

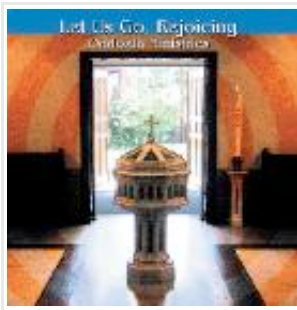
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## apologetics from scratch

Wednesday, January 3, 2007

### Rare Music Review



I don't listen to a lot of Christian music, so I don't know how much weight my taste has as far as recommending a CD.

But I thought that "Let Us Go, Rejoicing", the newest CD by Oddwalk Ministries, was awesome.

If you aren't familiar with Oddwalk, the ministry of Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson, you can check out their website [here](#).

Shannon is the youth minister at my church, St. Peter Parish in the Jefferson City Diocese. In particular, he provided the bookend song for the television show *Our Catholic Life*, which showcases various parishes within our diocese (and for which I provided some apologetics spots). This song, an original rendition of Psalm 118, is truly stunning, and I purchased the new CD from Oddwalk hoping for more of same.

I wasn't disappointed.

As I mentioned, I don't listen to a lot of Christian music, and that's by choice. I'm just not a fan. Too much of what I've heard in the past has failed in one of three ways. If it isn't too campy, it tries to hard to sound like contemporary rock (without the edge of

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contemporary rock). And in most cases, it comes out sappy and melodramatic, such as that awful "I Can Only Imagine" song that I wish the radio stations would all drop in the trash. Sorry. I'm sure someone reading this really likes this song.

With "Let Us Go, Rejoicing", however, I gave Christian music another try and came away rethinking my position. Maybe this is where the genre has gone since I've been away. Or maybe this effort by Shannon and Orin just happens to stand out. I'll be honest, I was a bit biased in favor of the CD to begin with because the photograph on the cover (above) really moved me, and I felt the songs achieved their purpose of energizing me in my faith and encouraging me to carry that out, rejoicing, as I went about my day.

For one, there is a wide range of styles represented on the CD. In fact, the CD is divided into three sections, beginning with some more upbeat numbers, moving into a spiritual set, and then ending on a more upbeat note with the last five tracts. Much of the CD was recorded at live presentations to teen audiences, and it is refreshing to hear Shannon and Orin interacting with the crowd. Though they've taken a visual presentation and turned it into an audio recording, I still felt like I was part of the crowd as I listened to their banter. The two have distinctive personalities that play well against each other.

I'm a big Billy Joel fan, and I couldn't help but notice some similarities (perhaps some influence?), especially in the earlier tracks. I couldn't help but think that, if Joel had gone into Christian music, this is what it would have sounded like. Maybe not, but again, I'm not a music critic.

Posted by Apologetics From Scratch: at **6:26 AM**

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