

Williamson CLUSTER PAPER

Faith & Values

Bruce & Lisa

Violin-flute artists on faith adventure

By Art Toalston

Bruce and Lisa Wethey had never done a Christmas CD.

As the violin-and-flute Bruce & Lisa duo, they often fielded the question, "Do you have a Christmas album?" after their concerts during the holiday season.

"We had been holding off on doing one," Lisa says.

Sales were not to be the motivation for any recording, the husband-and-wife artists had resolved in leaving the world of classical music five years ago.

"It's not about us, it's about Him," they say from time to time, seemingly placing a capital H on their reference to God.

That outlook once drained their savings to \$12, but still they were at peace in embarking on careers focused on uplifting others through their music.

A conversation one night stirred them to pray anew about a Christmas CD when they realized, as Lisa tells it, "Our concerts at Christmastime have been like everybody else's." A bit fancy, a bit jazzy, a bit reflective of the hubbub of the modern-day Christmas season.

"I said that's not what Christmas is. And we stopped and thought [how] it's so easy for all of us to get lost in that madness, forgetting that there were three people in a manger."

"It was such a simple, humble moment with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus," Bruce joins in. "Even though this was the greatest moment, the greatest gift from God that would transform the world as we know it, it started with no great fanfare, no great hoopla or hurrahs."

So they settled on a CD, titled "Christmas Peace," with simply the flute, violin and piano (featuring Jason Webb) to symbolize Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Beyond the lament that people get too busy at Christmas, Bruce and Lisa hope to say in the CD and their holiday concerts that "we have to totally change our mindsets," as Bruce puts it, "and come back to the fact that God could have created a worldwide party, if he wanted, to announce the coming of Jesus."



But God chose the simple setting of Bethlehem, Bruce reflects, to show "that it's not all about the hoopla and fanciness in our lives. It's about simply dealing with the love of Christ, loving our neighbors ... not worrying about stuff ... not worrying about all the grandiose things.

"We need to have those real moments of meditation on Christmas," Bruce says, voicing a hope that the CD will help "slow people down just by the nature and the feel and the spirit in which we recorded it ... whether it's in the car or whether it's at home or when they're wrapping presents [or when] they have their feet up after a crazy day of Christmas shopping."

The CD still has a bit of "the Bruce & Lisa kind of jazziness to it," Bruce says. "There are a few [tracks] that are upbeat and fun, but some that are just very meditative."

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For an expanded version of this story, including how Bruce and Lisa Wethey transitioned from classical music, go to www.ClusterPaper.com. Bruce & Lisa are on the Web at www.bruceandlisa.com. The site contains video clips from their concerts and information about their CDs.

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