



CD Review: Katy & Todd's 'Sailin' Away'

By RACHEL REID

Katy Steidl and Todd Bingham have been worshipping the Lord together bringing a folksy sound with music primarily comprised of Todd's original songs. God has truly put these two singers on the path to share their gifts to praise the Lord.

Todd plays on various worship teams at Vista's North Coast Church and has been writing music since 1964 when he was in rock bands. His ventures also included being in a band with Gregory Hines as he recalled those early years in music.

This duet has several projects to their name. Many have mistaken Katy as his granddaughter, but she is the daughter of Todd's wife's best friend. One day Todd mentioned that he was looking for a singing partner and "the Lord just pushed us toward one another." The rest is history.

Katy is an accomplished singer and has been singing since childhood. She was raised in a Christian family and has sung in numerous choirs and musicals throughout the years. Katy studied in England at Oxford University and worked in Italy as a personal assistant to a United Nations diplomat. It was in junior high when she understood what it meant to follow the Lord and she says it became real on a personal level.

Sailin' Away is the current project of Seventh Heaven Publishers. On their website they present the album stating, that some of the songs go back to Todd's early days with Severance (his band of the '60s). The album starts with the title track "Sailin' Away," a beautiful vocal duet that highlights the talents of these two artists. Whether you are relaxing or driving in your car this song will bring a peaceful word to your spirit.

Many believers have children that have gone astray from the path and "The Boy from Up the Road" shares that story in song. "Oh Lord don't you turn your face away. Don't let this boy go running wild. Oh Lord won't you help this boy come running back to you." Perhaps this folksy tune can bring encouragement to you if this is your story.

This album was written with hopes of

making a difference in all who hear it. "We try to stay away from clichés when writing our music. We hope that our lyrics will catch ones attentive mind." Todd hopes to do some good with the music. He called it a "Gospel Drive By." There are several songs on this album that are there to let you know that you can get away. The album insert has the words, "Sometimes it's so hard to get away. Just the challenges if ordinary living are often so difficult that we just want to get away."

"Do you Think of Me" has a different sound that was unexpected when I heard it. The feel was that of a bossa nova. The soft smooth melody and instrumentation will take you away. Songs tell a story and in the next track "Lost Without You" the artist takes off the mask and plainly comes with the lyrics "Oh Lord sometimes it's so hard to see you. Sometimes I'm so far from you. I've been the kind who follows the blind." Truly a self-reality check can be done while listening to this track.

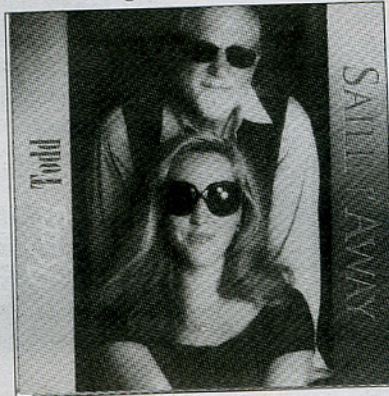
While listening to "Sailin' Away" each listener can experience their own journey in their own way. "I'm Sold on Jesus" is an up tempo selection about totally living for Jesus. Lyrics are meant to relay a message and the writer wanted the listener to know that "You can't negotiate grace" and that is why you must be sold on Jesus.

Most of the songs on the album have a folk sound along with a mixture of bluegrass. The guitar playing is beautiful yet simple in many ways. Todd does a masterful job on the guitar and the Fender Rhodes on the song "My Newly Found Friend" was pretty nice, too.

All in all, the songs on this album were arranged to present a quiet, folksy sound, with simple guitar and two-part harmonies. Katy and Todd will be happy to know that as you hear the music you will find your self *Sailin' Away* to a place that only God can take you to.

To know more about Katy & Todd, performances, for booking or to purchase *Sailin' Away*, log onto www.seventhheaven.net.

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, who has recently come out with or will soon release a new CD that you think should be reviewed, please contact Rachel Reid at mail@rachelreid.net.



This very generous review was written by Rachel Reid of Power of Music Ministries. To learn more about her and what her ministry does, [CLICK HERE](#). To return to Seventh Heaven, [CLICK HERE](#).