Aretha Franklin - Gospel Greats 1972 [1999]

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01. Precious Memories 7:20 02. Climbing Higher Mountains 2:45 03. God Will Take Care of You 8:48 04. Mary Don't You Weep 7:11 05. Precious Lord (Take My Hand)/You've Got a Friend (Medley) 5:36 06. What a Friend We Have in Jesus 5:57 play 07. Give Yourself to Jesus 5:18 play 08. Bever Grow Old 9:53 09. You'll Never Walk Alone 6:40 10. Amazing Grace 10:44 Bass – Chuck Rainey Choir – The Southern California Community Choir Choir [Assistant Choir Director] – Alexander Hamilton Choir [Choir Director] – Rev. James Cleveland Congas – Pancho Morales Drums – Bernard Purdie Guitar – Cornell Dupree Keyboards [Celeste] – Aretha Franklin (Lead Vocals – Rev. James Cleveland Organ – Ken Lupper Piano – Aretha Franklin, Rev. James Cleveland

Originally released as a double LP in 1972, Amazing Grace cracked the Billboard Top Ten upon its release, making it one of the bestselling gospel records of all time. Grace was recorded in a large Baptist church with an ultraenthusiastic, loving audience in the pews and a full, funky, band as well as the Southern California Community Choir under the direction of her mentor Rev. James Cleveland. Her voice is melismatic and intensely emotional, yet pure and controlled--as if she were directly channeling the Holy Ghost. Aretha's father, the brilliant preacher Rev. C.L. Franklin, makes a brief, proud appearance, remarking how "she has never left the church!" Highlights include the beautiful "Wholy Holy," an 11-minute, heart-stopping "Amazing Grace," and Inez Andrews's stirring song "Mary, Don't You Weep." Way more than a return-to-the-roots record, the set is an inspired gospel-soul workout that arguably showcases Aretha's strongest singing ever. ---Mike McGonigal, amazon.com

There are very few singers who have been able to have a succesful gospel album after they left

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the church to sing other genres. Aretha Franklin is without a doubt an exception. My grandmother had this C.D and after she died, I was cleaning out her old C.D's. I said that I would keep her Gospel C.D's. I started to throw out this one but I got out of bed and went to the collection I was gonna throw away. Thank God I didn't get rid of this because I play it every day. My favorite songs are MARY DONT YOU WEEP, OLD LANDMARK, HOW I GOT OVER, AMAZING GRACE, CLIMBING HIGHER MOUNTAINS, GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU, and PRECIOUS MEMORIES with James Clevland. James and Aretha's vocals on that song MOVE me like no other. If you had James Clevland on ANYTHING that sung about the Lord, you know it's a hit. Aretha can sing ANYTHING. Thats what makes her a TRUE singer. This is where Aretha got her start and let me say, in the words of her father, SHE'S NEVER LEFT THE CHURCH. If you're looking for something moving, I strongly recomend this. ---amazon.com

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