



Favorite Worship Albums of 2005

New renditions of old hymns and worship standards win out in this year's list of top picks in the worship music genre.

by Russ Breimeier and Andree Farias

Every year, we offer our list of the year's 12 most impressive worship albums, calling attention to music we believe will most bless the church and draw hearts closer to God. Our annual list remains unranked (listed alphabetically by artist's last name) to avoid implying that one form of worship is better than another. The finalists are typically selected based on creativity and originality as it relates to encouraging Christians to worship their Creator—through song or private contemplation.

But this year, many worship albums were concerned less with original songwriting and more with spirited presentation. The year included more than a dozen albums featuring new arrangements of old hymns, as well as recordings that reworked familiar worship standards with new energy and inspiration. These CDs reflect a growing tendency toward "blended worship" in the church, crossing generational, denominational and style-of-music barriers to bring together the worshipping body of Christ.



God of Infinite Worth

The Kry (LeKri Music)

Odds are you've either never heard of this Canadian band or else you assumed that they had called it quits years ago. But The Kry (now a duo) has lasted for nearly 15 years, and based on the strength of this album, they'll hopefully continue for a good while longer. Who would have thought their foray into worship music would be so strong? In essence, it's Vineyard music meets indie rock—unadorned and stripped-down, but also ambient and atmospheric. Yet despite these strong rock qualities, the songs have strong pop sensibilities with soaring melodies, shimmering harmonies, and a Psalm-like earnestness that would make old-school Maranatha! aficionados smile. Instead of crafting a formulaic pop-praise effort, The Kry have come up with an album that ranks with *Delirious* and other Brit-styled modern worship artists.