

**By DAVID MALACHOWSKI**  
**Reviewer**

ARTIST: Professor Louie and the Crowmatix

ALBUM: "Wings On Fire" (Woodstock Records)

The long-running Woodstock-based band Professor Louie and the Crowmatix have certainly been prolific in their 12-year existence, this is their ninth release. The band – drum legend Gary Burke, guitarist Josh Colow, bassist Frank Campbell, singer Miss Marie and leader keyboardist Professor Louie aka Aaron Hurwitz - is steeped in Woodstock tradition, many members have worked with Levon Helm, Rick Danko, Garth Hudson, Artie Traum and Graham Parker.



This is an exceptional collection showing the band at their roots-rocking best.

Things kick off in fine style as a rickety upright honky-tonk piano announces the rollicking "Down At the County." The old time rock 'n' roll here falls right in. "Uncommon Love" doesn't stray far from that template; this time the organ takes the forefront, and a thick, throaty solo from ace guitarist Colow hits home.

A sinister guitar swirls around "Open Hand, Open Heart" while computer blues is perfectly articulated in "High Tech Wreck," written by Hurwitz and the Fugs' Ed Sanders, detailing everyone's frustration in keeping up with the latest technology, just when you got used to the last one.

The gorgeous voice of Miss Marie takes over the lead vocals on the self-penned "Top of The World" as she sings, "it's a long hard road to the top of the world, but only a short fall back down." She shares "Center of Your Circle" with Professor Louie, and an accordion-driven take on George Jones' "Color Of The Blues" is big fun. "A Book Faded Brown" is an amazingly highlight, as yearning and hopeful voices soar over spare instrumentation (piano, nylon string guitar) with spectacular results.

The title track "Wings on Fire" is a wild ride that shows what the do best: play. The short excursion seems just the tease of a long jam that followed, and just begs for more just like that.

World-class musicianship, top shelf songs, the Crowmatix have it all.

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2012/05/24/entertainment/doc4fbec6a084996111865790.txt>