

BC CHRISTIAN NEWS

WHAT'S
INSIDE

• **Leora Cashe: *Tears of Joy***, Birth Records, 1999.

This top-flight Vancouver-based performer has given us a refreshingly different gospel album, ranging through jazz, funk, blues and black gospel stylings — sometimes effortlessly combining all four in one song!

All the songs were co-authored by Cashe and her husband Jaye Krebs, who also produced the album, provided the clever art design, and played several instruments.

'The River' is a stirring anthem of encouragement; 'Dry Ground' celebrates the parting of the Red Sea with a driving, almost country feel; 'He is the Bridge' is an exuberant tribute to Jesus, ending in a gospel rave-up. 'The House' is conceptually brilliant; it begins and ends with the sound of kids in a playground, and the gentle feel of the song hauntingly underlines its subject matter: a battered child. 'Barbecue,' a droll song about gossip, features a dynamic horn section and infectious beat. This tune, as well as 'Three Times,' 'The House' and 'Call on God,'

features multiple layers of impeccable female harmonies — all provided by Cashe.

And that is the heart and soul of the album — Cashe's wonderful singing. She has a range of several octaves, and bends notes with marvellous flexibility. This is a magnificent vocal talent, on the order of Sarah MacLachlan or Ann Mortifee — fresh, passionate, and unique.

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