

biography

Case, Ball & Shears

Finding a way to describe Case, Ball & Shears is not easy. Take three independent singer/songwriters, three great voices and three totally different musical styles, put them together on the same stage on a chilly winter evening and what is the result? Something unique!

Through a series of almost 'chance' meetings the paths of Clive Case, Stuart Ball and James Shears eventually culminated in an 'impromptu' musical collaboration at a concert in June 1993. On that night all three were due to perform as solo artists, but agreed to assist each other by providing backing both musically and vocally to each other's individual performances. Before the first song had finished they discovered something very special, something that would change the direction of their individual music careers for good! Three voices, three guitars - Case, Ball & Shears was born!

C, B & S are probably one of the most exciting groups to have emerged out of the South African Christian music scene for a long time. Their refreshing sound will send you drifting back to the sounds of the late 1960's and early 1970's, yet they also maintain a very contemporary style and feel with their compositions. Their long-awaited debut album *Turn The Tide* reflects their various styles and influences as songwriters and musicians.

The title of the album is a line borrowed from the poignant and still relevant *Pray For Me* - a song Clive Case penned in the wake of Chris Hani's assassination. Clive is a teacher by profession and is currently the principal of one of SA's leading Christian schools. He is married to Sandra and they have two children Jessica and Matthew. Clive's other songs on the album - *Lamp Unto My Feet* and *Special Reason* reflect his ability to write songs with simple yet beautiful melodies, whose lyrics convey the love of God in a touching and unforgettable way.

Stuart Ball on the other hand is the true poet of the group. His songs *Stained Glass Butterflies* and *The River* both contain great lyrical depth and paint melodic pictures inspired by the beauty of God's creation. Stuart's exceptional acoustic guitar technique is an integral part of his approach to songwriting and provides the foundation upon which his compositions are built. Stuart is married to Janine and they have two children, Casey and Gregory.

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James Shears brings us down-to-earth with the more "offbeat" feel of his songs, which include the hit *That Kind Of Love* and the humorous *Christian Cowboy*. James is the 'rhythmic' member of CB & S and plays acoustic guitar, bass guitar and percussion. He is also a graduate of one of England's top Sound Engineering/Recording colleges and looks after the technical side of the group. James is married to Lana. The album also includes two cover songs - Michael Card's *Gentle Healer* and Craig Smith's *Sculptor Of The Heart*.

C, B & S have over the past three years, performed as far afield as Stellenbosch and Pietermaritzburg, but mostly in and around Gauteng. Although they have performed in numerous churches, including Rhema Bible Church and the Village Church - they have also performed in other top venues including The Mixer Theatre, Melville and in some of the Keg Restaurants in Gauteng. Their music videos have been broadcast on SABC TV and CTV and the group has also been interviewed on various radio stations. C, B & S have opened for top international artist Pam Thum on the last two of her visits to South Africa, as well as for Scott Wesley Brown on his recent tour.

A time spent with Case, Ball & Shears is a relaxing, uplifting and humour-filled experience. Their consistent banter with one another is a testimony to three lives that have been welded together by the joys and pains of becoming a music group of note. Hopefully, their songs of encouragement and upliftment will cause all their new listeners to commit themselves to become people who will *turn the tide* in this new South Africa.