

## Country Blessed : Chris Williamson & Teresa Trull

I recently saw Cris Williamson and Teresa Trull in concert and was quite impressed by the show they put on. One of the things that struck me about the concert was how comfortable they were with each other despite the amount of talent each possesses. There was none of that one-up-man(or woman)-ship associated with concerts of that sort where one performer attempts to upstage the other by reaching some high note that only a canary can reach, putting on his or her best Edith Piaf or Frank Sinatra act, or running through their respective oeuvre in order to see whom the audience likes the best. There were no egos involved with Cris and Teresa. They even let their fiddle player sing a couple of her songs (who, by the way, is Laurie Lewis, whose album, *Love Finds You*, is excellent). It is this same sort of respect for each other's talents that make their album, *Country Blessed*, so special. It is a meeting of minds in a positive way in the sense that the two of them got together to make music and not a vanity piece dripping in each other's ego.

The album itself is a celebration of country life, a subject close to both Cris and Teresa's hearts (Cris hails from the Midwest while Teresa is from North Carolina). The first song, "Keep On," k.d. lang would kill for. It is a rollicking country song that would evoke scenes of a howdown in someone's barn. Another such song, "the Shady Glen," is based on a childhood memory of Teresa's where she would dress up in an Irish warrior queen's costume and terrorize her neighbors on a horse. The bouncing beat and the strong melody fit the mood of the peice quite nicely. But not all of the songs on the album are on a light note. There is concern for the environment that is being encroached upon by developers ("For Molly's Sky") as well as testimonials to the strength in character found in those who reside in the country ("Calamity Lane", "Fertanga").

The one song that stands out the most has really nothing to do with the country per se. "Mother, Mother" was written by Cris for a movie about a person with AIDS reaching out to his estranged mother. When Cris sang it in concert, there was, as the cliché goes, not a dry eye in the house. Even Teresa, sitting on a stool waiting for her chance to sing, was seen wiping tears from her eyes. The song has universal impact for anybody who has had trouble communicat-

ing how they really feel and who they are to their mothers.

This album, according to its latest catalog, is Olivia Records' biggest seller of the decade. That should come as no surprise really given the talent involved. Certainly this meeting of the minds that be in women's music would have resulted in nothing short of a masterpiece. That, in fact, is the end result.

## Ideas (from page 8)

With such an abundance of offerings in the world of gay literature, it is no wonder that other media such as television are opening up to matters and issues relating to homosexuality. Books such as *Maurice* and plays such as *Another Country* have already made the jump to the silver screen, with others in the works. The purchase of gay literature during the holiday season thus supports that movement toward increased visibility in society.

So while you're there in the bookstore trying to decide which book is best suited for your loved ones or friends, why not treat yourself to one as well? There's plenty out there to explore, and most likely you won't be disappointed with what you choose.

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