Mp3 Christopher Williams - When I Was Everything



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Contemporary acoustic pop singer songwriter with lyrics of depth and detail grounded in a spiritual nature. 11 MP3 Songs FOLK: Folk Pop, BLUES: Blues Vocals Show all album songs: When I Was Everything Songs Details: "Evocative synthesis of pop, blues and gospel married to emotionally resonant lyrics that cut through life's bullshit." Real Detroit Weekly "One of the most popular and entertaining of the local folk-pop crop...his new CD is his most mature and assured." The Boston Herald "The depth and breadth of this latest musical project is stunning: with a subtle range, remarkable production values, and an intimate aesthetic that move the listener deeply." The Valley Reporter "The hard-touring singer-songwriter is a master at spreading his personal energy out into a live audience." the Madison Isthmus "Captivating" vocals...though it's been over three years in coming, this disc full of well-crafted songs and top-notch musicianship was worth the wait." Performing Songwriter Singer-songwriter Christopher Williams has always named his cars, and he speaks of them with the personal familiarity of old friends. His 1995 Accord, which he affectionately calls "Grace," was stolen recently. This is never a good thing. It is especially bad, however, for a musician who depends upon travel for his livelihood; and even worse for someone two days away from relocating 1100 miles across the country. As with all things lost though, it is often the search itself that gives us meaning. And if you've ever heard a song or seen a show by Christopher Williams, you may understand that the seeking is only as hard as we make it; the journey is only as meaningful as we let it be; and Williams' storied search for Grace is, in fact, something upon which he has built his musical career. With seven years of nonstop national touring at a pace of more than 120 shows a year, this New York born, Bucknell University Religious Studies graduate and former Seattle pre-school teacher, has built a faithful following of listeners around the country and independently sold more than 21,000 records. As a songwriter, Williams offers songs that are honest and confessional,

yet never overbearing; and as a performer he engages audiences with an appealing mix of intense passion and humor. Williams' live shows are characterized by what the Boston Phoenix calls "lush guitar work, sweet soaring vocals," punctuated by the percussive vulnerability of a single djembe hand drum. In a newly discovered, Dylan-esque manner, Williams has begun telling stories from the stage among his songs. "It just started happening, this musical story spilling," he explains. "They have always been a part of my show, but never sung spontaneously without direction. Of course, it doesn't always work, but that is the joy of performing. Receiving the grace of an audience there to experience the spontaneity of a real live show...I love those moments." Armed with this attitude, Williams continues to stay true to his musical course by delivering When I Was Everything, his most moving and accessible studio record to date. With a sense of arrival, Williams speaks into the changes that life brings, as rather suddenly life has changed for him - a move (in a rental car no less) from Boston to Nashville, the loss of a family member, and the discovery of love and getting married. "This new record's title is dead-on for this time in my life," Williams explains. "Not that I was everything before, because I certainly wasn't. Not that I had everything. I was just living in a way that was very self-focused, and through these life passages, I realized something had to change." Following his last release, side streets, which was hailed by the Boulder Weekly as "an impressive recording...(where) with warmth and intimacy, Williams challenges his listener ever so gently while offering familiar images and hard-won wisdom," When I Was Everything follows emotional suit, but backs up eleven new songs with a musical and lyrical edge not heard in previous recordings. From a bold Tom Waits cover; to a song about the pain of losing a child in a meaningless war; to the Judas tainted relationship song that speaks to boundaries, Williams sings with a refreshing strong conviction, "Trouble is what trouble does/When the stakes are high and that simple kiss comes to shove/I can see why you would sell me out when you could/Your soul was getting lost and the money was getting good/But I did not draw that line for you to cross over." This consistent passion continues to propel Williams forward and make other musicians take notice. During the last several years, Williams has opened for and oftentimes accompanied on diembe and vocals, such renowned performers as David Wilcox, the waifs, Peter Himmelman, Patty Larkin, the subdudes, and Arlo Guthrie. In addition to performing in a wide array of venues, ranging from Boston's Sanders Theatre to Nashville's Bluebird Caf to San Francisco's Great American Music Hall, Williams has also brought his music to the main stage at many of the nation's finest folk festivals, including New York's Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Colorado's Rocky Mountain Folks Fest,

Texas' Kerrville Folk Festival, and Oklahoma's Woody Guthrie Festival. In moving to Nashville, Williams gives up a respectable Boston career, including his penchant for repeatedly selling out three-show nights at Cambridge's famed Club Passim and garnering three Boston Music Award nominations. Nonetheless, Williams remains confident in yielding his trust to the twists and turns his life's journey brings. The morning he crossed the Massachusetts state line to return his rented car and fly back to his new home in Tennessee, he received a phone call from the local authorities. Grace had indeed been found.

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