

PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS

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Music gifts of all shapes sizes abound

By Paul Freeman / Entertainment Writer

If you have music lovers on your shopping list, you're in luck. Santa's elves have pumped out an abundance of aural goodies. Several worthwhile new holiday-themed CDs jostle for attention this year.

"SCHMELVIS: SEARCHING FOR THE KING'S JEWISH ROOTS" - DVD

This wry documentary, in addition to delving into Elvis' possible Jewish heritage, introduces a Jewish Elvis impersonator from Canada. The off-the-wall and documentary-within-a-documentary qualities give the film a unique charm. Might make a fun Hanukkah present.

DJANGO REINHARDT - "KING OF JAZZ GUITAR" - DVD

Very little footage of this amazing swing guitarist exists. Filled with Django's music, this documentary imaginatively uses such visuals and photos, record labels and recreations.

AL DIMEOLA - "SPEAK A VOLCANO: RETURN TO ELECTRIC GUITAR" - DVD

In addition to elegant originals, the disc contains pleasing performances of five Astor Piazzola tango tunes. Bonus tracks include an interview and Al Dimeola's guitar tips.