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PHOTOS



PHOTO GALLERY

Blue Factory "Limekiln"



PHOTO GALLERY

Professor Louie & The Crowmatix, "Whispering Pines"

Professor Louie & The Crowmatix, Blue Factory

By TOM KEYSER, Staff writer
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Get comfortable on your back porch, watch the deer wander by and enjoy the newest release by Professor Louie & The Crowmatix. The 10 songs on "Whispering Pines," the group's ninth album on Woodstock Records, are suited for a warm, relaxing day. Give the cares and stresses of life a rest.



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Based in Woodstock, the band weaves together rock, country, blues and New Orleans influences. The album presents studio and live recordings, and the group recorded two songs with a full orchestra.

It offers originals and covers, including "Whispering Pines" and "The Weight," classics by The Band. Professor Louie & The Crowmatix, of course, backed solo projects for Band members Rick Danko and Garth Hudson.

The album concludes with a beautiful song, an original titled "Melody Of Peace," performed with the Prague Radio Symphony and Kuhn Choir and recorded in the Czech Republic. Peace be yours on this glorious day.

Check out the group at its website:
<http://www.professorlouie.com/>

Middle-age guys who rock

Now, put on your rocking shoes. Blue Factory bills itself as four middle-age guys with jobs and families who like to rock.

They surely do on "Limekiln," their debut album on Hohob Records. Blue Factory is Jim Crawley (guitar, vocals), Jim Temple (guitar, vocals), Mike Hayes (bass, vocals) and Joe Crawley (drums). The Crawleys are brothers. Three members live in Poestenkill, one in Averill Park.

Blue Factory has been together for 22½ years, but the members have played with other bands in

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the Capital Region -- Private Plain, Crawdad, The Brink.

The songs on "Limekiln" -- all originals -- are a pleasing mixture of rock, dance, pop and, yes, easy-listening music, even though the band touts its live performances this way: "For the middle-aged guys in Blue Factory, there is nothing like getting together, writing music and sharing it with others -- as loudly as possible."

Check the band website for get-togethers: <http://www.bluefactoryband.com/>

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