

BILL WELCH BAND

Ask any of the six **Bill Welch Band** members how they fell in love with performing, and you're likely to get six entirely different answers. Ask what keeps them together as a band, however, and you're guaranteed of the same response: they like being with each other.

More than anything else, the **Bill Welch Band** is driven by a desire to depend on each other as a community. It's what united them, and it is what sustains them. And, judging by the reactions of their growing fan base, it is a deep-rooted desire for many who have been moved by their music.

At the band's core, as one might guess, is Bill Welch. A talented musician in his own right, Welch has enjoyed great success opening for such artists as **Edwin McCain**, **Dave Koz**, **Patty Larkin**, and **Michael Civisca**. But it was Bill's desire to form a musical community that was the genesis for the Bill Welch Band.

Welch spent several years surrounding himself with diverse musicians. In the end, he found musicians who could collectively mold his music into a unique and evolving style. The resulting **Bill Welch Band** includes older brother Fred Welch, Gene Rogalski, Tony Padilla, Mike Keefe and Bill Tiberio. Early in the group's formation, a symbolic seventh member was added. CD profits are divided seven ways—six shared among the bandmates with the seventh portion earmarked for charity.

"The musical intensity that I have tapped into as part of a group far exceeds what I would have been able to achieve on my own," says the younger Welch. "We may think we know what direction a song is headed, but the music always knows so much more than any one of us."

Brother Fred agrees. "The biggest challenge for me is getting my limbs to play what this music deserves."

Acknowledging this presence of a greater power is a sentiment that is echoed through their music. *At the Water's Edge*, the band's debut CD, blends gospel, rock, jazz, folk, pop, Latin, and R'n B, among other influences.

Common threads of humility, compassion, and gratitude are intricately woven throughout the band's lyrics. Some of the tunes are expressions of friendship, hope, love, and everyday living; others are wrapped around deeply spiritual themes.

To use the term 'christian music', however, would be a misnomer, and the band has had great success transcending musical boundaries. The divine lyricism of *Be Never Lonely*, for instance, is currently enjoying regular rotation on jazz radio.

"Spirituality defies categorization," says Bill Welch. "Our music is simply meant to reflect the goodness that abounds in all of our lives."

In addition to their recorded music, the band frequently plays in clubs and outdoor music festivals as well as in church-sponsored events. Many of these performances are benefits for the poor. Recently the band performed with **Lou Gramm** of **Foreigner** in a benefit for the homeless. Charity performances are central to the band's mission, with all six band members sincerely committed to outreach, particularly for the inner city programs.

"The homeless seem to be touched by our music, especially the track *Saved by Grace*," says Bill about those supporters who may drift into one of the band's many open-air concerts in the city.

Those who draw the ironic conclusion that this audience lacks the funds to support the band financially may be missing the point. For Welch and his bandmates, however, their mission is clear.

Says Welch: "We enjoy the financial freedom any musical success can bring, but to say that we perform for the money is actually kind of amusing"



Love Was Born, BWB002 (2003)
Christmas CD release coming in November 2003

At The Water's Edge, BWB001 (2000)
Debut release
Available at Amazon.com and Rochester, NY music stores

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REVIEWS

"Welch's passionate vocals have a Marc Cohn quality and his lyrics are quite inspiring, so give this debut a listen"

- Michelle Picardo, December 2000, Freetime Magazine

" If you're looking for an alternative to today's edgy and often raunchy pop sounds, you don't have to look any farther than your own back yard. The **Bill Welch Band's** *At the Water's Edge* is a smooth salute to spirituality and the beauty of the simple things in life. A tight and talented six-piece ensemble led by singer/songwriter **Bill Welch**, the themes of this Rochester band's all-original first CD encompass everything from eternal love to self-actualization in a string of 13 soulful ballads and perky pop numbers infused with a variety of influences. *Be Never Lonely* has a Latin flair, whereas *Lord Where You Lead* is a pure gospel number with vocal stylings by guest singer Myra Humphrey. There's even a gospel choir (Spiritus Christi Gospel Choir) adding high-powered vocals to the inspirational *Time For Us All*. Cynics may not appreciate the absence of edginess, but Welch's songs of love, faith and introspection are a refreshing reprieve from the usual angst on the airwaves."

- Mary McCrank, November 2000 Rochester Magazine

FAN COMMENTS

" I just purchased your CD, "At The Waters Edge", after hearing the second cut, *Be Never Lonely* on 105.9 FM WJZR. I had to get it. It is a terrific album. I have played it many times, I know all the words to every song. Thanks, you have inspired me with your many great songs"

- Steve

"It is really great music with a powerful message. I've shared it with friends who visited us...they ALL asked what they were listening to and where I got it.

- Joyce

"The disc has a very nice mix of styles and the musicianship is superb....it truly is a musical gift!

- Tom

".... your music really touched meI don't think that anyone could have walked away from your concert without been a little moved by at least one of your songs..... I walked out it felt like nothing could go wrong and the world was just a better place.....I was so peaceful and at ease"

- Bob

"Thank you all for a wonderful evening... it was a total experience - musical, visual, emotional and spiritual"

- Claudia and Steve

"Based on that one song, I bought tickets for my husband and me to attend your concert..... you totally blew me away. I attend many concerts, from funk to blues to symphony and everything in between and you guys are incredible. What passion and spirit and sheer talent. "

- Robyn

" your music touches my soul like no other music. It plays on my long drives, spiritual meditations, while I cook and do the dishes, and even at work. "

- Joe

" Not much to say but **AWESOME.** "

-Tim