



~ Music Review ~

Joyful Active Participation

by Benet Rutenberg, UAUS President

5 May 2005

Lifeline by Iris & *Hymns* by
Beth Nielsen Chapman

Reviewed by Lee Armstrong

Two US compact disc releases offer very different approaches to music motivated by faith. On "Lifeline" country/bluegrass artist Iris DeMent covers traditional hymns that would be at home in a rural country church. Many of these songs are old hymns. All receive a heartfelt delivery as if Iris is finding her lifeline to hope through them. Hers is an incredibly moving delivery.

Of my 3 favorites, "Fill My Way With Love" is such a joyful celebration with Iris' male backing chorus and Dave Roe's bass keeping up a joyful tempo. "The Old Gospel Ship" also has a similar musical backing and another uptempo joyful celebration, "And when my ship comes in, I will leave this world of sin & go sailing thru the air." Iris' new song "He Reached Down" is also delightful, fitting seamlessly into this set of traditional hymns. She uses a series of Bible stories like the Good Samaritan & the adulteress who was brought to Jesus to make the point that sometimes we have to give our troubles over to God. Many of the other songs are lovely to hear such as the familiar "Blessed Assurance" and the stark "Near the Cross." Iris' "Lifeline" is an excellent set that touches the heart and moves the spirit.

Beth Nielsen Chapman's "Hymns" is also a gorgeous recording. Like

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With the arrival of the month of May spring is in full force. This is a time of renewal. I am renewed with the sense of responsibility this new office and Urantia Association of the United States asks of me. It does not ask me all alone. I am happy to share this renewal with all members of UAUS. The GLMUA Local IUA started this year with a new theme which inspires what a spiritual based service organization needs to have for its lifeblood. The short answer is participation. It may come as members who say to their governing board, "Will you do such and such for us?" We need and We want. The responsible governing board then may say, "How can we help you do that?" Thus we arrive at member involvement in the form of participation. What kind of participation do we need. As we look to our Creator Son we are reminded that his watchwords were so simple, straightforward and left little wiggle room. "Fear not but be of Good Cheer!" Don't worry, be happy! We are told in many ways that the path to happiness often leads us into the accomplishment of spiritual work. We all know that the more persistently we work for useful goals, the more Our Father will sustain and strengthen us. So what kind of participation is needed in this work we have all volunteered to do? Joyful Active Participation is a very good answer to virtually all of the demands of our life and more specifically to our chosen work of dissemination of the Revelation given to all peoples of Urantia.

Please resolve to join the UAUS Governing Board with our Chairs and Committee Members in the work we have volunteered to do. As the new person so privileged to serve with an eminently qualified and experienced board, I send my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations on the work they have done and continue to do for UAUS. There is much that needs our attention. There are questions that need to be answered. And we need feedback to help keep us on track and on task.

Concurrently with this newsletter the GB has published the notice of the upcoming Annual UAUS Meeting to be held in New Orleans, LA, 3 August 2005 at the Hotel Monteleone in the world famous French Quarter. Judy Van Cleve, in her final year of her second term as

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GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION

by Rick Lyon

GLMUA was chartered on March 5, 1994. Our membership area includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, in the United States. GLMUA is based out of the Chicago area. We are very fortunate to be in close proximity to the Foundation and many of our meetings are held on the second floor of 533. Our annual membership meeting is in

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Joyful Active Participation . . .

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UAUS Secretary has placed the notice and agenda on UAUS List. This agenda is a working item which needs input from all locals via their respective Governing Boards. Please plan to attend the meeting prior to embarking on UAUS 2005: Conference at Sea. This is where it happens. The decisions and actions made by UAUS must come from its members as they are represented by their President and Vice President. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting and the social time we will share. All members are welcome to attend the meeting and may speak through their officers.

Membership is defined by involvement and the payment of dues. Our treasurer, David Linthicum, is in his second term. With his oversight and attention to detail we have seen our funds increase. The conference fund continues to grow. We also pay to IUA for each paid member. This is part of Joyful Active Participation. We have many things that require funds to improve. One of them is translations. UF is nearing completion on several, most notably, the Japanese and Chinese while most currently the Portuguese translation is ready to print. UAUS along with many locals in the US and Internationally have contributed generously. When all dues are collected and passed along, good things continue to happen. It is a special privilege to work for a cause that supports itself while providing important services such as translations and conferences. Many new teachers and leaders will be needed to carry this mission to our spiritually hungry brothers and sisters all over the world. We are all volunteers and our funding is volunteered as well. Please pay your dues and donate whenever and wherever you are able. Thank You.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Steve Shinall, our Vice President, since my first conference in Nashville ten years ago. His long years of service have made my brief experience more stable and with all the GB, like I have been here for some time. As I learn this new role and ask myself what needs to be done, I would ask every member in UAUS to ask themselves what their role is and yes, what needs to be done. Let's go do it together. We have two wonderful examples in Morris Kaplowitz and Janet Quinn. They have served the various publications of UAUS as in editing this very newsletter and managing the website. Sometimes, in the past, I have heard them advertise for help. I know many of you feel that the job is done so well, what help could they actually need? If you have writing skills, computer skills and a desire to serve this growing organization, please volunteer to the contacts listed below. It is more than what you think and less. It is more fulfilling...and less time consuming, please, its time to step up.

Meredith Van Woert is doing a tremendous service in membership. She helps coordinate, in a most professional way, the dozens of referrals from new readers passed along through IUA to UAUS. And, most recently, Jan Bernard has stepped up to assist with conference planning. She has been appointed as co-chair along with Suzanne Kelly-Ward who has served in this capacity for some time. Many of you know James Wood-

ward from years of reader services at Urantia Foundation. James was appointed to chair our Education Committee while he continues to serve in many ways unseen by most. There are many more who help those mentioned. As you can see there is much work. Many laborers are needed and many are ready to serve.

Here are a few things that are currently happening. We are in process of enhancing the website. Some of you may be familiar with the new IUA Database. If not please inquire. With this tool we are working towards an integrated system which will greatly improve access. Soon, you will be able to access all associations through one connection. There will be room for all local associations to have their own website while linking to all others. The database will allow us to find members and study groups. In other words we will be more connected. As this happens, more IUA groups are being formed such as the recently chartered IUA of Dominican Republic. The more members we have the more services will be needed. There is rapidly approaching the time when we will start to have so many that we may not meet them all. To enhance the one on one ministry we need to have systems that can share our message and vision. We see what has happened in the first fifty years, what is going to happen in the next fifty? Let us prepare for those who come after us so they have the Foundation that we have been blessed with. There is much change on the horizon. May we all make choices guided by our faith. May we seek always to find and do the will of the Father and take joy in so doing.

There is so much to do. I feel blessed to be part of this with all of you. Have you really begun to imagine what happens each time a new translation comes available to millions of people in their native language? We know that it takes years of study before we really begin to comprehend the revelation we have been given. We will be none too ready as our readership grows across cultures and nations. UAUS is the largest IUA. With that comes increased responsibility and more possibilities. We need teachers and leaders who can facilitate and monitor the growth and direction of this movement while keeping it free from influences that detract or dilute the saving message we have been given. Feel the Blessing - Share the Blessing. Joyful Active Participation!

Takoda's Song

by Judy Van Cleave

My daughter and I attended our second Sarah McLachlan concert in seven years to the day last night. She is such a marvelous presence on stage, and a truly gifted and talented musician and songwriter. She's a voice like an angel, and a beautiful, enchanting stage show. If you ever have opportunity to attend one of

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her concerts, I highly recommend it. "In the Arms of the Angels" was the most celebrated song she sang per the applause, hoots, hollers, and whistles from the audience – an audience comprised of a wide range of ages.

That song led me to her music. I heard it one night in 1997 while driving home from the shop. It was an especially trying time in my life. As the music caught my attention...and then the words, I began to cry. I turned the car around and drove straight to Barnes and Noble to see if I could locate the CD. I opened the doors wondering how I'd ever describe it with but a few words and no title or artist. Incredibly, as I entered, it was playing on their sound system. What an embrace...

A year later my daughter and I attended our first Sarah McLachlan concert. We sat in the second row, center stage, and right under her. Summer stood in line at five in the morning and five months pregnant to get our tickets. It was fabulous, exhilarating, and loud; we wished we'd had a pillow for her tummy. That song was Sarah's last before her encore. As the curtains drew back she sat at the piano surrounded by candles covering the stage casting a soft, amber glow. Her hands seemed to float across the keyboard. It was perfect ~ breathtaking.

Some months later when we were in the hospital for the birth of my grandson, that CD played in the birthing room during the labor vigil. We knew it wasn't going to be an average birth because Summer had had last trimester complications and had to be induced at 38 weeks. But we were working and hoping for the best. Things, though, turned chaotic when she had to be rushed to OR for an emergency C-section. And we were truly unprepared for the trauma when her baby had trouble breathing and we learned he'd have to be transported to a more extensively equipped NICU across town. Just moments prior to his being ambulated away, we stood encircling her bed and his isolate holding hands to pray. He had numerous tubes from his nasal connected to all manner of machines and bags; headphones covered his ears to muffle sound and stimulation. He'd not yet felt the love of his mother's arms, nor would he for several more days. It was then I heard that song play, and all I could do to keep it together for them.

We brought him home after ten days in NICU; ten days in the hotel wing of the hospital for us. He came home with a feeding tube, his chest connected by sticky electrodes to an apnea monitor, and with a tiny little canula on his face attached by a tube to an oxygen tank. He had to be on his tummy or held over our shoulders all the time to keep his too little airway open for a rare and life-threatening birth defect called Pierre Robin Sequence. It was unnerving to keep all the tubes and cords straight and connected. I felt fragile – poignantly fragile – knowing that if he were to stop breathing, we'd first have to have the calm and the presence of mind to properly insert a plastic apparatus into his mouth, over his tongue, and down his throat to keep his airway from collapsing in order to lay him

on his back and perform Infant CPR. *And this was my daughter's baby.* Summer must have inserted and reinserted his feeding tube through his nose, down his throat, and into his tummy a 1000 times in the 9 ½ months he had it. His little cheeks had a rosy-red rash for the longest time from the tape that held it there... sometimes. She was just twenty-two, and had never before been able to have her blood drawn without me by her side holding her hand.

The first year of his life was especially challenging. More than once, I told the Father that I knew he thought I was strong enough for this experience, but that I didn't want it -- didn't want to watch my daughter and her baby struggle and suffer so, powerless to change a thing. It's the one time I prayed for a miracle.

At 18 months we were back in the hospital for surgery to close the cleft in his soft palate that they'd discovered some five days after birth. It prevented effective sucking, thus the feeding tube, and prevented most sounds, thus talking -- but probably improved his airway, increasing his chance for life. Closing the soft palate would require a cranial-facial, pediatric, plastic surgeon. Our area's first moved to Boise just a month prior to Takoda's birth; he had experience with Pierre Robin. The surgery was more delicate and difficult -- more dangerous and complicated -- than repairing a full cleft palate. Takoda had to go back on an oxygen monitor, had lips as swollen and puckered as a blow fish. Summer and I took turns holding him in bed and rockers around the clock for the duration of his stay. The first night while holding him in the rocker, I accidentally pulled the needle out of his arm while adjusting him so he could get more air. I wanted to die for the pain it caused him to reinsert it. The second night, and after Summer finally crawled up into his crib to hold him against her chest as he slept, the nurses took pity and rolled a full size bed into his room in PICU, careful to close the curtains. Apparently it was a first, and a no, no, but the bed stayed. The oxygen monitor went off as often as every few minutes all night long, for several nights, which brought the nursing crew crashing into his room regularly, both in PICU and later in pediatrics. Our moments of pure joy were experienced when he woke after surgery to see his yellow puppet, a duck ~ once his young uncle's ~ on the corner of his crib. He hoarsely whispered to his mommy, "Ducky." And again toward the end of his stay when we were pulling him in a wagon through the halls and he looked up and saw a picture of a duck on the wall. He pointed, and clearly said, "Ducky."

The memory of that months-long trauma made it sometime before I was able again to listen to Sarah's song...or tell this story. Today, at almost seven and a crackin' little rookie ball player, Takoda matter-of-factly states that he almost died at birth; that that's his song.

So little does he know.

Last night at the concert Summer and I sat arm in arm, unable to hold back the tears as we listened to Sarah's angelic voice croon her song. Seven years and full circle through our rocky little mira-

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UAUS Messenger

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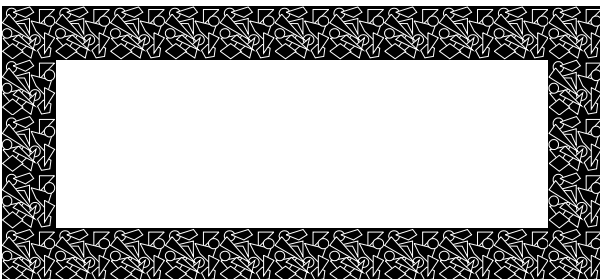
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Music Review

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Iris DeMent's "Lifeline," Chapman sings religious songs from her Catholic upbringing. Obviously, those of us who have been enthralled by Chapman's secular work recognize that while "Hymns" still boasts her gorgeous voice and sterling musicianship, hearing a hymn sung in Latin is going to be quite a different musical experience than listening to a more secular set. However, Chapman's work has always been imbued with a deeply felt spirituality. Hearing "Veni Veni Emmanuel" with its soft chant-like melody and background chorus does give one a sense of reverence. "O Salutaris Hostia" is so lovely with its angelic chorus that one can almost visualize a choir ringing out in a chapel. Sometimes Chapman approaches the music solely in voice; oftentimes a quiet guitar backs the lovely melodies as on "O Sanctissima." "Salve Regina" has an angelic choir allowing this lovely melody to float joyfully. Two songs are in English including the original Chapman-penned "Hymn to Mary" with its gorgeous melody & lyric, "Lift my sorrows, deepening shadow, so that I may see your face." Chapman's composition fits seamlessly into this music much as Iris DeMent's own "He Reached Down" fit perfectly into the older hymns she did on "Lifeline." "O God of Loveliness" also has an English lyric with Beth's lovely alto. The set concludes with a wonderful rendering of "Ave Maria," the Schubert classic. "Hymns" is a gutsy statement of faith, dynamic and bold because it is so out of step with current popular music. It is excellently crafted. Let this disc play in the private chapel of your heart.



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cle ~ time enough to grow and shed a skin ~ and we know *so well* the meaning of the words "...pulled from the wreckage of your silent reverie...into the arms of the angels...to find *some comfort there...*"

Sarah's an inspired artist. If you've ever the opportunity, you really ought to go see her. Btw, Summer is on the dean's list at BSU, on her way to becoming a speech pathologist. She hopes to work with children one day, to help them; just as Takoda's speech pathologist, and his mama, helped him.

GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION

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March and we are beginning to schedule regular Governing Board meetings every 3 months. Our Governing Board consists of Benet Rutenberg-President, Rick Lyon-Vice President, Bill Martin-Treasurer, and Sheila Schneider-Secretary. James Woodward is our Membership Chair. Michael Tanesky is our Study Group Committee chair. Our regular newsletter, The Circle Seeker, is edited by Rick Lyon. The past year has seen the addition of several new members that are proving to be a wealth of talent and energy for us. We have experienced slow but consistent growth through the years and now have about 35 members.

GLMUA is still feeling the glow from hosting the 2004 IUA international conference in Chicago. To continue building upon that experience, we have chosen a theme for 2005 of "Joyful, Active, Participation" in an effort to get more of our members actively participating in our projects. For the remainder of 2005 we are planning to host a booth at the Body, Mind, and Spirit Expo Book Fair on August 4th in Chicago. Our annual Jesus Birthday joint picnic with the First Society of Chicago has been expanded this year into a weekend retreat. Barbara Newsom, Dan Casco, and Chris Bailey are part of the committee developing plans for this event. We are having discussions with the Foundation about helping them with celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Urantia Book. Our Circle Seeker newsletter is being upgraded and expanded.

At our last annual meeting, we voted to increase our annual dues from \$25 to \$40 in order to increase our contributions to the Foundation, IUA, and UAUS. Plans for the book fair, Jesus birthday retreat, and the 50th anniversary were set in motion. Benet introduced the theme of Joyful, Active, Participation and emphasized the importance of member participation to the success of our projects. Rick Lyon was re-elected Vice President and Sheila Schneider was elected Secretary. We congratulate our members Benet Rutenberg as the newly elected UAUS President and James Woodward as the new Education Committee chair for the UAUS. Tamara Wood is the Reader Service contact and Shipping and Distribution Manager at the Foundation and Chris Bailey is Executive Assistant at the Foundation.

GLMUA is excited about the future. The IUA is getting it's feet on the ground and good things are happening at all levels. The new IUA database is a great tool for our growing organization. We wish to extend a warm welcome to the newly reorganized Kentucky Urantia Association, our neighbors to the south. We are looking forward to working with them in the future. See you in New Orleans 2005 and Australia 2006!