock and roll edge. Producer Tim Coffman creates exciting rock guitar tones reminiscent of classic Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. *Are You Ready* drives the listener forward, both musically and lyrically.

Here is a track-by-track review of each song.

TRACK ONE: ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR THE LORD WILL LAST

This perfectly placed opening track sets the tone for the entire album. The launching guitar riff screams out this isn't another vanilla Christian CD. The lyrics are just as solid. The world will melt away and only what's done for the Lord will last.

TRACK TWO: WHEN JESUS COMES BACK AGAIN

Crank the volume on this one. The driving eighth notes of electric power chords are traditional rock at its best. The meaning is classic too. Jesus will bring true harmony and peace to the world when He returns.

TRACK THREE: NEW JERUSALEM

In this bouncing rock track Van Belle's melody hook is smooth and catchy. I found the chorus looping in my head long after the first listen. Whether actual or metaphoric, we can all cling to the idea of Jesus bringing a New Jerusalem. No more hunger, no more war. What better concept to have impressed on your mind than the hope of living with Jesus.

TRACK FOUR: EVERYONE CALLING

Bold and evangelistic, Van Belle's rock vocals cry out the unmistakable truth of salvation.

TRACK FIVE: WHEN YOU SEE THESE THINGS

This track is the first change of pace. A slow rock blues number that grinds out a darker edge. Think of the best message rock of the late sixties and early seventies. The focus of *When You See These Things* is prophetic. One look at today's headlines and we can see time is short.

TRACK SIX: GOD SO LOVED

All ballads hang their heart on love, usually the infatuation of boy meets girl. This love song elevates to the power of God's true love, the power to save. Van Belle's passionate vocal reminds us God's love is big. Much, much bigger than us.

TRACK SEVEN: HURRICANE

Very creative guitar work and production. Hurricane might be my favorite song on the CD. I love when the music and the theme feed off each other. A swirling of electric guitars and intersecting parts this song is simple, yet complex. Just like the Holy Spirit.

TRACK EIGHT: STRONGER THAN DEATH

This track is a giant ballad of God's enormous love for humanity. Phrases like, "the red blood that ran" and "Your love is stronger" are potent expressions and brilliant pop slogans. The most poetic of the songs offered this is a stand out. The chorus is huge and the call and answer section at the end is timeless.

TRACK NINE: ONLY TRUE HOPE

As a ballad, it's tough to follow *Stronger Than Death*, but don't skip this one. Van Belle's tenderness is a stark contrast to his strong rock vocals. The chorus has fresh chord changes and the line, "peace falls over my soul" rivals the title. I suppose though, you don't own the peace until you know the hope.

TRACK TEN: HOLY IS THE LORD

This closing worship song highlights Van Belle's poignant message of readiness. Here he gives us a practical step to follow. Fall down before the Lord, because He is holy. He desires us to be holy through Him. Are you ready?



ROLLTOP MUSIC

PRESS RELEASES

Press Release: "Are You Ready?" - Steve Van Belle



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rolltop Music releases new CD *"Are You Ready?"* by Steve Van Belle

Rolltop Records announces the release of *"Are You Ready"*, featuring singer/songwriter Steve Van Belle. On his debut CD, Steve proclaims a message of candor and hope that reflects his passion for Christ and the Church. "Steve Van Belle believes every word he sings", says Producer Tim Coffman he is one of the most genuine artists that I have ever worked with. Produced by Tim Coffman, the new project has 10 original songs and delivers that fat analog rock sound reminiscent of early Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers records. The guitar tones are immaculate.

Producer: Tim Coffman

Musicians:

Steve Van Belle - Guitars, Vocals

Anthony Da Luz - Guitars

*T.J.Hill & Tim Coffman - Bass

*Billy Wear - Drums

*Tim Coffman-Piano & Keys.

Songs Include:

Only What's Done for the Lord Will Last * When Jesus Comes Back Again * New Jerusalem * Everyone Calling * When You See These Things * God So Loved * Hurricane * Stronger Than Death * Only True Hope * Holy is the Lord.

Rolltop Music is handling distribution, radio and booking.

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