

THE ROCK ACROSS AUSTRALIA 2001 END OF YEAR TOP 100 REPORT

The Rock Across Australia is pleased to announce awards for *TRAA Song of the Year* and *TRAA Artist of the Year*.

The Awards are made on Song and Artist performance in the annual TRAA End of Year Top 100 report.

In providing background to the choices, this report also provides an overview of the year.

TRAA 2001 Awards

Song of the Year

These Thousand Hills — Third Day

Artist of the Year

The Paul Colman Trio

2001 Overview

Musical elite makes way for newcomers

Christian music is changing worldwide, but particularly here in Australia.

Steven Curtis Chapman, Michael W Smith, Jars of Clay, DC Talk, Delirious, and Point of Grace continue to be the mainstays of contemporary Christian music, but the past year has introduced many newcomers to TRAA.

Lifehouse, Plus One, Tait, True Vibe, MercyMe, Ben Glover, Sara Groves, Kelly Minter and Sarah Sadler have blazed their way into TRAA's End of Year Top 100.

Several established acts including Darlene Zschech, POD, Sarah Masen, Tammy Trent, Erin O'Donnell, Chris Rice, Out of the Grey, Greg Long, Rivertribe, The Frugals and PFR made their way into TRAA's *End of Year Top 100* for the first time. [TRAA was established three years ago in 1999.]

As one would expect, US Christian music continues to dominate the Australian scene. 70% of the Top 100 are songs from US artists, 25% Australian (same as last year) 3% UK plus 1% South Africa and 1% New Zealand.

Groups dominate the Top 100 with 52% [53% in 2000]. Males capture 26% [up 6%] and females 22% [down 5% from the previous year] of the places.

Twelve songs appear on both the 2000 and 2001 *TRAA End of Year Top 100*. Seven songs scored positions in the Top 50 of both reports.

Covers, live versions and instrumentals

2001 will be remembered as a year new artists cruised to great heights, and established artists revisited the past with cover versions, live recordings and instrumentals (although not all instrumentals were remakes).

The year saw ten covers gain prominent positions on TRAA. The most successful of these were Third Day's *These Thousand Hills* (originally recorded by Jacob's Trouble) DC Talk's *Say the Words*, and Rivertribe's *Journey*. Each gained a spot in the Top 10.

Live recordings of Sonicflood's *Carried Away* and PC3's *Dip* scored in the Top 25. Two years ago, the same artists recorded studio versions of these songs that polled in TRAA's *Best of 1999* Top 100.

Four instrumentals got the nod. Two from Michael W Smith (*Thy Word, The Call*) and two from Rivertribe (*Journey, The Blessing*). Each artist gained one position in the Top 10.

Worship music continues to inspire

The 2001 End of Year report shows that worship inspired music continues to expand rapidly and capture the imagination of contemporary music buyers. The essential artists were Third Day, Delirious, Michael W Smith, MercyMe, Sonicflood, Powell Young & Young, Ten Shekel Shirt, plus Australia's Darlene Zschech.

During the year, TRAA's Contemporary Worship chart reported that Hillsong's *You Are My World* attained gold status selling 35 000 within three weeks of its release. It is now moving towards platinum.

Another Hillsong release *People Just Like Us* recently edged over the 70 000-unit mark to become what is believed to be Australia's first platinum selling Christian CD. It was released in 1994.

Integrity's *Songs 4 Worship* collection gained gold accreditation in Australia (35 000) during December. Time-Life advertised the album nationally in the general marketplace via two-minute TV commercials.

And while we're talking about Gold and Platinum accreditation, Mary Mary's *Shackles (Praise You)* has earned platinum status as a single. It was TRAA's number one song of 2000.

Christian radio expands

Christian radio has expanded rapidly over the past three years. Today, more than 30 Christian (listener supported) stations serve metropolitan and regional areas, and a network of more than 70 low-powered open narrowcast stations (local 'neighborhood' stations) is scattered throughout sub-metro and country areas.

On mainstream radio, Creed's *With Arms Wide Open* and Lifehouse's *Hanging by a Moment* have scored high rotation airplay on most contemporary music stations. POD's *Alive* has gained significant airplay on the MMM rock network, and Aussie bands Rhubarb, Antiskeptic, Dumpster and Leo Nine have recorded spins on the ABC's national youth network, Triple J.

Mainstream press gives Christian music a high-profile boost

Mainstream press has devoted more than \$100 000 of column centimetres to Christian music in the past year.

In October, *The Bulletin* (which incorporates *Newsweek*) sketched a picture of Christian popular culture with a 4-page report titled *Upon This Rock*. The story highlighted Darlene Zschech, Paul Colman, Rebecca St James, Alabaster Box, Rivertribe, Rhubarb, etc.

Melbourne's *Herald-Sun* has devoted full-page stories to Christian artists. The Paul Colman Trio (twice) and Rivertribe have enjoyed excellent coverage, while Perth's *West Australian* provided reviews of local Christian artists in their weekly music review section.

Steve Grace, Alabaster Box, Nattasha, Carter & Carter, Dumpster, Rhubarb, Antiskeptic, plus several other acts have generated strong support from music press, sub-metro, and regional newspapers, while Christian magazines and denominational newspapers have also helped create and expand the profile of a number of Christian musicians and events.

Events

Youth Alive rallies in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide have become the most influential showcase for Christian music. Victoria, for example, pulls more than 10 500 people and is staged at one of the Melbourne's largest venues, the Rod Laver Arena.

The development of music festivals - especially the *Australian Gospel Music Festival*, *Forest Edge* and *Sonfest* - has begun to provide the impetus to display a broader range of artists.

US recording contracts

Australian Christian Music is gaining stronger attention overseas. Essential Records, the home of Third Day and Jars of Clay has signed the Paul Colman Trio. Elevate, a new worship label managed by Smallbone Management and distributed through Inpop, has signed Rivertribe.

PC3 and Rivertribe account for around half the independent Christian music sales in Australia during the past year.

TRAA SONG OF THE YEAR

Third Day's *These Thousand Hills* is TRAA's 2001 Song of the Year.

These Thousand Hills spent most of the year in the TRAA Top 10 due to compelling sales.

After 23 weeks — when most songs have left the chart— something extraordinary happened. Radio, which had been generally lukewarm to the song, began to support it in a big way, and the song from *Offerings* finally went to number one.

The song remained on the chart for 37 weeks including three weeks at number one.

The following is a list of other TRAA long stayers.

TRAA 2001 long stayers

WI	T100	TITLE	ARTIST	ALBUM
37	1	These Thousand Hills	Third Day	Offerings
25	21	The Change	Steven Curtis Chapman	Speechless
22	4	Everything +	Delirious?	Glo
22	6	Thy Word	Michael W Smith	Freedom
21	3	Say the Words (Now) +	DC Talk	Intermission
20	7	Good To Me	Mary Mary & Destiny's Child	Thankful
20	19	Carried Away ("live")	Sonicflood	Sonic Praise
19	11	Written on My Heart	Plus One	Wow 2001
18	2	I Sings +	Mary Mary	Thankful
18	8	Blue Skies	Point of Grace	Free to Fly
18	9	Sundown	Paul Colman Trio	Turn
18	10	Journey (remix)	Rivertribe	Journey

TRAA long stayer records

What the 2001 lists do not show is that two songs spent more than 40 weeks in the chart.

Combining Year 2000 weekly reports, *Your Sweet Voice* (PC3) holds the distinction for being in the charts for 44 weeks, and *Everything* (Delirious?) for 41 weeks.

Number one songs of 2001

Fourteen songs made it to number one during the year, averaging 3-4 weeks on top.

Turn (PC3) spent almost three times the average time at number one while *Sundown* (PC3), *Live Out Loud* (Steven Curtis Chapman), and *Show Your Glory* (Third Day) spent double.

D#1	W@1	TOP 100	SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM
2 Jan	9	14	Turn	Paul Colman Trio	Turn
5 March	4	2	I Sings	Mary Mary	Thankful
2 April	4	13	Joy	Newsboys	Shine - The Hits
30 April	6	9	Sundown	Paul Colman Trio	Turn
11 June	1	19	Carried Away ("live")	Sonicflood	Sonic Praise
18 June	3	12	All You Got	Tait	DC Talk Solo EP
9 July	2	15	Now and Forever	True Vibe	True Vibe
23 July	2	40	Hang On To You	Delirious?	Glo
6 Aug	2	72	Who	Newsboys	Shine - The Hits
20 Aug	3	1	These Thousand Hills	Third Day	Offerings
10 Sept	2	69	Make It Last Forever	Avalon	Oxygen
24 Sept	3	5	Hanging By A Moment	Lifehouse	No Name Face
15 Oct	6	18	Live Out Loud	Steven Curtis Chapman	Declaration
26 Nov	6	59	Show Me Your Glory	Third Day	Come Together

Carry over champions

Twelve songs each gained positions in both the 2000 and 2001 Top 100.

Seven songs scored positions in the Top 50 of each year, while *Turn* (PC3) and *Everything* (Delirious?) attained Top 20 position positions in both reports. Mary Mary and Delirious? both stepped up to positions in the Top 5 in 2001.

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	2001 TOP 100	2000 TOP 100
I Sings	Mary Mary	2	82
Everything	Delirious?	4	15
Turn	Paul Colman Trio	14	20
Don't Worry	Rebecca St James	17	31
Every Season	Nichole Nordeman	20	45
Your Sweet Voice	Paul Colman Trio	32	6
Centre of Your Love	Jaci Velasquez	43	29
King of Glory	Third Day	49	18
Follow	Steve Grace	53	73
God of Wonder	Mac Powell, Cliff & Danielle Young	64	40
Don't Look At Me	Stacie Orrico	67	63
He's My Son	Mark Schultz	76	25

TRAA 2001 ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Australian pop-rock act, the Paul Colman Trio is TRAA's *Artist of the Year* for the second year in a row.

The trio gained the distinction for:

- polling the top position on TRAA 2001 Top 50 Artists report,
- gaining the most TRAA 2001 entries — (6)
- gaining the most entries in the TRAA 2001 Top 25 — (4)
- the artist spending the longest time at #1 during the year — (15 weeks)
- the artist spending the most weeks in TRAA — (87 weeks)

TRAA also congratulates the trio on gaining opportunities to perform and record in the US.

Artists with the most songs on TRAA 2001 Top 100

The Paul Colman Trio succeeded in gaining six songs in the TRAA 2001 End of Year report — all in the Top 50. PC3 also gained the most songs in the Top 25.

Sundown, *Turn* and *Live It* are from the *Turn* CD, *Dip* (“live”) from *PC3 Live - Electric*, *Africa* from *PC3 Live - Acoustic*, and *Your Sweet Voice* from the trio's debut album *Serious Fun*.

ARTIST	SONG	TRAA TOP 100
Paul Colman Trio (6)	Sundown	#9
	Turn	#14
	Live It	#23
	Dip (“live”)	#24
	Africa	#28
	Your Sweet Voice	#32

ARTIST	SONG	TRAA TOP 100
Jaci Velasquez (5)	You Don't Miss A Thing	#35
	Every Time I Fall	#36
	Centre of Your Love	#43
	You Are Not There	#65
	Season of Love (with Pete Orta)	#94

ARTIST	SONG	TRAA TOP 100
Third Day (4)	These Thousand Hills	#1
	King of Glory	#49
	Show Me Your Glory	#59
	City On A Hill	#63

Artists with three entries to 2001 End of Year Top 100 are:

- Mary Mary, Rachael Lampa, Newsboys, Delirious?, Rebecca St James, Steven Curtis Chapman.

Artists with the most weeks on TRAA

PC3 songs spent a total of 87 weeks in TRAA during 2001. That is an average of 1.6 songs each week.

Third Day totaled 68 weeks with an average of 1.3 songs a week.

The most successful solo artist, Jaci Velasquez, spent 45 weeks in TRAA.

ARTIST	SONG	WEEKS IN TRAA 2001
Paul Colman Trio	Sundown	18
	Turn	15
	Live It	14
	Dip ("live")*	13
	Africa*	13
	Your Sweet Voice	14

ARTIST	SONG	WEEKS IN TRAA 2001
Third Day	These Thousand Hills	37
	King of Glory	10
	Show Me Your Glory*	8
	City On A Hill	13

ARTIST	SONG	WEEKS IN TRAA 2001
Jaci Velasquez	You Don't Miss A Thing	14
	Every Time I Fall	12
	Centre of Your Love	10
	You Are Not There	9
	Season of Love (with Pete Orta)*	5

Artists with the most weeks at #1

Between them, the Paul Colman Trio and Third Day cornered the number one spot on TRAA for almost half the year (24 weeks).

PC3's *Turn* and *Sundown* spent a combined 15 weeks at number one equaling Mary Mary's 2000 record when *Shackles (Praise You)* held the top spot (twice) for a total of 15 weeks.

ARTIST	SONG	WKS @ #1
Paul Colman Trio 15 weeks (28.8% of year)	Turn	9
	Sundown	6

ARTIST	SONG	WKS @ #1
Third Day 9 weeks (17.3% of year)	These Thousand Hills	3
	Show Me Your Glory	6

Established acts Vs newcomers

Ten acts - mostly US - dominate more than a third of the places on *TRAA 2001 Top 100*. Jaci Velasquez, Third Day, Michael W Smith, Mary Mary, Newsboys, Rachael Lampa, Steven Curtis Chapman, PC3, Rebecca St James, and Delirious hold 35 positions in the Top 100.

In the previous year, the list included Jars of Clay and DC Talk. Jaci Velasquez, Rachael Lampa, Mary Mary, and PC3 are new to the Most Places list. Rachael Lampa and Mary Mary are now recognised as core artists on the strength of multiple songs from their debut albums.

Including duets, 62 artists appear in the Top 100.

Established acts managed to capture the number one chart position for 85% of the year. Three newcomers - True Vibe, Lifehouse, and Tait - shared the remaining time. Generally, songs from established acts tend to remain in TRAA longer than newcomers do.

Overseas artists and groups dominate TRAA

As indicated above, US acts have continued to dominate the Australian Christian scene. Songs by American artists increased to 70% [up 3%], with Australasians 26%, South Africans 1% [both up 1%], while UK acts fell 5% to grab just 3%.

TRAA's 2001 Top 100 reveals that twice as many groups have succeeded in Top 50 positions than soloists and that groups monopolise the Top 10 with 90%. Soloists and duets are more successful than groups below the 50.

Overall, groups recorded 52% of the TRAA Top 100. Males captured 26% [up 6%] and females 22% [down 5% from the previous year] of the places.

Australasian artists

In all, 17 Australasian artists gained 36 songs in TRAA's weekly survey. Of these, 13 gained 25 songs on TRAA's 2001 Top 100.

While the number of songs and artists entering TRAA's weekly report was a little less than the previous year, the songs that got the nod gained a stronger result. Australasian artists are generally staying in TRAA for longer, and gaining higher weekly positions due to stronger sales and airplay than ever before. More than a third of the songs in the Top 50 are songs by Australasian acts, compared to 24% (2000) and 20% (1999).

TRAA COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

	Top 10			Top 50			Top 100		
	2001	2000	1999	2001	2000	1999	2001	2000	1999
Australasian	2	2	2	17	12	10	26	25	19
Overseas	8	8	8	33	38	40	74	75	81

TRAA GENDER COMPARISON

	Top 10			Top 50			Top 100		
	2001	2000	1999	2001	2000	1999	2001	2000	1999
Male	1	2	3	13	11	5	26	20	14
Female	0	2	1	7	14	15	22	27	29
Group	9	6	6	30	25	30	52	53	57