

Creating Freedom From Poverty

By various artists, Sparrow Records

A trip to India inspired Delirious frontman Martin Smith and wife Anna to help the poor, and Compassion Art was born. Smith invited 12 well-known musicians and songwriters to create songs that will forever be donated to the poor—all proceeds ever generated will help the poor worldwide.

Among those involved were Paul Baloche, Israel Houghton, Steven Curtis Chapman, Matt Redman, Michael W. Smith and Darlene Zschech. Additional artists were invited to participate on the CD. Every song is a standout, but some moments are worth noting. Listeners will enjoy hearing Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant together again on “Highly Favoured.”

The Watoto Children’s choir adds the perfect touch to this and other songs. “Friend of the Poor” is a heartfelt cry, performed by Andy Park and Leeland Mooring. Tim Hughes and Chapman lead the declarative “We Won’t Stay Silent.” “Fill My Cup” is sure to build believers’ faith. Included is a bonus DVD documentary with artist interviews and more.

The book *The Art of Compassion* features the songwriters’ thoughts on compassion and justice. The artist lineup alone makes this album a must-have; but the story behind these songs makes it a collection like no other.

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