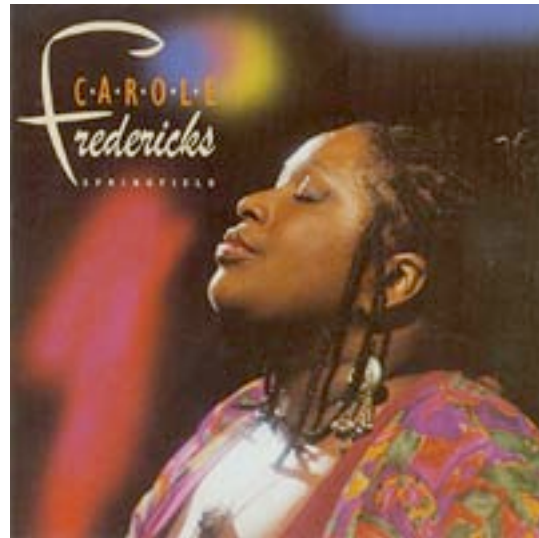


CAROLE FREDERICKS Springfield
CDF Music Legacy. 14 tracks. 53.30 mins.

Carole Fredericks is from Massachusetts but emigrated to France in 1979 and lived there for 22 years until her untimely death in 2001 at the age of just 49. She was a fine singer and this CD is a reissue of her 1996 debut solo album of blues and gospel songs.

There are 12 original songs and 2 covers and she duets with older brother Taj Mahal on the excellent blues "You Had It Comin" which features acoustic guitar and harmonica. Opening track "Save My Soul" is a big production gospel number with churchy organ and full choir. Carole has a glorious voice and sings from the heart and her family have vowed to preserve her musical legacy by continuing to introduce worldwide audiences to her recordings. "Jesus In Me" has a funky soul feel and finds Carole giving a more restrained vocal performance. The blues-rocker "Run Away Love" boogies along in fine style and features chunky guitar chords and a full horn section. "Reason To Stay" is a blues/ soul number which gets a big vocal performance whilst "Tender Love" is more of a delta blues featuring acoustic and slide guitars. The classic "Oh Happy Day" is sung a capella with backing vocals from the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble. The influences of Aretha Franklin and Mahalia Jackson can be heard throughout this fine album from the big lady with the big voice and lots of passion. A must buy for blues and gospel lovers!



Dave Drury
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<http://www.bluesmatters.com>