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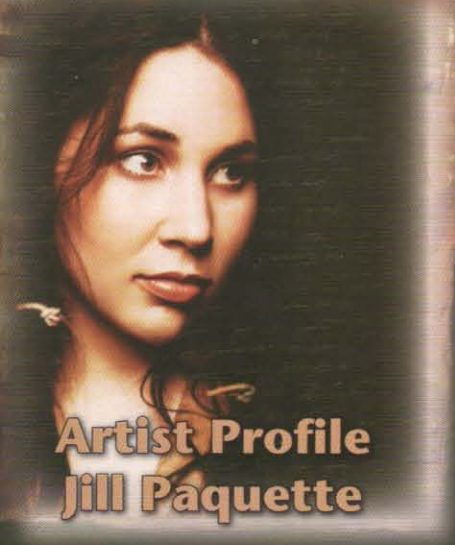
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ROBERT RANDOLPH AND THE FAMILY BAND



Selective Hearing:

- Derek Webb
- James Clay
- Starfield
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- Robbie Seay Band
- Bill Miller
- Brindley Brothers
- Spy Glass Blue



Artist Profile Jill Paquette

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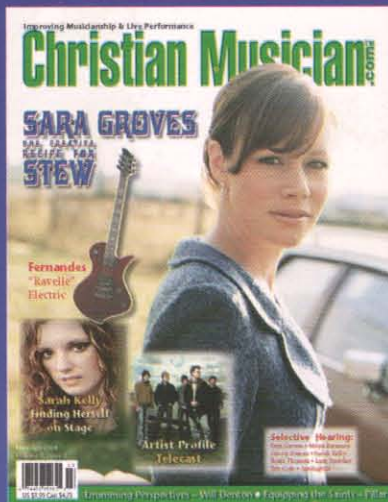
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Saga's Blueridge
Gospel Guitar

Margaret Becker ♦ Equipping the Saints – Todde Lawton

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Product Review (cont. page 6)

Roscoe LG-3005 fretless, a Zon Sonus 5 fretless and a Conklin New Century custom 5. The three heads utilized were the aforementioned Ashdown ABM 300 custom, an Acoustic Image Clarus and a Hughes & Kettner Bass Base 400 (which was paired up with a Line6 Bass POD Pro as the front end). The Tri 210L was also contrasted with an Aguilar GS 112, an SWR Goliath Jr. 210 and a Bag End S-15.

Two friends and I put the Tri 210L to work. A number of A-B comparisons between cabinets were made, with a different head in each round. The differences between the heads and basses were readily apparent with the AccuGroove cabinet. It also seemed to do quite well at high volumes. The presentation was expansive. The tone was rich, with great articulation that is anything but fatiguing. While the Tri 210L did not convey the extreme lows like the 1x15, yet it was solid. The Tri 210L was definitely the most responsive unit.

The Tri 210L is a sophisticated cabinet. It was designed to be accurate, flexible and lightweight, with high power handling. Not only have the AccuGroove team met that criteria, the Tri 210L is also very well constructed and sounds wonderful. The size is slightly bulky, compared to an average 2x10, but it is still fairly compact. The list price of \$1,349 should give players an indication of what kind of effort and materials have gone into the Tri 210L. It is a cabinet that should be experienced by every serious player.

Thanks again to Mark Wright for the first-class customer service!

Stefan Konstantopoulos is a reviewer of great gear—for great people like you.

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Saga's Blueridge Gospel Guitar

by Bruce Adolph

If you keep up with our review section you'll notice we've had an interest lately in bluegrass type of instruments (last issue we reviewed a Deering banjo) and this issue is no different.

Saga offers something unique with a bluegrass model guitar aimed right at Gospel players. It is no secret that bluegrass music draws heavily from its gospel roots. The beautiful adornments on this guitar make no excuses, it is a Christian themed design. The headstock sports a liberal use of abalone and mother of pearl. Under a banner with the guitars Blueridge

moniker written on it you'll find a large cross and chalice. Then for fretboard markers they employ early Christian trinity symbols (three interconnected rings) that really look nice on the guitar.

The guitar itself is a "000" size so it's sits nicely in your lap. It has a solid spruce top with a classic forward-X pattern and hand carved bracing as well as carved mahogany back and sides. This guitar has a dovetail neck joint and the fretboard is East Indian rosewood.

Being built in the bluegrass tradition this model does not have a pick-up. If you like the size (especially suited for smaller frames) and needed to amplify it you could easily throw in a pick-up system but as a bluegrass purest would point out... bluegrass music is meant to be played in an intimate circle with other instrument players. In other words, if you need to amplify it, it ain't bluegrass.

For a smaller body style meant to be played in a small group setting this guitar has a full rich sound. The bass really is nice (dreadnought fans would usually be concerned about that—but no worries here). The mahogany neck is built thin and plays well.

Typically bluegrass guitars are set-up with the action a little higher than I prefer

(as is this guitar)

so the first thing I would

do is lower the action a bit (remember I am from the West Coast; the land where we like our acoustic guitars to be as low and fast as out Teles).

So here's the low down. Take the strikingly good looks, the solid tone and comfortability of a small body and calculate the retail price of \$795 (a good retailer will sell it to you for a good bit less) into that equation. How can you get all that guitar at such a low retail you ask? The answer is that Saga makes this Blueridge Contemporary Series guitar in China. Just like when we reviewed the Blade electric guitar from China and we couldn't believe its pound for pound value, with this well crafted acoustic you simply get more than your money's worth.

Check it out at www.sagamusic.com

