

James Christian - Craving (2018)

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01. *Heaven Is a Place in Hell* 02. *Wild Boys* 03. *Craving* 04. *Jesus Wept* 05. *World Of Possibility* 06. *Sidewinder* 07. *I won't Cry* 08. *If There's a God* 09. *Love Is the Answer* 10. *Black Wasn't Black* 11. *Amen* James Christian - Lead Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Background Vocals Billy Seidman - Additional Acoustic Guitars Tommy Denander - Guitars, Bass, Keys (Wild Boys, Love Is The Answer, Sidewinder, I Won't Cry) Jimi Bell - Guitars (Black Wasn't Black) Pete Alpenborg - Guitars and Bass (Jesus Wept) Alessandro Del Vecchio - Keyboards (Jesus Wept) Clif Magness - All Instruments (Craving) Josh Freese - Drums (Craving)

As is his custom, James Christian sometimes takes a break from his long serving band House Of Lords to drop a solo album. The singer, songwriter, producer, and all around music veteran returns with his fourth studio album, *Craving*. Recorded in his own Florida studio, the recording features contributions from other veterans of the melodic rock scene including Tommy Denander, Chris Pelcer, Jimi Bell, Clif Magness, Alessandro Del Vecchio, Richard Hymas, Charlie Mason, and Jeff Kent.

As you would expect, Christian delivers another pleasing album of AOR melodic rock, something on the softer side of his work with House Of Lords. Even with expectations in hand, the album arrives with some variety in the songs. Not wanting to give everything away, I'll hit some highlights. Starting the album, both *Heaven Is A Place In Hell* and *Wild Boys* are straight up rockers, catchy with some good groove.

After this, Christian shifts into lighter AOR gear with *Craving*, *Jesus Wept*, and *World Of Possibility* where you'll more acoustic guitar, piano, and better synth parts. *Sidewinder* brings back some harder rock with strong riffs, a big beat, and a feisty guitar solo. The following *I Won't Cry* straddles the line between rocker and AOR anthem, yet with a notable blues groove. Perhaps my favorite song here, *Black Wasn't Black* turns more upon traditional melodic hard

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rock with it's brisk riffs, slick pacing, undeniable melody and groove, and catchy chorus. Christian could have saved the song for the next House Of Lords album. But no, enjoy it here. Additionally, throughout, but not necessarily in every song, you'll hear some fine guitar solos. As suggested earlier, Craving finds James Christian in fine musical form, offering another satisfying album of AOR melodic rock. Easily recommended. ---dangerdog.com

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