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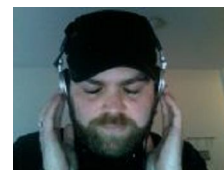
The Crossroads

Stay at home dad, husband, blogging fool, football fanatic and prolific air drummer are a just a few ways I define myself. I have a soundtrack to my life constantly playing in my head and here at 'The Crossroads' you'll find that it's quite an eclectic mix. When I'm not talking music here at dad-blogs, you can find me over on my corner of the web at Real Men Drive Minivans. Thanks for stopping by, and send me your music questions today.

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Music for Dads Group



These are not your Mama's Chanukah songs: a review and giveaway

WRITTEN BY PJ MULLEN | 03 NOVEMBER 2009
POSTED IN THE CROSSROADS

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Today at The Crossroads I'm turning to keys over to my good friend Steely Dad who was kind enough to handle a new music review opportunity for me. Without further adieu, the Donald Fagen to my Walter Becker, or something like that, Steely Dad:

My buddy PJ over at the blog Real Men Drive Minivans asked if I'd like to review a new Chanukah CD. Although a serious jazz buff and reviewer who knows much about his art form, PJ felt, as a righteous gentile, that he was notqualified to do this genre of music justice. Enter me.

I love music but Chanukah music? I was asking myself, "Seriously, is PJ really going to put me through this torture?" Let's face it, Chanukah music just doesn't imbue one with the spirit of the holidays as well as its Christian cousin, Christmas music. So, to be honest, my first reaction was "What are you, meshugenah, PJ?" But I love PJ; he's my blogging bro and if a brother asks a favor, you deliver.

PJ mailed the CD, *Chanukah Fever*, a 13-track disk (the first is not a song but an intro) created by the artist Mama Doni. My son, who is four, was really stoked to check it out. I, on the other hand, thought, "How many versions of 'The Dreidel Song' can one artist sing?" Thirteen, I guessed. Oy vey! What did I get myself into?

We tried it out in the car and instantly I realized this was a very different kind of Chanukah music. The first musical track, "Chanukah Fever" wastes little time getting you into the Chanukah mood with a solid disco-inspired beat that got my foot tapping from the first funkified guitar chords.

If Jamiroquai started doing Chanukah songs, they would sound a lot like "Chanukah Fever." This song, like most on the CD, is upbeat and fun. In fact, it is my son's favorite song on the CD. Incredibly, after more than 1,000 listens, it hasn't driven me insane.

Mama Doni takes the traditional concepts of Chanukah and spins them into catchy and funny songs. Take "Latke Man," for example. If this song about a potato-lovin' dude doesn't inspire you to grate 100 spuds, fry 'em up in a pan full of oil and smother them in sour cream, I don't know what will.

Remember Tone Loc? Well, Mama Doni does and she honors his simple genius with the song, "The Funky Gold Menorah," a salute to Judaica adornments. Listening to Mama Doni while lighting your nine-branch candelabra will never be the same again, and I mean that in a good way.

Mama Doni adroitly maneuvers through many different musical styles including reggae, swing, country, island and Ricky Martin ("La Vida Dreidel"). She really brings a fresh new approach to a medium that has long needed a makeover.

In all, *Chanukah Fever* is a rich tapestry of traditional Chanukah thematic songs dressed in modern beats and melodies that will soon become a holiday favorite during your Chanukah celebrations. Perhaps you may even begin to hear *Chanukah Fever* interspersed with the Christmas Muzak at a mall near you.

Chanukah Fever Giveaway

Interested in mixing it up for your family this Chanukah season? How would you like to win your own copy of the CD? Mama Doni and Dad Blogs is offering on Dad Blogs reader the opportunity to do just that before it is released on November 24, 2009.

Ways to Enter:

Visit and comment: Visit Mama Doni's website, then leave us a comment here letting us know. (1 entry)

Additional Entries:

Facebook: Become a fan of The Mama Doni Band on Facebook and leave us a comment. (1 entry)

Twitter: Tweet about this contest and leave a comment here that you did with your twitter status link for that tweet. You can tweet this by using the tweetmeme button at the bottom of this post and can tweet up to five times, but each tweet must be posted on different days. (1 entry)

Subscribe: If you haven't already (and really, why haven't you?), subscribe to either the Dad Blogs RSS feed, the SteelyDad RSS feed or the Real

The Request Lines Are Now Open!

The Crossroads | pjmulen

That's right, I've decided to live the dream! Thanks to all this newfangled technology I've become an online DJ and I'd like you all to join in the fun with me. I'm starting The Crossroads Blipshow over on Blip.fm. I...

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Recently I saw an article in The Guardian about Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters, N

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