

CCM'S SUMMER FUN



Each month *CCM* brings you the best in Christian music, keeping you up-to-date on your favorite artists. With summer slowly making its way to a pool near year, we want to make sure you're prepared with the right tunes to keep you rockin' during your awesome summer break! This month, *CCM* is trekking cross-country to take a look at some of your favorite bands. Join us as we scout out the brightest talent on the scene today, listen to some great music and enjoy the scenery of summer along the way. So, pack your favorite snacks, load your iPod and get ready for the ride of your life. Here we go...

Written by Lindsay Williams Design by Jeff Amstutz, A2Z Design

ROAD TRIP

Imagine you traveled and sang with your entire family night after night—a group of siblings singing songs written by your dad, managed by your mom, following in the footsteps of parents who left their own legacy in the music biz. Meet the Crabb Family.

The siblings—Jason, Aaron, Adam, Kelly and Terah—began their career performing as part of the Crabb Family with parents Kathy and Gerald. When the elder Crabbs decided to come off the road in 2003 (Gerald to concentrate on his songwriting, Kathy to manage the group and handle their business affairs), the younger Crabbs continued the family's legacy. They've added a successful new chapter, winning Dove awards and earning Grammy nominations. In fact, at this year's GMA Music Awards, they scored two Doves for Southern Gospel Album of the Year and Southern Gospel Recorded Song of the Year ("Through the Fire"). Oldest brother Jason has also been singled out for his powerful vocals, having been twice



Our first stop takes us to the great state of Kentucky, home of the Crabb Family. If you have yet to check out the Crabb Family's latest disc, *Blur the Lines* (Daywind), rush to your nearest music store and buy a copy! The Crabbs have maintained a long-lasting relationship with Christian music fans, and they aren't slowing down anytime soon. So, grab a drink from the cooler and open that bag of chips...sit and listen as we give you the lowdown on gospel music's favorite family.

nominated for Male Vocalist of the Year.

While a favorite with gospel music fans for years, the Crabb Family is intent on breaking down barriers that seem to exist between Christian AC/Inspo, country and gospel music—three genres that the Crabbs have no trouble tackling. Kathy Crabb appropriately refers to this approach as "cross-pollination."

And cross-pollination is exactly what the Crabbs are striving for with their new disc, *Blur the Lines*. Taking covers from various genres of Christian music, the Crabb siblings have managed to craft a unique offering that stylistically appeals to the masses. But take one look at the Crabbs, and you know this isn't going to be your grandmother's southern gospel! Kathy surmises, "There seems to be a lack of communication in a lot of the southern gospel world directed toward people under 30, maybe people under 40. [Traditional southern gospel culture is] very stiff with [its] expectations for dress code and presentation. And that is not

who we are, and it's not who we've ever been." Although their sound obviously fits like a glove in the southern gospel realm, the "look" of the group is modern and hip with a flair of color that extends right into their music. Covering songs on their new album from AC cornerstones, such as Avalon ("Can't Live a Day"), Michael English ("Holding Out Hope to You") and Nicole C. Mullen ("Redeemer," "Call on Jesus"), and then jumping into gospel and country flavors with songs recorded by Israel & New Breed ("Friend of God") and Dottie Rambo ("I Go to the Rock"), the Crabbs are positioning themselves for crossover success in multiple formats. And that is just what they were going for on *Blur*.

Oldest twin-brother Adam and his siblings feel this collection of songs truly represents what the Crabb family ministry is all about. "If you come to a Crabb Family concert, that's really what we're about. We love to have church and worship God," he says. "We love to see people's lives changed and souls saved. We've seen a lot of souls saved the past few months."

The Crabb Family co-produced the album with veteran Christian producer Bubba Smith, and they stepped out and tried a few different things this time around. Adam played harmonica, and they even recorded one song in Spanish, "Amigo de Dios (Friend of God)," with Adam taking lead. Since he doesn't speak Spanish, an instructor came in to teach him the song phonetically. They plan to perform the song at this year's Expolit Latin festival.

Such genre-crossing activities are nothing new for the Crabb Family, which recorded a Dove Award-winning rendition of its hit "Through the Fire" with gospel great Donnie McClurkin and has also recorded a critically acclaimed project with the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. Such is the life of the Crabb quintet. In fact, Kathy shares a snippet of the family's busy schedule explaining, "I can give you an example of a week that we spent not all that long ago. They did a contemporary Christian show with Steven Curtis [Chapman]; they worked the Brooklyn Tabernacle on Sunday; they worked the Grand Ole Opry the same week and, then, a traditional southern gospel [show]." Talk about cross-pollination!

The concept behind blurring the lines has crossed over into the Crabb's method of touring as well. For example, this summer the Crabb Family embarks on a tour that will be made up of two-day events, combining the music and ministries of artists as diverse as Crossway, the McRaes, the Mike Bowling Group, the Katinas, Julian Drive and Newsong. These events are designed to introduce



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different types of music to fans of the Crabb Family. By going into markets where both radio formats exist, Kathy explains, "We believe that we've blurred the lines, and we've brought both worlds together. And hopefully, at the end of the [event], nobody's going to know who's playing on what station—that the concerts flow so smoothly that you can't even define where one genre ends and the other begin."

"This tour has been a five-year dream for us," Kathy adds, "to literally take the other genres and put them together on one stage and do it correctly. I believe that we all would win if we could cross-pollinate our audiences. And this is the only way I really know how to do that. We're gonna give it a whirl!"

Another event that the Crabbs have initiated is Crabb Fest, a 10-year-long tradition held in Kentucky each year attracting about 5,000 people per night over a span of four days. Kathy says, "It's kind of a buffet of music... something for everyone. It's the event of events for us. It's almost like our family reunion kind of thing."

Whether blurring the lines on their albums, at their original two-day events or at Crabb Fest 2006, this family is as busy as ever. The ability to span across multiple genres is what sets them apart. With plans to continue the two-day events well into the future, it seems the Crabbs are headed in the right direction. The concept behind cross-pollination could be the wave of the future.

For tour dates and more info about *Blur the Lines*, head on over to thecrabbfamily.com.

ROAD TRIP FAVES

LEELAND

READING MATERIAL: Bible, "Calvin & Hobbes," music magazines (*CCM*, *Q*, *Relevant*, *Paste*, etc.)

GAMES: PSP, Gameboy Advanced, made-up road games

MUSIC: Always have the iPod. It has about 4,000+ songs—a lot of Brit bands & worship

SNACKS: jerky, Gardettos, IBC Root Beer, Spicy V8 Juice and gummy candy

WARRENBARFIELD

READING MATERIAL: *The Biography of James Taylor* and *To Own a Dragon* by Donald Miller

MUSIC: Jonny Lang CD, *Long Time Coming* (And my wife, Megan, would probably make me listen to Josh Groban or Keane)

SNACKS: Pepsi Cola and Peanut M&Ms

AZ
ARIZONA

How many telephone poles have we passed at this point? Keep counting, and pop in Matt Maher's latest disc, *Overflow*, as we journey to his home state of Arizona.

Matt Maher

In 2002, the Christian community welcomed the music of Matt Maher with his debut disc, *The End and the Beginning*. Two albums later, Matt is now one of the most popular and critically acclaimed Catholic artists in the country. His list of accomplishments and accolades points to the fact that this categorization fits like a glove. Matt's "Litany of the Saints" was sung at World Youth Day 2002, where an average of 700,000 pilgrims from around the world (including the Holy Father) sang the lyrics in unison. His songs have also been recorded by CCM legend Kathy Troccoli.

Furthermore, in 2003, Matt earned the Unity Award for Best New Artist of the Year from the United Catholic Music and Video Association. The following year, Matt was the recipient of yet another Unity Award, this time for Praise & Worship Song of the Year for "I Love You, Lord."

His latest project, *Overflow*, released earlier this year and sets the tone for more accomplishments through ministry. With 12 new tracks plus two bonus songs, *Overflow* could be Matt's most celebrated release to date.

With all of his success, Matt has no trouble staying grounded. You can still find him leading worship each Sunday night at his home parish, St. Timothy Catholic Community, in Tempe, Arizona. For tour dates and more information about Matt, log on to myspace.com/mattmahermusic.





The mountains are beautiful this time of year, and what better addition to breathtaking scenery than five days of music from your favorite Christian artists! Take a deep breath and bask in the beauty of the Rockies July 30 – August 5 at this year's GMA Music in the Rockies.



Formerly known as "Seminar in the Rockies," GMA Music in the Rockies has an impressive history as one of the premier competitions, gatherings and educational events in Christian music. Obviously, since it's presented by the Gospel Music Association, aspiring artists, songwriters and indies have the opportunity to learn from the best in the industry. Each event is an opportunity to learn more about your craft whether you are an aspiring artist, songwriter, producer or simply a music lover. With seminars, workshops, nightly showcases hosting the hottest acts in Christian music and a talent competition, this event sets the stage for a week of learning, enlightenment and entertainment.

And speaking of entertainment, this year's lineup of artists is bigger and better than ever featuring big names such as Steven Curtis Chapman, Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Rebecca St. James, Kutless, Avalon and Mary Mary taking the stage each night.

And, for the independent artists out there, GMA Music in the Rockies will provide you the opportunity to have your songwriting and demos critiqued. Q&A sessions are taught by artists-in-residence throughout the week. After all, don't forget that GMA Music in the Rockies helped launch the careers of some of your favorite artists including Chris Tomlin, BarlowGirl, Nichole Nordeman, Jars of Clay, Stacie Orrico, Rachael Lampa, Matthew West and Point of Grace.

For more information about GMA Music in the Rockies, visit musicintherockies.com.

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ROAD TRIP FAVES

CINDYMORGAN

READING MATERIAL: *Secret Life of Bees*, *Woman's World* and the Bible

GAMES: "I Spy" and just staring out at the houses that go by, guessing what they're all doing inside

MUSIC: books on tape, classical. My husband wants country, and I like pop; but we both love U2's *Joshua Tree*. It's all about compromise.

SNACKS: apples, sunflower seeds and, my guilty pleasure, chocolate puffed wheat squares, which are only available at truck stops (that *cannot* be a good sign)



ROAD TRIP FAVES

JESSIE DANIELS

READING MATERIAL: Well, I technically can't read in a car, bus, etc. I get motion sickness, and it's not pretty. But I guess if I had to choose, I would pick a novel or book instead of a magazine. Magazines are over too fast, and books—you could get wrapped up in the story and time would pass more quickly.

GAMES: I tend to like "UNO" or mini "Connect 4."

MUSIC: Music is key to me on a trip. I obviously can sit and sing for hours. If I was in charge of the CD player, there would be Mat Kearney, Joy Williams, Family Force 5, Ashlee Simpson and Carrie Underwood.

SNACKS: I'm a honey wheat pretzel kinda girl. That and vitamin water (preferably the focus flavor) are what a girl needs in the car!!

BEBONORMAN

READING MATERIAL: A little Freddy B and Annie D (Frederick Buechner and Annie Dillard), and any good book on tape.

GAMES: A deck of cards will do for any game I'm into.

MUSIC: Depends on the destination; but I usually get nostalgic on road trips, so I tend to go for my favorite classics. If I'm heading to the mountains, I have to have the standards: *High Country Snows* by Dan Fogelberg (his one and only bluegrass record) and James Taylor's Greatest Hits record...and you season those up with a little Alison Krauss, Eastmountainsouth, and Nickel Creek. I might even start whistling some old John Denver tunes! If I'm heading to the beach, I need *August and Everything After* by the Counting Crows, maybe a little Jack Johnson, or even some old Sheryl Crow. Mix all of the above in with any combination of David Gray, Patty Griffin, Damien Rice, Marc Cohn, Coldplay, and The Wallflowers' *Bringing Down the Horse* from back in '96, and I'm good to go. Oh yeah, and please never leave out talk radio.

SNACKS: Just a bunch of bottled water and the occasional RC Cola with a Moonpie.

For more artists' road trip favorites, surf on over to CCMmagazine.com.

> Lights, camera, action! Get ready to take a bite out of the Big Apple—we just turned down Madison Avenue. Now, put on your walking shoes because, after enjoying a New York-style pizza, we're going out on the town to enjoy the sights and sounds of NYC! And we're bringing new artist Jessie Daniels along to be our tour guide...

NY
NEW YORK



18-year-old Jessie Daniels doesn't need pressure from her peers to make her a cool teenager. This gal's already got it goin' on with acting credits and a record deal to boot. In fact, her first single, "The Noise," spent a mere six weeks at CHR radio before reaching No. 9. At press time, her single is charting in the Top 5, poised for a shot at becoming her first No. 1. Daniels' pop/rock flavor is taking Christian radio by storm indeed!

Far from being a new kid on the block as far as the entertainment industry is concerned, Jessie has been working as an actress since the age of eight. In fact, Daniels has appeared in multiple independent films and commercials for both The Lifetime Network and MTV. Moreover, she was also involved in several print ad campaigns and held roles in musical theater and off-Broadway plays. Growing up in New York gave Daniels prime opportunities to hone her skills as an actress, but as she grew, she realized that her real love was found in the form of music. Then, Jessie began to recognize that music was much more than a passion for her as she grew in her relationship with Christ.

Daniels grew up in a self-described "very loud, Italian Catholic family," and although she had

grown up in a Christian home and had attended church her entire life, it was not until a friend invited Daniels to church with her that Jessie discovered what a true relationship with God meant. After this encounter, Daniels realized that music was more than a love for her—it was a calling.

So, after taking the standard musician's journey to Nashville, Daniels recorded a six-song EP that she independently released exclusively through her website. Eventually, her hard work paid off, and Daniels was offered spots at several Radio Disney events which ultimately landed her a deal with Midas Records as the label's premier faith-based artist.

Today, Daniels eagerly awaits the release of her highly-anticipated self-titled debut slated to hit shelves June 6. Teaming with producer Scott Davis, Daniels shares writing credits on all 12 of the album's cuts, making this a personal album for Jessie. And this is exactly the way she intended it. She says, "It's my goal for these songs to be 'me' in every way possible. It's so important to me to find my own identity, and I'm getting to do that on this album."

To buy Jessie's new album and to learn more about her, head on over to jessiedaniels.com.



Make sure your laptop and your iPod are charged for the rest of our trip because you'll want to download the latest podcasts from your favorite Christian artists along the way. And where else can you find exclusive videos, interviews and interactive media for all kinds of Christian entertainment? That's right! Surf on over to none other than **MonsterPod.org**.

PA
PENNSYLVANIA

WA
WASHINGTON

The Newsboys (pictured above) performs at Creation Festival. Log on to creationfest.com for tickets to this year's event.



monsterpod

Podcasting—*noun*. a web-based broadcast of music which works with software that automatically detects new files and is accessed by subscription.

From the creators of CCM readers' favorite annual festival, Creation East, comes an innovative, interactive website hitting the World Wide Web this month called MonsterPod. Nick Kulb, who is helping launch the site along with Harry Thomas, Creation founder, describes MonsterPod as "a site developed to feature many different types of categories of positive, enriching, entertaining and, in many cases, Christian-based podcasting content." The content on the site will be offered in various formats including audio, picture, text and video.

Kulb adds, "The beauty behind MonsterPod is that all content is designed to be downloaded." In fact, downloads are available in three different forms: podcasts, videocasts and RSS feeds.

Content will be available through one of two ways—either through a podcast subscription,

which allows consumers to watch the podcast at their convenience, or through live content viewed exclusively with the MonsterPod player.

At press time, Walden Media, both Creation Festivals and major labels such as EMI, Tooth & Nail and Gotee are behind the MonsterPod project. Once the website is fully up and running, each label will be able to access its own sections of the site to ensure that MonsterPod is constantly and consistently updated.

This month, MonsterPod will disclose its new website featuring artists' music videos. However, this is only the beginning stage of what MonsterPod hopes to accomplish. The full-on site will continue to grow into the fall when the entire site will be unveiled featuring all-exclusive content. The information available on the site will be three-fold with podcasting, industry news and missions updates (a section focusing on the organizations that Creation partners with such as Compassion

International and its ministries in Morocco as well as last year's premiere of Friendship Fest), with the intent of expanding into other ministries in the future.

In addition, Kulb hopes that MonsterPod will be a place where music videos can be launched and mission-oriented projects can be promoted. In the months ahead, look for content to include a private interview with the owner of Walden Media, an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at *The Chronicles of Namia* and an insider's glimpse into the new *Charlotte's Web* movie as well as exclusive content from bands like Hawk Nelson and Thousand Foot Krutch. Plus, be sure to log on for live podcasting from the Creation Festivals this summer.

Check out monsterpod.org for the latest in podcasting innovation.

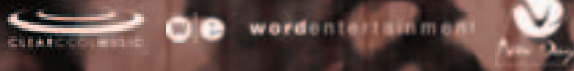


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