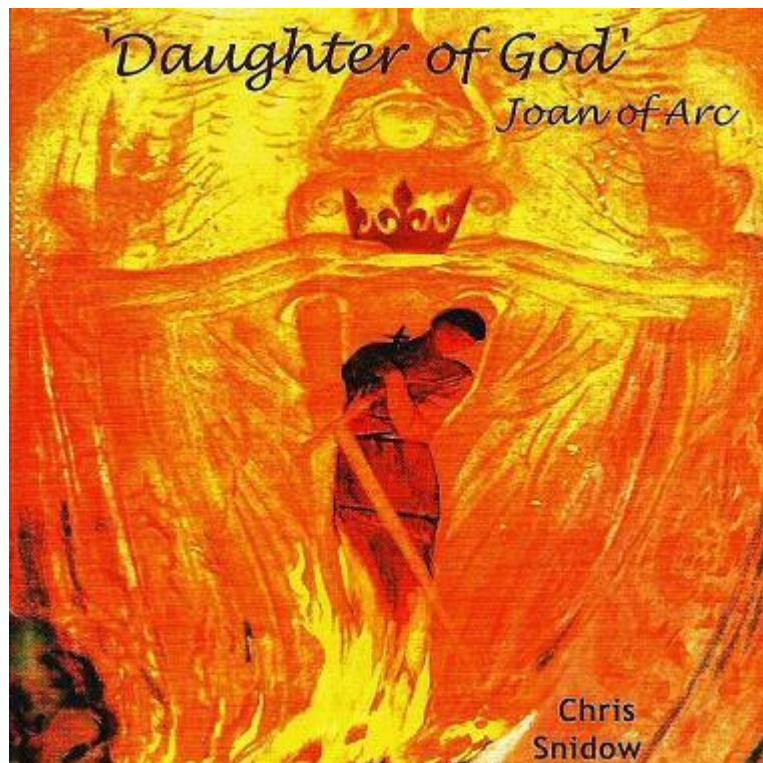


'DAUGHTER OF GOD'/JOAN OF ARC
Chris Snidow 2004



Reviews...



'Daughter of God'/Joan of Arc

Chris Snidow (Self-released) 2004

From Aural Innovations: Jerry Kranitz-April 2004

Multi-instrumentalist Chris Snidow has been playing music since the late 1960's, having been based through the years in Texas, California, Holland, France and northern Africa. He has played various types of music and has been in bands that have opened for the likes of Ike and Tina Turner, Sonny & Cher, The Mothers of Invention, Chuck Berry and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. *'Daughter of God'/Joan of Arc* is Snidow's third CD.

As the title suggests, this is a concept work based on Joan of Arc, who at 17 years old is the youngest military commander, male or female, in recorded history. The music is contemporary classical performed in a symphonic progressive rock style that often borders on New Age. Some *Aural Innovations* readers might consider the music to be a bit on the 'fluffy'side, but Snidow does an outstanding job of bringing the story of the remarkable woman to life with music that is spiritually uplifting, including powerful melodies that often reach peaks of full symphonic majesty. Snidow also injects elements of ambient space into the mix which give things a nice cosmic kick.

Each track is preceded by the words of Joan, spoken in French by Snidow's wife, Catherine Henon. Snidow points out in the liner notes that the listener can program his/her CD player to only play the voice or musical tracks, though personally I came to enjoy the narrative introductions (Snidow includes English translations in the CD booklet) and consider the narrations and music to be an integral part of the larger whole. In fact, Snidow is such an accomplished musical storyteller that while the music certainly stands on its own merits, following the narration made for a much fuller immersion in the story and conjured up vivid images of the unfolding events. An impressive effort and one that can be enjoyed with the eyes closed under the headphones for more actively following the story.

SECTION
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Religion

The Dallas Morning News
Saturday, April 17, 2004

SPIRITUALITY
VALUES



ARTS & MEDIA

Ode to Joan of Arc

Life of 15th-century saint
inspired Dallas musician
Chris Snidow. 6G



BRAD LOPER/Staff Photographer

Keyboardist and composer Chris Snidow is shown here in his home studio in Dallas. He and his wife leave for France soon.

Snidow's music tells story of Joan of Arc

By MATT WEITZ
Special Contributor

Local musician Chris Snidow has produced two well-received CDs from his studio in his White Rock 'Lake-area' home: 1995's *From the Foundation of the World* and 1999's *Number Our Days*. Both albums are highly impressionistic slices of soothing electronic sounds, inspired for the most part by passages or verses from the Bible.

Now he's narrowed his scope with *Daughter of God*, *Joan of Arc*, a musical meditation on the 15th-century saint and military leader who shook the very pillars of European society.

The 22-track disc alternates quotes from Joan — effectively voiced in French by Mr. Snidow's wife, Catherine Hénou — with musical pieces and follows the 17-year-old firebrand's short but spectacular career.

"I went to France about five years ago and was reading original manuscripts about Joan," Mr. Snidow said in a recent interview. "I

REVIEWER'S CHOICE

was really struck by all the parallels to Jesus. A fake trial, an unfair execution, specific prophecies — they both experienced the same thing, and Joan is one of the most attested figures from this historical period."

Mr. Snidow and Ms. Hénou have expanded their interest in St. Joan beyond the sonic, and will soon be leading a pilgrimage to France to follow in her footsteps. Highlights include staying in monasteries (some of which invoke a vow of silence) and guided trips by experts such as Marie-Véronique Clin, the co-author of *Joan of Arc: Her Story*.

There's obviously a lot of devoted scholarship behind these efforts: *Daughter of God* is the warmest and most fully realized work from Mr. Snidow yet.

Matt Weitz is a Dallas freelance writer.

DETAILS: For more information on Chris Snidow's work e-mail him at cowind@ev1.net.

ALPHA-CENTAURI MAGAZINE

Holland, April-2004

Rogier Van Gaal

"Daughter of God"/Joan of Arc

Chris Snidow

This 3rd CD-release by the American keyboard-musician, Chris Snidow is an ode to the life of the legendary heroine Joan of Arc. I had to get used to it at first, but what an artist! Eleven instrumental masterworks in a mix of many styles such as ambient, pop, new-age and classical, each prefaced by a female voice speaking the words of Joan of Arc. Chris controls the complete sound spectrum of his keyboards, and the compositions and arrangements are bursting with surprises and creativity. Clearly much thought and attention was invested in this project. At first, a bit elusive, but delving further I discovered a new world in which this artist displays his talent of utilizing every possibility. An absolute 'must' for any professional composer or keyboard lover. *'The Court of Chinon'* was my personal favorite track. (Roger van Gaal)



Chris Snidow—Daughter of God", Joan of Arc

Deze 3de CD-release van de Amerikaanse keyboardmuzikant Chris Snidow is een ode aan het leven van de legendarische heldin Jeanne d'Arc. Het was even wennen, maar... wat een artiest! 11 instrumentale meesterwerkjes in een mix van vele stijlen als ambient, pop, new age en klassiek, telkens ingeleid door een vrouwen- of mannenstem die een paar woorden van Jeanne d'Arc zelf oplezen. Chris beheerst werkelijk het complete klankenspectrum van zijn keyboards, en de composities en arrangementen staan bol van verassingen en creativiteit. Hier is overduide-

lijk zeer veel aandacht aan besteed. In eerste instantie kon ik me niet vinden in het ietwat onderkoelde en mono geluid van zijn instrumenten, maar wie daar doorheen prikt, ontdekt een nieuwe wereld waarin deze artiest laat zien dat hij geen mogelijkheid onbenut laat. Een absolute must voor de professionele componist en keyboardliefhebber! "The court of Chinon" was mijn persoonlijke favoriete track (Rogier van Gaal)



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**-International Electronic Music Magazine-
Distribution, Reviews, Articles**

Chris Snidow

'DAUGHTER OF GOD'/JOAN OF ARC (CD)

May 2004

After a goodly respite musically, Chris Snidow returns with a stunning electronic concept work based on the heroine Jeanne d'Arc. The glory and drama of her short life is illustrated sonically with dynamic symphonic themes, powerful moog crescendos, and delicate melodic themes intertwined beautifully. A superior EM production.

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*"Daughter of God is a spectacular album. Chris has certainly evolved both in his playing and his arranging. What a concept! Voice and music tracks are separated. A lush original soundtrack of the mind. I'll be playing tracks #2, #4 and #14 on the show."*

**Renee Gelpi**

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# BACKROADS MUSIC

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Chris Snidow

*'DAUGHTER OF GOD'/JOAN OF ARC*

Cowrind Studios 2004

Review-June, 2004

**O**n his third CD, Chris Snidow undertakes the ambitious task of bringing to a musical tale the incredible life of Saint Jeanne d'Arc, known as Joan of Arc, who lived one of the most remarkable lives in history. Alternating throughout the entire program are voice and intro tracks ranging from twenty seconds to a little over a minute. Replicating the words and voice of Joan of Arc, and extensive liner notes add to this element. For those who wish to enjoy only the music tracks, simply program even-numbered selections only. Half of these musical pieces were performed, composed, arranged and produced solely by Snidow, while the other half were collaborations between Snidow and Clark Rice. The dramatic tension in the music is in keeping with Snidow's previous releases, with a rise and fall of tempos and emotions, and story telling that is effective *sans* words. The life of this renowned young woman, whose life was ended before the age of 20, included being Commander-in-Chief at age 17, leading to an epoch-making military career that lasted only 13 months. She died both in martyrdom and as a wonder of the ages, with her uncanny ability to balance the skills of orator, statesperson, spiritual leader and even prophet, with deeply religious beliefs and unflappable courage. The music matches the portrayal, and those who wish to delve into the whole story will benefit equally for the narrative aspects as well.

# WIND AND WIRE

AMBIENT, NEW AGE AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC REVIEWS  
SINCE 1997

CHRIS SNIDOW

*Daughter of God/Joan of Arc*

Cowrind (2004)

Keyboard player Chris Snidow musically transcribes the life of Joan of Arc, one of the most celebrated figures in history, on his latest release, *Daughter of God/Joan of Arc*. While there is no mistaking that this is a concept album of sorts, don't come here expecting music from the historical period during which Joan of Arc lived. Instead you will be treated to a wide assortment of rhythmic and melodic keyboard and percussion pieces, varying in mood and tempo. But all of them seated comfortably under the wide umbrella term 'new age music' (or 'adult contemporary', if you prefer). At times, the music can contain more overt electronic music elements, but the overall dominance of melodic refrains and defined structure to the compositions, as well as their undeniable accessibility is why I would certainly not classify this as ambient or EM.

While I certainly enjoyed this album, I do have to issue a caveat to readers. Starting with the first cut, every odd-numbered track is actually a spoken work (with sound effects and backing music) introduction to the song itself. The voice (in almost every case

belongs to Chris' wife, Catherine Henon, who speaks in French (the words are quotes by Joan of Arc, of course). As a result, there are two ways you can listen to this album. You can program on the odd-numbered tracks, leaving just the very good music, or you can play it 'as is'. Since the spoken word intros are usually brief (one minute more or less), I suggest you at least try it as it was intended. In the latter case, the CD works very well, unwinding (as it should) with the pace of a story being told. I happen to think French is among the most beautiful of all languages to hear spoken and Catherine Henon does have a delightful accent.

Review by Bill Binkelman

WIND and WIRE

<http://www.windandwire.com>



# *Electro-music.com*

Fall 2004

Chris Snidow

## *"Daughter of God"*

This is Chris Snidow's third critically acclaimed CD release. All instrumental, a mixture of many styles, including: electronic, ambient, space, new age, contemporary instrumental, and classical. Each piece is begun with some brief words of Joan of arc. The 14-panel CD booklet contains a wealth of information, including English translations of Joan's words.

Why Joan of Arc? This CD is dedicated to the most attested figure in history up to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. She is the youngest (17 years old) Supreme Commander of the military forces (male OR female) throughout all of recorded history. The same church that burned her at the stake made her a Saint 500 years later. Centering her life around prayer, her kindness and affinity for the poor and unwanted, a sham trial, an unjust death, asking for the forgiveness of her persecutors even as she was being led to the stake, her always unerring and specific prophecies---all these (along with a number of others) are striking similarities of the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

This is a significant musical work. We're proud to offer it here on electro-music.com. The CD is packaged in a shrink wrapped full-sized 'jewel case' with an attractive and informative 14 panel booklet.

# Electroambient Space

2004 – Phil Derby

Chris Snidow

*'Daughter of God'/Joan of Arc*

22 tracks; 48:48 minutes

Already by looking at the track index and running time above, you can tell that something is very different about the CD. 22 tracks? Only 48 minutes? What's up with that? What's up is a very creative and very different CD. As good as it is, the disc is going to have a fairly narrow appeal, and a different one from the typical EM crowd. While Chris follows a familiar path from his prior CDs in terms of creating strong melodic synth compositions, he takes a very new direction by including French spoken word text, and a strong symphonic quality, being that the music is intended as a soundtrack to the style of Joan of Arc. The music is good, even powerful, but there is not a lot of it. I admire Snidow's uncompromising stance, his deep conviction and faith, and his vision. I like the music. The liner notes are well done and very detailed; the art work is inspired and beautiful. I hope he finds an audience for it, but I doubt most readers of *Electroambient Space* would count themselves among them.

## *'DAUGHTER OF GOD'/JOAN OF ARC*

WHY JOAN OF ARC? This CD is dedicated to the most attested figure in history up to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. She is THE YOUNGEST (at 17 years old) SUPREME COMMANDER of the military forces (male OR female.) throughout all of recorded history. The same church that burned her at the stake made her a Saint 500 years later. Her life has many striking similarities to the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah. Here's some examples: centering her life around prayer to the God of the Bible, her kindness and affinity for the poor and unwanted, a sham trial, an unjust death, asking for the forgiveness of her persecutors even as she was being led to the stake, her always unerring and specific prophecies---and a number of others. Here's a brief CD description:

EACH PIECE begins with a quote of Joan of Arc spoken in her native French tongue, backed by music and 'atmospheric enhancers' and this leads into a music composition.

THE MUSIC IS a mixture of many styles including: contemporary instrumental/new age/classical/electronic/space/and ambient.

THE 14 PAGE CD BOOKLET contains a wealth of information and images, including the English translation of Joan's words and relevant Bible verses.

ARTIST BIO: Chris spent the late 1960's-1985 playing mostly drums, and some guitar and keyboards with several different bands. In Texas these included THE DANCING BEAR, THE MENERALS, BEAUMONT AND GOULD, and EAKIN' FROUT. In California WHEAT and THE VISIONS. He spent 5 years in Europe, including one year playing drums with PRIDE OF TEXAS in Holland, and one year playing lead guitar with TYRONE SCOTT AND TRUTH in Paris, France and northern Africa. Among the styles he played were rock, country, jazz, blues, and various combinations of them all. He has played with several different bands as warm-up bands for big names such as IKE AND TINA TURNER, SONNY AND CHER, THE MOTHERS OF INVENTION, CHUCK BERRY, and the NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND. In 1985 he began experimenting more with electronic keyboards, which led to his first solo release NEW DAWN, followed in 1988 by LEPRECHAUN HILL, CROSSING OVER in 1992, FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, NUMBER OUR DAYS, 'DAUGHTER OF GOD'/JOAN OF ARC, THE SEASONS OF AUSTIN STREET, COME FORTH!, and others. Chris and his wife Catherine have also led ten Joan of Arc Pilgrimages to France.

“I had a lot of help on this 4 year project. Clark Rice loaned his many musical talents to several of the pieces on this CD, and Catherine Henon spoke the original French words of Joan of Arc. Janet Powell was responsible for the beautiful CD booklet design. My sincere thanks to them all.” Chris S.

Price: \$13.00, tax included. Shipping and Handling (S&H), if within the United States, is \$3.50. Add \$10.00, if shipped outside the USA.

Total is: \$16.50

For further information, or to buy a copy, send your check to:

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