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By David F. Dawes

* Leora Cashe: *Inspiration*, Birth Records, 2004

Somebody, please give this fine artist a 10-year recording contract; she has a marvelous gift, which can't help but bless any open-hearted listener. Simply put, Cashe is one of Canada's very best singers. I've been able to see her perform before churchfuls of people, and also at arts events with less than a dozen in the audience. Each time, I've been privileged to witness the same commitment, power and sharp musical instincts. Her latest CD features a wide variety of styles and moods, showcasing gospel material. Cashe has immaculate taste in songwriters, including material by: David Meece, Dottie Rambo, Babbie Mason, Chris Rice, Donnie McClurkin and Kathy Troccoli; there is also a fine original song, 'It's Time to Sing.' Highlights include 'Halleluiahs,' 'By the Waters,' 'I Go to the Rock' and 'My Life



is in Your Hands.' My favourite is 'It Don't Cost Very Much,' a lesser known song by gospel legend Thomas Dorsey. Cashe's jazz-inflected singing ranges from quietly reverent to lyrical to full-out belting. She is ably augmented by an excellent band, including husband Jaye Krebs on piano. Cashe will be having a CD release concert December 18 at the Chan Family Health Theatre in B.C. Children's Hospital. Partial proceeds will go to Respiratory Therapy. Contact: LeoraCashe.com or 604-257-0366.