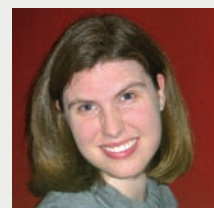




# MUSIC RAVES


The Choice Picks for Best Faith-Based Albums of 2009 from Our Sister Online Publication CCM.





LINDSAY WILLIAMS

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**1. Leeland, *Love Is on The Move*** (Essential)  
A picture of social justice never was painted more eloquently.
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**2. Steven Curtis Chapman, *Beauty Will Rise*** (Sparrow)  
You'll cry buckets upon first listen. Beautifully raw; gut-wrenchingly honest; Chapman's best yet.
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**3. Britt Nicole, *The Lost Get Found*** (Sparrow)  
A surprisingly mature sophomore effort that will delight even those naysayers without a penchant for pop with Britt's thoughtful lyrics and catchy hooks.
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**4. NEEDTOBREATHE, *The Outsiders*** (Atlantic/Word)  
They may be outsiders, but this record solidifies their position as INSANE musicians. We're lucky to have them in our circle.
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**5. Fee, *Hope Rising*** (INO)  
This one took me by surprise—great songwriting, strong hooks that are perfect for corporate worship.





ANDY ARGYRAKIS

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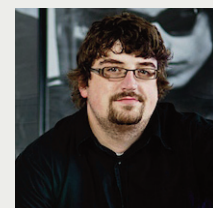
**1. Switchfoot, *Hello Hurricane*** (Atlantic/lowercase people/Credential)  
A return to the socially conscious tones of *The Beautiful Letdown* that's once again loaded with crossover appeal.
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**2. Skillet, *Awake*** (Atlantic/Ardent/INO)  
Yet another blockbuster that debuted at No. 2 on the entire Billboard charts. For Panheads and newcomers alike, it's a sing-a-long from start to finish!
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**3. Sara Groves, *Fireflies and Songs*** (INO)  
This is her most honest and heartfelt singer/songwriter record to date. She continues to expose her soul and not be afraid to express personal vulnerabilities and fragilities.
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**4. Relient K, *Forget and Not Slow Down*** (Mono Vs. Stereo)  
Catchy, infectious and a crossover hit waiting to happen. This release also marks the band's Christian market debut on its own label.
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**5. Derek Webb, *Stockholm Syndrome*** (INO)  
Instead of a stripped down affair, Webb pulls off an album of fully produced variety that includes old-school soul, jazz and his most diversity to date.





MATT CONNER

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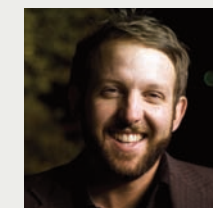
**1. Jars of Clay, *The Long Fall Back to Earth*** (Gray Matters/Essential)  
The best get better with stronger pop sensibilities than ever before.
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**2. David Crowder Band, *Church Music*** (sixstepsrecords)  
Crowder continues to defy genre boundaries.
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**3. Philip LaRue, *Let the Road Pave Itself*** (BEC)  
Honest songwriter effort proves itself to be surprise of the year.
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**4. Falling Up, *Fangs*** (BEC)  
Concept album raises Oregon act to new levels.
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**5. Steven Curtis Chapman, *Beauty Will Rise*** (Sparrow)  
Chapman saves his best for last with this career highlight.





ANDREW GREER

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**1. Sara Groves, *Fireflies & Songs*** (INO)  
Groves' latest catalogs more impeccable heartache hymns in yet another installment of her personal discography. For the good days, and the bad, Groves is a best bet.
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**2. Switchfoot, *Hello Hurricane*** (Atlantic/lowercase people/Credential)  
Lyrically and musically, this packs more punch per track than most rock records dare. It's official: These guys are around for good.
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**3. Sara Watkins, *Sara Watkins*** (Nonesuch)  
Watkins' plaintive originals make perfect dance partners for her impeccable cover selections on a record that captures the essence of folk.
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**4. Steven Curtis Chapman, *Beauty Will Rise*** (Sparrow)  
Never at the top of my list, this is not a sympathy card. Chapman has laid his heart on the line, and we listeners are all the better for it. Thank you, Steven.
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**5. Skillet, *Awake*** (Atlantic/Ardent/INO)  
I can't help but love these guys. *Awake* was the record Skillet was born to make.

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