

## Mp3 2. Steve Deal Band - Edge Of The Ocean



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Worship music done well in the vein of coldplay, snow patrol, U2, goo goo dolls. 11 MP3 Songs GOSPEL: Contemporary Gospel, ROCK: Modern Rock Details: Album Review by Todd Wright at worshipnotes.org Thursday, November 09, 2006 Edge of the Ocean, the sophomore release from the Steve Deal Band does exactly what a second record should do. In keeping with the atmospheric, free-flowing feel of Deals earlier work and adding the passion and precision of a live band, Deal and crew offer a unique progression from their previous work. Whereas the first record was made up of a majority of programmed pieces with some live band sections, Edge of the Ocean is an all-out band record. Lets break it open and see whats up What Works Steve Deals songwriting is just as consistent as ever. Its as if he intuitively knows what texts and melodies are going to work - whats going to "stick" in the minds of the listener/singer. I think these songs work best in more charismatic worship settings as they are fueled more by passion and spontaneity than more linear-framed thinking. Deal writes prayers simple and repetitive, but set in melodies that any writer would be lucky to dream up. Hugh Wilsons able production (and vocals) are still present, which makes for a fantastic combination of ambient musical touches and Deals collection of rocking musicians. Some of the strongest songs include "The Coming King," a climbing anthem with a great droning acoustic underpinning that builds the tone to a impressive ending. I also love U2-tinged "You are Here" and the echoing "Yahweh." I like that the band isnt afraid of tying these songs to each other. While many records would recoil at the thought of two tracks in the same key, the Steve Deal Band approaches this project as a worship experience and not just something to be thrown in an iPod. I also think that this record gives us a better glance of the bands skill in blues and at some places, even in jazz. The record also serves as great example of quality tone. The guitars on the record are crystal clear with just enough bite to be overdriven without distorted. I also think a lot of church

keyboardist would benefit from checking out the simple tones and synth layers here. What Doesnt I think there a couple of songs that dont work. The opening track, "Letting Go," is a good song, but its place as the records opener doesnt give any indication of the tracks to come. Its a bit mellow for an opening track and may suffer because of poor placement. I also like the blues/jazz feel of "Peace Like A River," but I dont know if it melds with the strong base of tracks that make this record stand out. As someone who uses Steves songs in my worship team, I understand that a few tracks might be a bit daunting to musicians and singers. I would encourage leaders and players to really make sure to pick songs they know they can nail. Steves text are closely linked to the tones and rhythms that accompany them and can often hinder the worship experience if not played with accuracy. I think the Steve Deal Band is a seriously underrated worship band. To be honest, the music is hard to classify its ethereal and rocking and almost spontaneous in its delivery and thats hard to explain to somebody in a two-line album description. But in a world of cookie-cutter, clich worship acts, isnt that what so many of us are looking for? I strongly encourage you to pick up this great collection of tunes. For more info on The Edge of Ocean, check out [stevedealband](#) or [c3worship.com](#). posted by Worshipnotes @ The Steve Deal Band has struck again with another great record. After the success of cure for gravity, SDBs new release, edge of the ocean is a cracker! The opening track is Letting go, a coldplay sounding rock anthem that just works. Starting with a psalm like inward looking lyric, it ends up like many of Davids psalms as a majestic God focused track that works well in a congregational setting. Yahweh and You are here are both high energy worship songs while Beautiful savior and Jesus you reign are both snow patrol sounding, mid tempo worship songs that allow you to breathe and focus on God. Peace like a river is a slow melancholic song where guitarists Steve Deal and Kevin Hellhake get to show off their guitar playing skills and even though its a slow song, the groove from drummer Ken Myers and bass player Glenn Ewing is extremely tight. The musicianship is great and the Hugh wilson production is evident throughout the record especially in the backing vocal department where Hugh has toured North America doing backing vocals for Lenny Kravitz. Burn is a song reminiscent of Fall on me from their first album, featuring tight musicianship and an unforgettable melody, and again, even in all of their fast songs, the lyrics remain all focused on being closer to God. Many of the songs have references to nature and are majestic in their imagery, especially letting go and a million suns, something you saw a lot on hymns centuries ago but dont see to much in modern, short praise songs. As Deal says, many old hymns are rich in imagery and theology, its pretty

tough in this modern age of 3:30 minute radio songs to tell the greatest story ever told but we try and keep intelligent theology and scriptural based themes throughout the songs. All in all, the Steve Deal Band gives you 11 songs on edge that will all work well in a church setting or a home group setting. The songs are very accessible and your church will love learning these songs. Check it out, listen to the samples, buy a few tracks on itunes and give the Steve Deal Band a spin.

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