

Laura Story – Open Hands: Review



Music review by Luchae

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Contemporary Christian songbird, Laura Story, released her seventh studio album, titled ***Open Hands***, in March 2017. The singer songwriter is no newbie to the Christian music circles, having scooped a Dove award in 2002 for track *Indescribable* and a Grammy in 2012 for the popular worship ballad, *Blessings*.

The new album is opened with a stunner of a track, which some are lauding as the “one to look out for”, called ***Death Was Arrested***. Complete with Story’s sugar-sweet, but compelling, vocals and lyrics that speak about our victory through Christ’s work on the cross, I immediately found myself drawn in. Another beaut, that definitely deserves a listen if you’re a Laura Story newbie, is worship song ***Whisper***.

Title track, ***Open Hands***, features Third Day front man, Mac

Powell. This modern worship track has a catchy chorus that speaks about surrendering all to “the one that’s strong”. My favorite part says: “Jesus I surrender all/Every victory and loss/Take it all/Take it all/Till all I have is open hands!”

Other more contemporary worship ballads include ***You Came Running*** and ***For The Love Of My King***. The latter was written in modern hymn style, complete with poetic verses and a more contemporary-sounding chorus.

I found ***Give You Faith*** to be an interesting addition to the album. The song, clearly an ode to Story’s children, speaks about choosing to leave them with a faith in God, more than wisdom, money and material possessions. The lyric so beautifully says: “I wanna give you faith, I wanna leave you hope / That you would know a love that never lets you go.”

Elements of pop can be found in songs such as ***Every Word You Breathe*** and ***Extraordinary***. The album finishes with a stunning, piano-driven worship track called ***Grace Abounds***. This song is one for the disheartened, in need of hope and a reminder of the power and beauty of grace. It is simple, classic and deep.

My introduction to Laura Story’s skillful songwriting was definitely a pleasure! She is able to turn Biblical concepts and principles into beautiful, poetic odes to and for God. Give this album a go if you love pop-inspired Christian music that is more than just a one hit wonder. Laura Story is the real deal.