

AZURE SPRING MUSIC

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NEWTOWN—November 2004 A new music CD is being released by Azure Spring Music featuring the songs of Matt Mattingly and Carolyn Cavanagh. The CD entitled, Christ Is Born, is a new approach to the traditional Christmas music. While respecting the classics, Matt and Carolyn have weaved together a soft and sweet gentle message of God's love with musical distinctiveness. The project was birthed out of an array of lullabies Carolyn sung to her daughter over the years. After hearing countless repeats of Christmas carols, she wanted to record Christmas songs that would be a gift to her daughter—one she could always carry with her as a reminder of her mother's love. She worked at variations for treating a powerful subject in a powerful way while going beyond former constructs of what comprises a Christmas song in the first place. As the project continued it grew a new and deeper element of the Christmas Story as Carolyn added the talents of singer/composer Matt Mattingly. "He brought in a whole new set of new perspectives from the side of Joseph and the wise men, that are captivatingly different," said Carolyn.

One of the features of the album is the unique blend of musical styles between Matt and Carolyn. They are very complimentary to one another and yet create a positive friction that adds a true vibrancy to the songs and the arrangements. Together it adds up to produce a musical masterpiece that will surely become a treasured classic in homes across the nation. Although geared to the Contemporary Christian market, they are confident it will have a smooth cross over to a span of genres through the holiday season. Above all, the artists have developed an album that won't be the kind that one realizes has ended when the silence is noticed. The lyrics and composition will hold the attention of the listener because it has all been crafted to speak to people about a vivid message of God's love and gift to all. "The project has had its moments" said Matt "especially when you consider the expense of an independently produced album like this. But the end result is worth it. We have been blessed in this endeavor and it has turned out to be a gem we can all be proud of." Both artists agreed that taking music from sketchy ideas to fruition was a difficult task. "I believe God's hand was in this project from the start" said Carolyn, "and he provided the means for us as we needed help. The album has been a true labor of concentration, sacrifice and love." The project has been in process since the fall of 2002 and is being released just in time for people to enjoy, as the holidays approach.

Matt has been involved with music for well over 25 years. His musical career began about the time he grew tall enough to reach the keys of an old piano in the shed of his childhood home in North Anson Maine. After a decade or so hiatus he returned to his music with a new and

different level of energy. "I returned to acting and music because it was something I had to do. I was compelled—I had no choice," said Matt. His music career was primarily leading music in churches where the soul work must truly touch the heart or worship. He then wrote a piece for the 1988 best film, Rain Man, and also acted on screen for the movie, playing an autistic savant. After working on backup vocals on Carolyn's songs she invited him into the entire Christ Is Born project.

The Album was recorded primarily at Virtual Productions in Newtown Connecticut. A privately owned production studio tucked back into the woods of the old Hattertown historic area. Owner/Producer Mike Damon also wrote the arrangements for most of the original music. Professional musicians were brought in from New York City, Maine as well as Connecticut. Virtual Productions has been a little known secret in Newtown, as a leader in composing and arranging music for films, videos, commercials and artists alike, Mike Damons broad scope of musical experience allowed him to arrange such a mix of styles on "Christ is Born"

Carolyn Cavanagh has been writing, recording and performing music for over 15 years. Now about to go on tour with Christ Is Born she enters the familiar realm of travel and new acquaintances. She feels very much at home with concerts and touring, once again a part of her life as a singer musician. " It's like an old friend's welcomed return," said Cavanagh. She spent most of her early career touring and singing with pianist/composer Jeffery Watson. Carolyn worked as a choir director for the Irondequoit Community Chorus and the Christ Church Choir in East Greenwich, R.I. Underdog Entertainment called on Carolyn to record a Hallmark commercial and were thrilled at her "Enya like" vocals. She also drew interest with Maine based composer Tim Janis who invited her to share a Christmas concert with him and his ensemble at Messiah Christian Church Wells, ME in 2003. Although Christ Is Born is her first full length CD project, she handles the task with a grace and maturity that comes from years of inward preparation. Her seasoned vocals add warmth and charm to the project. Christ Is Born is the next natural step for the musical dream.

Matt, Carolyn and Mike have placed their hearts, resources and well over a year into an unusually fine work that is certain to bring pleasure, reflection and joy to the season. For more information please contact Mike Damon at 203-364-1642 or go to www.Azurespringmusic.com.

