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December 23, 2010

CD review: Twelve-Twenty Four's 'Miracle on Rock St.' beautifully produced

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Posted by **Jodi Duckett** at 07:13:29 PM on December 23, 2010

Dave Howell Special to The Morning Call

Twelve-Twenty Four "Miracle on Rock St."

At this time of year most of us hear what might be called "big" Christmas music. Traditional carols are played in a dramatic, semi-classical style, featuring electric rock paired with strings.

Twelve-Twenty Four formed in 2002 in northeastern Pennsylvania as the only cover band of the Trans Siberian Orchestra. "Miracle" has a similar sound to TSO, but it gives 12-24 its own identity, with original songs and its own arrangements of carols.



Drummer Richie Kossuth, Jason Santos on keyboards and vocals, and guitarist Lenny Kucinski anchor the band, accompanied by bass, sax, flute, a five piece string section, another keyboardist, another guitarist, and six other vocalists.

The instrumentals combine rock and a quasi-classical sound. A strong drum beat works through the 10 tracks, supporting a number of amped-up guitar solos, sometimes with dual leads. The strings and keyboards emulate an orchestra, giving each tune the feel of a pumped-up prelude to an opera or Broadway Christmas show.

The vocals are also strong and full bore, whether on traditional numbers like "Carol of the Drum" (a.k.a. "The Little Drummer Boy"), or new works like "The Season is Never Over." Even the lighthearted "Funky Little Xmas" is given hearty soulful vocals with a theatrical flair.

This is a beautifully produced and arranged CD. It does not just hammer out the same old Christmas music. Favorites are reworked, with familiar tunes weaving in and out of new music. "Miracle" is a fine debut CD.

Twelve-Twenty Four, 7 p.m. December 28, Zoellner Arts Center, 420 E. Packer Ave., Bethlehem. Tickets: \$22. 610-758-2787, <https://ztickets.lehigh.edu/> Online, www.twelvetwentyfour.net.

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ABOUT THIS BLOG

From Musikfest to Riverfusion ... Croc Rock to Godfrey Daniels ... Mayfair to the Allentown Fair — welcome to the Lehigh Valley Music Blog! Check in regularly for tips on worthwhile nocturnal activities and one-of-a-kind concert and record reviews from our resident pop music aficionados.

ABOUT THE WRITERS



GARY BLOCKUS He bought his first album at age 14: Bread's "Baby I'm A Want You." The next day, he bought Black Sabbath's "Paranoid" and Deep Purple's "Machine Head." He's covered everything in the metal/hard rock genre, from Motley Crue to Papa Roach to Ted Nugent and Aerosmith to the softer side like Bon Jovi.



JODI DUCKETT As The Morning Call's assistant features editor responsible for entertainment, she spends a lot of time surveying the music landscape and sizing up the Valley's festivals and club scene. She's no expert, but enjoys it all — especially artists who resonated in her younger years, such as Crosby, Stills, Nash, Young, Tracy Chapman, Santana and Joni Mitchell.



KEITH GROLLER Our local sports editor strays from his post on Groller's Corner for another of his passions. He's attracted to the sights (Shania, Faith, Carrie, Martina) and sounds (Paisley, Strait, Adkins, Keith) of today's country music scene and likes to add a little twang to the conversation.



ARLENE MARTINEZ Her music was influenced by her mom, who hasn't turned the radio off since Arlene came home from the hospital. She's a top-40 kinda girl with a special place in her heart for hip-hop, R&B, rancheros and musical soundtracks. Favorites include the Bee Gees, Jill Scott, Neil Diamond,

