

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Elisabeth von Trapp
Love Never Ends / Sacred Sounds

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Elisabeth von Trapp probably tires of questions about her relationship to the von Trapp family of *Sound of Music* fame. Nevertheless, since that is one of my favorite childhood movies, I must mention that she's a granddaughter of the legendary Baron and Maria von Trapp whose story inspired the film.

That said, the Vermont singer-songwriter's latest recording, *Love Never Ends: Sacred Sounds* (available through Church Publishing), absolutely stands on its own merit.

The 16 selections, which average four minutes apiece, are correctly billed as a "smorgasbord of imaginative interpretations." Songs with Celtic and Gregorian influences blend well with new renditions of hymn standards, sacred folk songs, spirituals, even reggae.

Ms. von Trapp's voice lights up the 18th-century "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" as well as it does the Negro spiritual "Deep River."

She also enlists the skills of well-known jazz, bluegrass and R&B musicians, whose contributions are evident throughout. By far the best collaboration is with Sandra Wright and Celia Asbell singing harmony on the late-'60s reggae song "Rivers of Babylon."

At nearly an hour long, *Love Never Ends* still ends much too soon.