



Mike Crawford and his Secret Siblings

PRESENT

Songs from Jacob's Well

Disc I

1. The Search Begins
2. Search Me
3. We Should Sing A New Song
4. Isaiah 40
5. Lord I Believe, Help My Unbelief
6. Horse and Rider
7. You Are The Image
8. Center My Heart

Disc II

1. Psalm 23
2. Who Will Save Me
3. I Know The Plans
4. The Magnificat
5. Holy Lamb of God
6. A Love That Goes Deeper
7. The Search Continues
8. Words To Build A Life On

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UPC: 7 33792 83722 5
Myspace: mikecrawfordmusic
RIYL: Sigur Ros, Wilco, The White Album, Pink Floyd, múm, the Bible

Contact:
Mike Crawford
1617 W. 42nd
Kansas City, MO 6411
816.260.0298
www.mikecrawfordmusic.com



In midtown Kansas City resides a church called Jacob's Well. On the surface, it looks like most other churches; a place where people come together week after week to sing, learn, mourn, laugh and pray. Many things make Jacob's Well unique; the most obvious, at first blush, is the music that resonates from every corner of the community. This church music is *oceanic*—waves of lyrics tumbling, beautifully-intricate sounds engulfing and swirling around as you sail out into the deep waters of lived-out theology. On the first album from Mike Crawford, "Songs from Jacob's Well," these words and sounds have been captured, written and recorded and are ready to be shared.

Part of what contributes to this CD's distinctive sound is the sheer number of musicians involved in the recording. Twenty-five people stacking layer-upon-layer of music to create what is more like an indie-rock orchestra than a typical worship band. Lyrically, songs like "The Magnificat" and "Horse and Rider" borrow heavily from scripture, while others like "Holy Lamb of God" are reminiscent of traditional liturgies. Part rock anthem, part ancient hymn, part modern orchestral arrangement, part field recording; the songs on "Even the Darkness" add up to an unparalleled worship (and listening) experience.

Two CD's full of creative and textured arrangements and solid lyrics, as sung at one of my favorite churches in the country. The last track, "Words to Build a Life On" is like an anthem. I hope that thousands of churches around the country will start singing this song.

--Brian D. McLaren

Upon hearing the opening segment, thoughts and images and sensations of what the music of the church could sound like were animated. This is the most inspiring ('inspiring' seems too clichéd a word, however it is exactly appropriate here) worship music I've come across in a long time.

--David Crowder

This album really raised the bar, in terms of both music and art design.

-- Mike Hogan (David Crowder Band)

Mike Crawford & The Secret Siblings burst forth in a pageant of extravagance that experiments with the boundaries of what a worship album can be. On headphones, it's Pink Floyd, Radiohead, and Steve Earle. It's quite a remarkable accomplishment.

--Don Chaffer (Waterdeep)

Instead of burying his quirky tastes to possibly please an imagined majority, and playing it safe by sounding like other worship records, he has decided to write, record and worship to the kind of music that moves him personally. As a result "Even the Darkness..." is the most creative and relevant worship album I've ever heard.

--Lori Chaffer (Waterdeep)