Local broadcasters pick o

We asked Arkansas Christian radio experts to point us to the best music of 2007. And they delivered. Sorting through hundreds of releases, they picked out the top CDs for Contemporary, Urban and Southern Gospel music fans. After looking backward, they also looked forward, selecting forthcoming CDs that will shine in 2008.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN

Scholar Brad

By KKSP-FM, "Spirit 93.3" morning personality "Scholar Brad" (Little Rock)

1. *The Altar and the Door* — Casting Crowns

When listening to this straight-edged, rock-pop-based CD, you will find that every song relates to some trial, tribulation or miracle God has brought us all through. Mark Hall, the lead singer, pours out our heart's desire in worshipful song, and you can feel the empathy in each note.

2. *All That is Within Me* — MercyMe

This time MercyMe brings a rockier guitar pop to the masses, as this CD reminds me of a football pep talk before the big game. The coach is telling his players that the other team has come to fight and it's time to get their minds focused on the prize. The tracks seamlessly lead the listener from chapter to chapter in the story of the victorious Christian walk.

3. *Remedy* — David Crowder Band

The new CD will not disappoint the old fans of the DC Band. The passion of the lyrical content is still fused with the eclecticism of the alternative guitar pop style they have become famous for. *Remedy* puts more emphasis on fresh and original lyrics that could be used for praise and worship by a youth group.

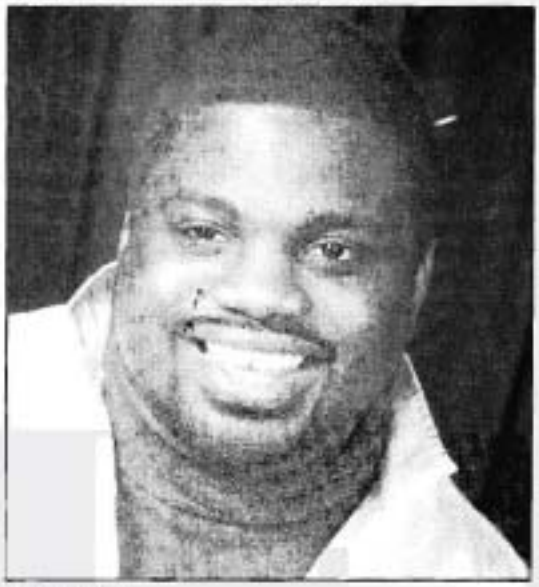
4. *Overdressed* — Caedmon's Call

This band has had a folksy pop appeal since 1997, and it hasn't lost touch with that genre as the old lead singer Derek Webb makes his first appearance with the band since 2002. This album, as with all Caedmon's Call CDs, follows a common theme, and this time it is loving the poor and the oppressed. This CD is sure to bring back some of the older fans of CC.

5. *Portable Sounds* — tobyMac

I'm biased about this CD being the best because of my love for old-school funk and hip-hop, which Toby has brought to the forefront of Christian music. Toby, in this CD, continues to hold the mantle of "bringin' the flava" and delivering the Truth with pure energy without the sugary pop. Whether you're a fan of the old DC Talk or into hip-hop, this is the CD to add to your collection.

■ **Most-anticipated CD:** *Turn on the Lights* by Sanctus Real. They have a definitive energy. That's my kind of music. With their alternative power pop style, they still can grab the emotions of the heart like love, brokenness and God's presence.



Torrez Harris

GOSPEL

By KHLR-FM, 94.9 "Hallelujah FM" Station Manager Torrez Harris (Little Rock)