

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT MARTYRS' PRAYERS

"I'm delighted to learn of your efforts to keep the memory of this great figure [Romero] alive."

-
NOAM CHOMSKY

26 MARCH 2014

"Fantastic! Beautiful! Thanks for all of your good work..."

-
JAMES MARTIN, SJ

EDITOR-AT-LARGE, AMERICA MAGAZINE

26 MARCH 2014

"Thank you for this music video, Romero. It is great, and it will be of great use here [in San Salvador]. Un abrazo..."

-
JON SOBRINO, SJ

DIRECTOR, OSCAR ROMERO PASTORAL CENTER, SAN SALVADOR

26 MARCH 2014

FOUR STARS

"Martyrs Prayers is a daunting undertaking mastered with musical and intellectual finesse."

-
ANDREW GREER

CCM MAGAZINE

14 FEBRUARY 2014

"...A Christian rock band... not like a contemporary Christian rock band... it's not the same three chords. They actually make their music interesting. They make it work, in a secular sense, so it can be played almost anywhere on any radio station or media."

-
GERARD LONGO

THE QUINN SPIN

2 MARCH 2014

"Any way you consider this, The Martyrs Project makes a statement and is a marker that points in an important direction for contemporary Christian music.."

-
DUKE BENDIX

GRACE COVENANT CHURCH,

CHANTILLY, VA

16 FEBRUARY 2014

"The first single from The Project's album "Martyrs Prayers" is a heartfelt tribute to Archbishop Óscar Romero called simply, "Romero." The unique and inspired album pays tribute to martyrs ancient and modern from various Christian denominations.

The result is an honest, earnest and authentic vision that strikes a fitting balance between celebrating the inspiration that martyrs give to us, while sounding an appropriately wistful, melancholy note, acknowledging the inevitable lamentation for what humans can do to good people.

[This] grounding in the real world only seems to heighten... credibility in its spiritual aspirations: there is nothing manipulative or partisan about its message or tone. "We hope by this CD to give greater exposure to Romero and the martyrs within that wider audience of evangelicals, Anglicans and Roman Catholics—especially those who are younger and have no living memory of the events of 1980"...

[Bell and Arnold] have made a splendid foray for a noble cause."

-
CARLOS X. COLORADO

SUPER MARTYRIO

15 NOVEMBER 2012

"Incredible... there are amazing stories to be heard in these songs, not to mention excellent musicianship... this is something people need to hear."

-
RYAN BARBEE

JESUSFREAKHIDEOUT.COM

27 AUGUST 2013

"Bell and Arnold have aimed to connect modern Christian music with Christianity's heritage... The list of guest musicians is star-studded and the songs are hauntingly powerful."

-
OSCAR HYDE

CROSS RHYTHMS UK

2 JANUARY 2014

"[Martyrs Prayers]... reads as a veritable who's who of contemporary Christian recording artists. It is performed with aplomb... and forced me to consider a number of ideas I hadn't thought about in ages... Chief among them was: "What would you die for?"

-
PAUL CLOUSE

HUNTING FOR GOD

27 DECEMBER 2013

"Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero was one brave, gutsy, and most importantly, faithful, bishop. his "blood truly was a seed" in my life and in many. This song and video is a wonderful tribute."

-
ROGER WOLSEY, AUTHOR

KISSING FISH

1 NOVEMBER 2013

“[Martyrs Prayers] is a unique, 10 song collaboration between Michael Glen Bell and Duane W.H. Arnold - scholars, musicians, writers, friends - who reworked the prayers of Christian martyrs... into compelling songs with the help of a few of Christendom’s finest contemporary artists: Phil Keaggy, Jennifer Knapp, Margaret Becker, etc.

Bell’s voice feels appropriately sparse and raspy and, at times defiant.

This disc has some remarkable highs... Keaggy’s stunning guitar solo... which seems to ask in its sad notes the foundational question of the whole album: Would I die for my faith? Or rather, what would I be willing to die for?

Bell and Arnold have given us a treasury of ancient prayers that feel entirely prescient.”

-
JOSH MACIVOR-ANDERSEN
PRISM MAGAZINE
EVANGELICALS FOR SOCIAL ACTION
1 MARCH 2013

“The Martyrs Project could be best described as a contemplative walk in the martyrs’ shoes. The songs are performed by musicians crossing the Christian spectrum of dividing lines as they unite to explore the writings of those who went on before us and gave it all...

Musically speaking, there are a wide range of styles, yet the songs still manage to keep a natural flow as an overall concept presentation.

This is not your Walmart Mega Church worship CD. A commendable effort worth picking up.”

-
LEE WAGENBLAST
CHRISTIAN RADICAL
12 NOVEMBER 2013

“[Martyrs Prayers] is excellent... a worthwhile listen and a refreshingly bold experiment.”

-
BERT SERACO
THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH
24 JULY 2013

“Not a release that can be easily classified, Martyrs’ Prayers refuses to be labeled. It is rock, it is alternative, it is classic... it is music delivered by some of the most passionate people in the industry who want to make you think outside of the box, going deeper into your soul and farther into your relationship with God than you ever have before.”

-
KIM JONES
HALLELS
15 NOVEMBER 2013

“Christian martyrs Quirinus, Sadoth and Ri may not be household names, but Martyrs Prayers moves them... into the musical sphere.

The album’s best moments come when the band focuses on acoustic folk treatments like the lead single “Romero”, the cello-led “Becket” and the melodically memorable “Clement”.

Sadoth is a straight up rocker that fits the character of the album... It fits because the ‘classic’ tag leans into some of the folk work too, as ‘Ignatius’ and ‘Ravensbruck’ recall the arrangements of older folk heroes like America and Simon & Garfunkel.

Martyr’s Prayers is a unique album that’s worth a listen...”

-
STEPHEN CARRADINI
INDEPENDENT CLAUSES
29 APRIL 2013

“Duane Arnold and Michael Glen Bell have arranged the prayers and writings of well-known faith figures from Ignatius to Romero with a musical style best described as high church meets Neil Young. I got my chance to join in on a tune called Ravensbruck.”

-
JENNIFER KNAPP
JENNIFERKNAPP.COM
16 MAY 2013

“...Fascinating, poignant, and provocative... With Martyrs Prayers, we encounter praise and lament, cries for deliverance... and expressions of trust and hope.”

-
MARK ALLAN POWELL
THELUTHERAN.ORG
1 APRIL 2013

“Musically, the album [Martyrs’ Prayers] is quite creative and has a typical Phil Keaggy resonance. It’s the guitar focus and the lyrical storytelling that reminds me of this. The music does a lot to carry the messages to your head and heart.

I think this album does a lot to help focus on historical individuals that we can draw a ton of inspiration from. The music is the draw and their lives are the inspiration.”

-
KEN WIEGMAN
ALPHA OMEGA NEWS
16 NOVEMBER 2013

“A unique and inspired album... honest, sincere, & genuine, striking just the right balance between celebration and sadness. [Bell & Arnold’s] grounding in the real world only increases the credibility of their music... There is nothing partisan or manipulative in the message or tone.”

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EPISCOPAL COMMISSION
FOR MISSIONS

PONTIFICAL MISSIONS SOCIETY,
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN EL
SALVADOR

1 MAY 2013

“If you think that martyrs are relegated to the pages of ancient history, it is well worth taking a look at the work of Duane Arnold and Michael Bell...”

-
FR. MARK J. HUNT, STD

HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY

15 JANUARY 2013

“Haunting, powerful, gutsy, raw, real... the songs in this collection convict and inspire, challenge and uplift all at once. The prayers of martyrs are set to some pretty amazing music by Michael Bell, whose voice fits the tone of the prayers just right. Looking at the notes on the project website and the list of the performers reads like a who’s who of Nashville’s most respected Christian artists, from all over the theological spectrum.

Apart from compositions like Requiem masses, I’m not sure I’ve heard any collection of music, especially not music with instrumentation driven by guitars and drums, that records the voices of people facing death head on and not flinching. But this collection is no Requiem mass! Listening to these songs both humbles me and gives me courage to live, and to die, when that time comes.

These prayers and songs are unabashedly Christian. But the themes they open in the face of death are ultimately human at the most basic level. So my sense is they could give courage and strength to any persons of any faith (or no particular faith) who find themselves facing struggle and death as they pursue the paths of justice and love.

I also see some pretty rich opportunities with this collection not only to teach about the lives of these martyrs, but to help people be inspired and guided by their way of life-- a way that puts life, and death, into perspective.”

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TAYLOR BURTON-EDWARDS

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP RESOURCES

GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“...a fascinating project by Michael Glen Bell and Duane W.H. Arnold... urgent and vital, well-produced, with great musicianship.”

-
The Catholic Beat
8 December 2012

“Whether or not you are familiar with the story of any martyrs, consider using “Romero” as a focus for spiritual exercise.”

-
DR. GREG SMITH

PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES

HODGES UNIVERSITY

19 FEBRUARY 2013

“So often, different parties in the church are at war with each other. But here is a music project that links Catholics, Evangelicals, and more Liberal/middle-of-the-road Christians. It’s The Martyrs Project.”

-
DAVE FAULKNER

BIG CIRCUMSTANCE

11 NOVEMBER 2012

“...A moving tribute to Oscar Romero. We will show this film to our delegates who are preparing to go to El Salvador in January.”

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FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF
EL SALVADOR

12 DECEMBER 2012

“The Project is... an endeavor that takes words of martyrs through the ages, often the words uttered just prior to their death, and interprets them through various original musical compositions and genres. Your faith will be deepened by visiting The Project’s site and listening...”

-
FR. AUSTIN FLEMING

THOUGHTS OF A CONCORD PASTOR

18 JANUARY 2013

“I find what has been done very intriguing because of the ancient understanding of the word “martyr”, which is to witness, to testify to the faith. The Martyrs Project is very much a part of that work of witness.

I want to thank Michael and Duane, not only for sharing their faith, but for The Project itself. I think that any way in which we can encounter people and bring them deeper into Christ is all for the good; but to do so in such a creative way through music and song and through allowing the words of the past witnesses and martyrs to shine forth is remarkable. They have done this and, perhaps, done it in a such way that there are people whom The Project will touch who would not have been reached by any other means.”

THE MOST REV. CHRISTOPHER
J. COYNE

AULILIARY BISHOP ARCHDIOCESE OF

INDIANAPOLIS

23 JANUARY 2013