

Petra takes a rock on God's side

Captured In Time and Space
Petra
A&M Records

review by Scott Gordon

Whenever the topic of Christian Rock comes up, people generally groan and shuffle away and refuse to discuss it. It is generally assumed that Christian music is boring and preachy, and if it doesn't sound like a hymn, then it sounds like 'Michael, Row Your Boat Ashore.' This is not true.

Petra rocks. Petra cooks. Petra does preach, but then again so does every rock band, especially heavy metaloids. Petra comes across as a heavy metal band with the over-use of synthesizers. That itself is not a crime, but in their case, it does lead to some redundancy and a degree of boredom. This same problem is evident in other bands of non-Christian bend and could be considered a part of rock music today.

Petra's songs and musicianship are tight, and on this live album they prove it. Their studio albums reflect the same professionalism. Non-Christian bands of the same calibre show the same qualities, but the 'message' is

different. But is it really different, and is the preaching distasteful, unnecessary, or not really congruous with the genre of music that they choose to play? I think not.

Petra does preach salvation and the adoration of Christ as savior in between songs and in their lyrics just as bands like Judas Priest and Twisted Sister, among others, preach Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll. The same method of preaching is used, only the message is different.

Then they would put on an Ozzy Osbourne disc and listen to it scream about the aforementioned Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll message, thinking that this is okay and that this is better than a bunch of wimpy Christians preaching at them, without realizing that Osbourne and his ilk are preaching at them, but with a different message.

All in all, *Captured In Time And Space* is a very good album. I've played it at gatherings and people like it, until they hear the

Don't wanna be a manpleaser — I wanna be a Godpleaser.

I just want to have the wisdom to discern the two apart.

Instead of 'party your face off', Petra sings 'praise Jesus', with the same methods and dedication as the non-Christian head-bangers. If the lyrics were mixed out of Petra's music, the average listener would say that they are listening to a heavy metal tune, and possibly like it; put the lyrics back in, and the listener would then recoil in horror and run screaming from the room.

lyrics and the inbetween song preaching. If you can ignore, or rather accept the preaching as another opinion and another viewpoint, I think that you will enjoy this album. If you can't stand Christian preaching, then I would suggest you just put on a heavy metal album and listen to the preaching of the religion of Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll. Same music, different message.



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