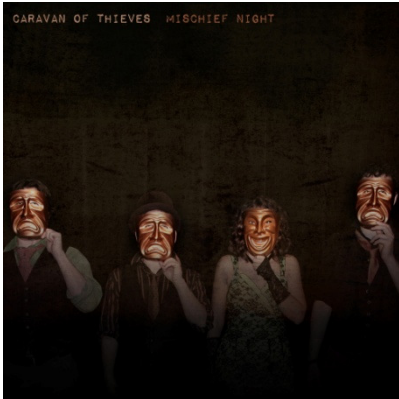


D.C.-area nightlife, events and dining

Album review: Caravan of Thieves's 'Mischief Night'

Friday, November 19, 2010



If a sense of fun weren't apparent from the playful title of Caravan of Thieves' new live album - "[Mischief Night](#)" - it would certainly be obvious from the disc's packaging, where members are credited with the various sounds they contribute ("that clank-boom-baah!", "some stomp-smack-boosh!" and "the thumpy-bumpy-hey!").

Those phrases actually come pretty close to capturing the liveliness in the recording of this concert (from May): The group's gypsy folk-jazz sound oozes with energy from its opening piece, "[Shim Sham](#)." The band blazes through a number of originals and covers, including a bouncy take on Queen's "[Bohemian Rhapsody](#)" and a speedy, growling version of "[You Are My Sunshine](#)."

Live recordings are imperfect by nature; the chaotic clapping on the disc's closing number, "[Freaks](#)," turns into a percussive call-and-response that has a "you-had-to-be-there" vibe to it. Some of the vocal harmonies are off as well, but that hardly matters: Caravan of Thieves has excellently captured the vivacity and playfulness of its music and performance on "Mischief Night."

- Catherine P. Lewis

Link:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/17/AR2010111707042.html>