

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon.

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THE TIMES

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Sept. 11 inspires son to reissue mom's music

BY JIM MASTERS
Times Correspondent

Dennis Day remembered holding a woman he had helped escape the destruction in downtown Manhattan the morning of Sept. 11, only to see the second World Trade Center tower collapse. The woman said her son was probably inside.

"Everyone was thinking there was a war on," he said. There were rumors about Chicago's Sears Tower and Antioch being under attack."

Day, a New York City resident, thought of his own mortality and all the things he hadn't accomplished in his life. He said his thoughts then turned to his mother, Irene Day-Comer, back in East Chicago.

When the dust settled and Day had a chance to put the terror attacks into perspective, he decided to digitally remaster "He's Everywhere," the album of traditional gospel songs his mother recorded in 1982.

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NATALIE BATTAGLIA / THE TIMES

WHERE TO GET IT

"He's Everywhere," a 10-track spiritual CD recorded by East Chicago resident Irene Day-Comer, is for sale at Cornerstone Christian Books and Coffee Bar, 3801 Main St., East Chicago.

Irene Day-Comer recorded an album of spiritual music 20 years ago, which her son Dennis Day is re-releasing. Day said the CD not only will preserve his mother's talent, but it also will be an instrument of healing.

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The original had decayed over the years, but through the help of restoration experts, Day was able to remaster the tapes.

Day said the 10-song CD not only will preserve the talent and legacy of his 79-year-old mother, but also will provide inspiration and spiritual healing.

Day-Comer began singing at Antioch Baptist Church in East Chicago at age 9. Her voice has been heard on gospel stations across the na-

tion over the years, and the 700 Club and CNN have aired features about her.

Day-Comer has given untold numbers of performances over the past seven decades, including many weddings and funerals around the area. In 1957, Day-Comer performed as guest soloist with the legendary Mahalia Jackson in a concert at East Chicago Washington High School.

She has received her fair share of accolades, but this latest tribute by her son has sent her spirits soaring.

"I'm very proud of my son and the ideas he has concerning my music," she said.

Day recently finished his own African- and Moroccan-influenced jazz CD.

Day-Comer said the song "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" on her album has special meaning. Sitting in her apartment in the Nicosia Senior Citizens Building, she recites the opening words, "I don't know about tomorrow. I just know about today."

"I want people to feel what I feel when I'm singing," she said.

Day-Comer, who is twice widowed, hasn't fully recovered from a car accident five years ago and only performs on special occasions now.

Day said the re-release of the music was not inspired by money, but a labor of love. He has plans to donate a portion of the proceeds to the United Negro College Fund.

"She's never asked for a dime," he said. "She's done this out of a love for singing."

The CD is expected to be available through Amazon.com and CDNow.com soon.