

'Men-ingful' mix sings

True Men create new album, release Christmas collection of old favorites, fresh tunes

Sara DeGonia
Assistant Features Editor

It's nice to know that a handful of men are eager to spread a little holiday cheer to the overworked and underappreciated students of Truman.

True Men's latest CD, "The True Men-ing of Christmas," includes seven tracks of pure sugar plums and new-fallen snow.

The album features several of the same songs (rerecorded) as last year's Christmas collection, but each feels fairly refreshing.

There's also no mistaking the appearance of fresh True Men voices among the group.

The overall sound differs significantly – it seems to be missing one or two stand-out talents, yet the album isn't necessarily meant to be a chance for the guys to strut their individual stuff.

And their collective sound is undoubtedly strong.

Their version of "Silver Bells," a new track for the group, certainly is not breathy or weak.

The solo part, sung by sophomore Pat Blomme, is very rich, and the background vocals provide a cozy support to the tune.

"True Men-ing" opens with an oldie but a goodie: "O Holy Night."

It's certainly a twist on the classical style, using somewhat of a peppier tempo.

"Let It Snow," the fifth song on the album, also is a repeat track, but a quick listen of last year's CD proves the two recordings are notably distinct from each other.

The 2005 soloist, junior Caleb Pautz, isn't quite so syrupy – he uses fewer unnecessary vocal slides, a style preferred by some and hated by others.

The third and fourth tracks, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "Carol of the Bells" both are new to the group.

And combined, their originality makes the songs the absolute high point of the disc.

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" provides a touching reminder of the holiday's true meaning without flamboyance or excess showiness.

"Carol of the Bells" is by far the most capable of producing goosebumps.



Lisa Margetis/Index

Junior Jared Nichols, freshman Chris Thurman, sophomore Aaron Ely, senior Nathan Gibson and sophomore Graeme Allen, of True Men, perform Tuesday night in front of Kirk Memorial Building.

It quite perfectly captures the intensity the song demands, and the vocal studs pull it off with flawless precision and sincere feeling. The deep tones reverberate with resounding

A capella skeptics will have no argument after hearing "Carol" – it's nothing short of breathtaking.

The album ends with a humorous number – "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with a smattering of other tunes thrown in, including "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel" and "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" – which makes for a magical medley of holiday fun.

It also seems an appropriate conclusion for the True Men, who, if nothing else, present themselves as a troop of fun-loving jokesters (although their natural talent cannot go unnoticed).

True Men will sell its Christmas CD following the Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Baldwin Auditorium.

And to support the time and talent the men's a capella group put into recording the seven-track album, I'd say it's worth the \$5.

Plus, here's some free advice: It'd make an amazing Christmas gift.

Bottom line: The harmonies and soothing sounds of True Men's Christmas collection offer ample opportunity to sing along with these seven sweet songs and generate a need to sing the praises of some of the University's most talented students.

"The True Men-ing of Christmas" gives a generous gift of entertainment and holiday spirit.

CD Review

'The True Men-ing of Christmas'
Artist: True Men
Cost: \$5
Campus Release:
Dec. 10
Length: 17 minutes



AROUND THE VILLE

Campus

True Men Benefit Concert
True Men will perform with a guest appearance by Minor Detail at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Baldwin Auditorium. Admission is free, but donations will benefit Habitat for Humanity. The concert will include a secular portion as well as a performance of several Christmas songs.

Local

Book Signing
Thomas Trimborn, Truman music professor, will sign his book "Encounters with Lincoln: Images and Text" from 4 to 7 p.m. tonight at the Vintage Book Shoppe on the northeast corner of the Square. The Truman State University Press published Trimborn's book, which includes 31 of the author's unique portraits.

Concerts

GEO Bandfest Fundraiser
HappyAss, The Dance Commanders and Subculture Tourists will perform at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Dukum Upp. Cost is a \$3 to \$5 donation, or \$2 for those younger than 21 years, and proceeds go toward the Graduate English Organization's spring conference. This event is sponsored by the Graduate English Organization.

Free Concert
Cadillac Ranch will perform 9 p.m. Saturday at NEMO Rocks. Admission is free. Only those 21 years and older allowed.

Community Chorus Concert
The Kirksville Community Chorus will perform a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the First Christian Church. For more information see www.kirksvillearts.com.

Ingenuity, tacky taste make for spicy holiday season



Amanda Knox & Christie Albrecht

We college kids have to fight for our holidays.

We're miles separated from the comforts of mom's gingerbread men and dad's annual holiday cursing after falling off the ladder while stringing lights. There's something about a 6-inch Wal-Mart tree in a dorm room that just can't compete with the magic of a lifetime of ornaments on a fresh-cut evergreen with mountains of presents beneath it.

But fear not – with a little innovation, an ugly sweater and a pair of scissors, you can have the holiday of your dreams right here in K-Vegas.

OK, we're all college kids. We're all poor. But that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the holidays with style.

We've compiled a list of our favorite ways to ring in the holidays, and so we present you the Great Guide to the College Kid's Christmas.

First order of business: decorations – the tackier the better. Purchase construction paper in mass quantities, and

you'll find it's surprisingly versatile. It can be morphed into a Christmas tree, a star, a menorah or even a fireplace with remarkably lifelike flames.

This is also a fantastic way to procrastinate. When that history paper is calling your name, stringing popcorn to trim your tree has never sounded so good. And if you get the munchies while stringing, no problem. Kill two

turtledoves with one stone. Another economic way to decorate for the holidays is to "borrow" festive decorations from other holiday bashes you attend. Decals, plastic candy canes and Santa figurines all are fair game. Perhaps your parents would be willing to "donate" some lights. They buy new ones every year anyway, right?

Once you've decked your halls, it's time to don your gay apparel. The hideous holiday sweater has made a comeback this year with appearances at date parties and even a bar crawl dedicated to this Yuletide staple. You

Festive
Holiday Drinks
to Warm Your Insides and
Rosy Your Cheeks

Spiced Eggnog

- 8 oz. eggnog
- 3/4 shot of brandy
- Stir vigorously

Peppermint Patty

- 6 oz. hot chocolate
- Heat up
- Add 1/2 shot of peppermint schnapps

Poinsettia

Equal parts:

- Champagne or sparkling white grape juice
- Cranberry juice

know what we're talking about. The red, green and white, horizontal-striped, cable-knit gems are even better if they have a Rudolph or Frosty applique. So go raid your grandma's closet. Extra points for puff paint or bells that actually jingle.

Now that you've decked and donned, you're probably ready for a festive holiday movie. And forget Movie Gallery. We highly recommend snuggling into your construction-papered living room with a flick rented from Club Pickler. You might be surprised at the selection, which ranges from National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation to Love Actually to the Nutcracker Ballet.

Missing something? Ah yes, you're lacking a beverage to warm your insides like a snowman in sunshine. Adding a candy cane to any regular drink can perk it right up – water, Sprite, beer, take your pick. Or you can opt for more holiday-specific libations like our favorites, the oh-so-delicious Peppermint Patty, Spiced Eggnog and Poinsettia.

Now that we've got you brimming with holiday cheer, we leave you with one final – but still imperative – recommendation.

Mistletoe. Everywhere.

Have a safe, happy and sufficiently dorky Christmas.

Super Crossword

EIRE COLORING

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| ACROSS | 1 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange" | 6 Fog | 11 Injurious | 14 Hoover or Aswan | 17 Mrs. Marcos | 19 "Dreaming of You" singer | 20 Actress MacGraw | 21 Significant years | 22 Jim Henson creation | 24 Unexpected success | 26 Chemical ending | 27 — gras | 28 When Satie sweltered | 30 Street talk | 31 Ballyhoo | 32 Salad veggie | 36 Zoo attraction | 37 — "Don't Preach" ('86 hit) | 40 Part of Q.E.D. | 41 Fancy fabric | 43 Clint Eastwood movie | 49 AAA handout | 52 Sault — Marie, MI | 53 To boot | 54 "— Angel" ('33 film) | 55 Lurid Lugosi | 56 Gumshoe | 57 Strained | 58 Hogan's home | 61 Asian capital | 62 Orny Olympian | 64 Gangster's gun | 65 "Rama — Ding Dong" ('61 tune) | 66 "Emma" author | 67 Self-possessed | 72 Huton or Tewes | 75 Patriot James | 76 Chum | 77 Length x width | 81 "Lou Grant" star | 82 PC key | 84 Constellation | 86 East ender? | 87 Catty remark? | 88 "Jumbo" set | 89 Beige | 90 Crane | 91 Candy quantity | 92 Hugh Masekela hit | 98 Speculation | 100 Soccer great | 101 Help a hood | 102 Lustrious sign | 103 Ornamental shrub | 105 Sleep in the woods | 108 Roused | 109 Charge | 110 Fountain order | 111 Medical grp. | 114 United | 116 John D. MacDonald book or this puzzle's theme | 122 Bother | 123 Presidential nickname | 124 Singer Percy | 125 Mouse or moose | 126 King's handle | 127 Crow's comment | 128 It may be eaten or drunk | 129 Utilize | 1 Ditka or Douglas | 2 So be it | 3 Richard of "Knight" | 4 Common street name | 5 Uplift | 6 Victory sign | 7 TV ET | 8 By means of | 9 Yoko — | 10 Blows one's stack | 11 Military center | 12 Dryden's "— for Love" | 13 Some engines | 14 Bureau | 15 Fight site | 16 Actress Helgenberger | 18 Perched on | 19 Haggard heroine | 23 Bind | 25 Czech river | 29 Houston or Filter | 31 Contains | 32 Auto acronym | 33 Pound sound | 34 June honoree | 35 Japanese statesman | 36 Nil | 37 It's tossed with sauce | 38 Behind helping | 39 Cake | 42 Chinese principle | 44 Make lace | 45 Pub vessel | 46 Ordinary | 47 "Whole — Love" ('69 song) | 48 New Hampshire's state flower | 50 — vera | 51 Ache | 55 Iraqi city | 58 Blackboard | 59 Unspoken | 60 Cause a chuckle | 61 Color | 63 It needs to be threaded | 66 Loud | 68 "— the ram- parts . . ." | 69 Maestro Georg | 70 In a stew | 71 Fire wood? | 72 It becomes ewe? | 73 Lost "Time" | 74 Nonconformist | 78 Change for the better | 79 Rub out | 80 Dread | 82 TV's "— John" | 83 Organic catalyst | 85 Carpet | 88 Football's Aikman | 92 Non-proprietary | 93 "All Things Considered" network | 94 Procure | 95 Under the weather | 96 Born | 97 Chat | 99 Walk in the woods | 102 Nobel, for one | 104 It makes eye high | 105 Pigeon English? | 106 — Romeo be threaded | 107 — cum laude | 108 Way over yonder | 109 Soared | 110 — Guevara | 111 Rope fiber | 112 It should be square | 113 Eyn's "— Time" | 115 Alias initials | 117 Mr. Ziegfeld | 118 Where goats gambol | 119 Pitches | 120 Cpl.'s superior | 121 Tear |
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For answers to the Dec. 8 Super Crossword puzzle, visit www.trumanindex.com.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

