

“Sing Unto the Lord a New Song”

Walter Jr. Cooks Up Some Spiritual Gumbo for the Lord

As the publisher of LIVING Christian magazine, it's not unusual for me to receive books, articles, poetry or CDs from individuals for consideration. While many of them are well done, rarely does one reach out and grab my attention the way Walter Jr.'s latest CD “Standing on the Word” did. From the first note, on the first cut, I knew God had just blessed me with a whole new genre of Christian music.

You see, I've been privileged to lead people in praise and worship for several years now. A core group of us carry our ministry to many different venues, denominations, cultures, and styles. From churches, parks, tent revivals, prisons, nursing homes, and yes, even secular settings, God allows us to use our music to reach those who might not otherwise ever be exposed to Him.

We often mix traditional hymns and top-twenty contemporary Christian hits, along with a bit of Gospel.

So imagine my surprise and delight when I heard true Louisiana, blues-gumbo, Christian music. I was so impressed and delighted I had to call him on the phone and personally thank him.

This soft-spoken, Louisiana native grew up in a Roman Catholic home, true to the French influence of that area. Walter Jr. remembers becoming an altar boy in the second grade and performing his duties at the 5:30 p.m. mass on a daily basis. Blessed by what he calls, “a true priest” Walter Jr.'s faith continued to grow over the years. So did his talent and love of music.

After attending high school at Immaculata Seminary for four years, he went on to the University of Louisiana where he earned his Liberal Arts Degree in Philosophy. He wanted to get a degree in Theology but the university didn't offer one at the time and circumstances wouldn't allow him to go elsewhere.

But that wouldn't keep him from spreading God's Word through his music. “I knew I had a calling to use my music for God. The last two years at the seminary were spent going into prisons and other venues God would present.”

A devoted worship leader for years, Walter Jr. also did what most musicians do to make a living: he took gigs where he could get them. “There's always been a Christian approach to all my music and gigs. It may be subtle, but you can still reach people regardless of where you are. So I would play at a local nightclub on Friday and Saturday night then lead worship on Sunday.”

Walter Jr.'s success with his spiritual albums has allowed him to take his gospel message to other parts of the country playing at conferences, meetings, and revivals; most recently at a conference in Kansas City. Even so, like most true Louisiana natives (and musicians) he still maintains deep roots at home, playing at a local Italian restaurant every Friday night.

Despite his recent success in the music industry and hectic schedule, Walter Jr. is currently enrolled at the Loyola Institute's Ministry Graduate Program seeking his Master of Pastoral Studies.

If you're like me, you're happy if you can enjoy one or two cuts from a CD. If that's the case, you'll be thrilled when you pop this CD into your player. “Standing on the Word” is a rewarding collection of fifteen cuts, all of which are guaranteed to get the Spirit moving inside you. From true Louisiana blues, Cajun, soulfully touching ballads, to the downright funky title tune, Walter Jr. cooks up a deliciously spicy serving of praise and worship.



Walter Jr.

at home in Lafayette, Louisiana

"I Heard a Story", the first cut, instantly connects you to Walter Jr.'s clean, natural approach. Playing without a pick, using just his fingers, the intro provides a smooth rounded tone that hints at the quality of his musicianship.

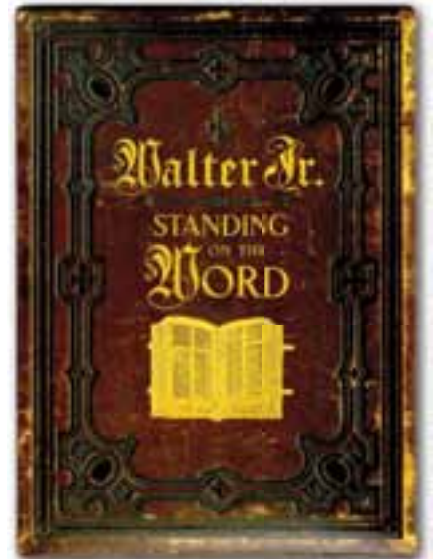
One of my favorites is the second cut, "Christ is Calling" which combines a traditional blues progression with lyrics that simply, but powerfully, remind you of God's unceasing desire to be at the center of your life.

The title track, "Standing on the Word," a delightfully funky song combining a great alto sax riff with a soulful Hammond B3 bed, is not for the faint of heart but is one that will have you instantly smiling and involuntarily moving to the rhythm and beat.

Just when you think you have his music figured out Walter Jr. serves up another tasty dish and touches your heart with the next three songs, "His Outstretched Arms," "Weight of the Cross," and "Day of Our Victory."

Of course great music without a great message is just, well, entertainment. Walter Jr.'s lyrics always remind you of the power, joy, love, and comfort that comes from having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They also teach about important characters of the Bible and the amazing power Jesus has to transform lives.

"At That Very Moment" tells the story of Jesus' power to heal from the perspective of the woman who suffered from bleeding. You feel her hesitation and fear as she weaves her way through the crowd then share in her delight and joy when she touches His robe and is healed "At That Very Moment."



I invite you to check out "Standing on the Word" for yourself by visiting Walter Jr.'s web site at www.walterjr.com. You can hear all of the selections on this album as well as selections from his other CDs.

"Standing on the Word" is available in this area exclusively at Hoerr's Berean Bookstore in Brettwood Village and SoundCheck Music Center in Fairview Park Plaza.

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