



'Raydience,' Raydience (Megawave Records, 3 stars)

This Jan. 25 CD wraps up this week's column, and it's not really my cup of tea because it features much of the noodling inherent in the jazz-fusion genre of my youth. Raydience is a band fronted by guitarist Ronnie Ray Padilla, who also sings lead vocals on the non-instrumental tracks. Keyboardist Eric Levy, drummer Billy Johnson, bassist Kai Eckhart, percussionist Kenneth Nash and a soulful horn section are also featured.

The music is expertly played, and there are moments of catchiness; but as stated before, this isn't my bag. The instrumental tracks are preferable to the others for this listener; and lovers of the smoother side of the fusion coin will enjoy this recording.

- Ricky Flake