

SCPC music ministry

term 3 2008



CD review

Holding Nothing Back—Tim Hughes

If you're a Christian who likes rock music you can jump up and down to, "Holding Nothing Back" by Tim Hughes is the album for you. Tim Hughes first shot to super-stardom about 5 years with "Here I Am to Worship". If you're anything like me, just reading the title of that song is enough to make you groan... but - thankfully! - he's come a long way since then. Gone are the effeminate, wishy-washy, "Jesus-is-my-boyfriend" style songs; bring on the impressively produced pop-rock anthems.

If you're a "glass-half-empty" kinda person, the album opener "Happy Day" might rub you up the wrong way to start with. But give it some time - it really is a great song. Jesus' resurrection - "the greatest day in history!" - is worthy of many a joyful song like this one. Another song like it is "Holding Nothing Back" - which, by now, is hopefully a familiar tune. Mind you - we did change the words to this one before we sung it as a church family, so that there'd be no room for misinterpretation.

There are some great mellow moments too. "Living for your Glory" is fantastic, reminiscent of the hymn "Take My Life". (In fact, MANY of his songs will remind you of hymns - which is not a bad thing!) The highlight of the album is the duet he does with the Kiwi Brooke Fraser, "Clinging to the Cross". It tells the tale of a weak, numb believer, who can't do anything but cling to the cross of Christ, rejoicing in the fact that Jesus will never let go; Jesus will never fail: "Simply to the Cross I cling, letting go of all earthly things, I'm clinging to the cross." This song alone makes buying the album worth it.

Beware though - there are some parts that are unfaithful. One of the best songs on the album is also the worst: "God of Justice". It's a moving song - musically and lyrically. We need songs about God's justice, and His call for us to care for the poor and the broken. But the song is destroyed in the bridge, when he repeatedly sings: "Fill us up, and send us out Lord" - making the frustratingly common error of asking God for MORE of the Spirit - as if God withholds part of the Spirit until we sing something like this again and again. It's not true! God's given us all of the Spirit already (Rom. 8:14-15). Avoid songs like this like the plague.

Overall, the depth of lyrics on this album isn't what you'd call 'profound', and it's sometimes overly-repetitive. But it's MOSTLY faithful, and there are some EXCELLENT songs that will help to fill your mind with God's word. It's refreshingly Christ-centred. I'm struck by the quality of the production - guitarists will love it! Parents - buy this one for your teenagers - and talk to them about the songs. Young adults - put this one in your car CD player, but do try not to speed; or put it on your iPod, and go for a run. Everyone - sing along, and praise God! You can sample it for free at <http://www.timhughesmusic.com/>

Peter Yock July 2008



MUSIC TEAM TIPS

The helpfulness of listening to and practicing new songs - before playing them together! - can't be stressed enough.

If you're serious about music ministry, it's a must!

Too often we don't make time for singing along to the CD, or practicing the music at home - and then we make mistakes.

For the sake of helping the Word of Christ to dwell richly in the hearts and minds of all at SCPC - and not distracting from the Word - it's time we started regularly preparing at home.

Trust me - you'll enjoy it!



SONG SELECTIONS TERM 3

Term 3 has a different focus to the past two terms. Rather than introduce any new songs (other than a couple of items), you'll see from the program that it's a chance to consolidate, going over many of the new songs we've introduced in recent times.

This will give us a good opportunity to focus on other aspects of growing our music ministry.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16



music program term 3 2008

- july 27** how great is our God
loved
come thou fount
kids: what sort of king?
item: opposite way
holding nothing back
- aug 3** hallelujah to the king of kings
the glory of the cross
before the throne of God above
kids: God's love is a strong love
how great thou art
servants of the gospel
- aug 10** blessed be your name
here is love
my heart is filled with thankfulness
kids: this is the gospel
powerpoint: mission to Lismore
the light
- aug 17** God of wonders
love came down
all my days
kids: be strong and courageous
item: lead me
rock of ages
- aug 24** Holy Father
highest place
holy holy holy
kids: turn it off
all creatures of our God and king
one for many
- aug 31** the glories of calvary
holding nothing back
Jesus is our song
kids: we have the words of eternal life
item: hosanna
no other name

- sept 7** blessing, honour
the glory of the cross
Jesus draw me ever nearer
kids: the Lord is king
amazing grace
take my life
- sept 14** the heavens shall declare
the glories of calvary
yesterday, today and forever
kids: stop and think
CD for Lord's Supper: Worthy
amazing love
- sept 21** *item: celebrate*
celebration sunday
[9:30amonly]
how great is our God
we are his people
kids: 10, 9, 8 God is great
how can this be?
come thou fount
- sept 28** ancient of days
love came down
great is the Lord
kids: nothing takes God by surprise
when I survey the wondrous cross
the light
- oct 5** Jesus my only hope
here is love
my heart is filled with thankfulness
kids: Jesus rocks the world
my hope is built on nothing less
may my life
- oct 12** Lord we lift your name on high
now by faith
oh to see the dawn
kids: the Lord don't change at all
on a hill far away
God of grace