

## Central-PA Christmas Compilation CD

### BAND INFO

November 2004

*Links to all band sites are at <http://susent.com> - click on the CD cover*

### **Martini Bros.** (“Santa Claus is Back in Town”)

Best roots-rock band in the area  
from Harrisburg  
[www.martinibros.com](http://www.martinibros.com)

The Martini Bros. have become somewhat of a south-central Pennsylvania legend, fueled by a ferocious live show featuring smokin’ originals and off-the-beaten-path covers. Some people consider them to be a rockabilly band, but it is more appropriate to call their style roots-rock. You get the idea from the titles of their original songs, such as “Beer Shot Beer,” “Hillbilly Polka” and “Get Your Wheels Shined Up.” Another of their tunes, “Nightmare Party on Wheels” is a collaboration between frontman Deuce Gibb and well-known national artist, Jeffrey Gaines. A few years ago the band was the subject of independent filmmaker Steve Wylam’s feature, “One Night Only.” Next up for the band is a live DVD which includes many extras sure to please the Martini faithful.

### **The Corral** (“Working Elf Blues”)

Hard divin’ country-rock band  
from Williamsport  
[www.corralband.com](http://www.corralband.com)

Out of the ashes of the critically acclaimed Neon Cactus, The Corral rides out with a brand new purpose in life. Says Corral dude Bill Engel, “We have a deep respect for our country roots, but we love to shake the tree!” The Corral is all about hard core, Haggard-driven country. The new CD, *Feel the Burn*, is laced with six original tunes and some pure classic country gold - from the sexy rockin’ title cut to a full blown bluegrass version of “Fox on the Run.”

## **Emily's ToyBox** ("O Holy Night")

Very popular, very fun and very original band  
from Carlisle  
[www.emilystoybox.com](http://www.emilystoybox.com)

Since beginning their full-time musical career in 1997, Emily's ToyBox has become an inspiration to bands everywhere on the independent music scene. The total dedication to their career choice, as well as their genuinely unique and powerful stage presence has helped them sell more CDs and merchandise during their career than any other independent band in the extended area. Playing all over the East Coast, they find themselves mostly in Pennsylvania and Florida. In many of these clubs, they are unquestionably the #1 drawing act. Their band and fan club web sites receive an astonishing 1,500,000 (1.5 Million) unique hits each month on average, providing further proof that Emily's ToyBox has become an enterprising business unto itself.

## **Flint** ("Angels We Have Heard on High")

Classic Americana trio  
from Harrisburg  
[www.flintzeigler.com](http://www.flintzeigler.com)

From the acoustic ballads on which they started, to the intense rock songs that they are now creating, Flint is truly vintage rock and roll. The group plays music in a 60's/70's classic rock style fused with a singer/songwriter's simplicity, bringing a fresh, new twist on a tried and true method. The band's tight dynamic sound is an energetic experience, driven by original songwriting. Flint, or the Flint Zeigler Band, featuring former members of Grantham Road, will be in the studio with producer Jeff Feltenberger in early 2005 to record their first full-length album.

## **Negative Space** ("I'll Be Home" - *Original*)

Popular modern rock band  
from Lancaster  
[www.negativespacerocks.com](http://www.negativespacerocks.com)

Since this lineup started working together in 2001, Negative Space has been touring nonstop, playing over 600 shows from Key West, Florida to Killington, Vermont, and all points in between. They have opened for 3 Doors Down, Eve 6, Fuel, Lit, Social Burn, Seether, and RA, and perform regularly at the legendary CBGB's. Their brand of rock is energetic music that moves you - hook laden vocals that are infectious with a performance that grabs you. Their debut CD, *From All Thoughts Everywhere*, sold over 3,000 copies and received airplay on numerous stations. Most recently they released

an EP entitled, *Nothing Ordinary*. It was produced by Kirk Kelsey, best known for his work with Creed.

### **The Jellybricks** (“Father Christmas”)

Pennsylvania’s premiere power-pop band

from Harrisburg

[www.thejellybricks.com](http://www.thejellybricks.com)

Though they didn’t set out to become a ‘power-pop’ band, the label has been thrust upon them by that community of music enthusiasts world-wide. The Jellybricks have no problem with this as their love of loud guitar pop is evident on all three of their full-length albums. The most recent release, *Power This*, showcases the band's ever-maturing songwriting skills and studio sensibilities, and has been declared by fans and reviewers alike as their best yet. The band's members are all seasoned veterans of the road, known for the raw, frenetic energy of their live performances.

### Sweet Pea Felty with Darcie Miner (“Blue Christmas”)

#### **Sweet Pea Felty**

Rootsy, bluesy rock-n-roll band

from Harrisburg

[www.sweetpeafelty.com](http://www.sweetpeafelty.com)

Sweet Pea Felty plays real rock-n-roll - straight ahead, rootsy & bluesy. Although “Blue Christmas” is more ‘Americana’, the band usually plays a more hard-driving style. Mr. Sweet Pea himself, aka Jeff Feltenberger, is a skilled musician and performer who has spent a great deal of time recording and touring nationwide. Much of his experience was gained as guitarist, vocalist, songwriter and co-producer with The Badlees, a band that at the height of their popularity scored two top 5 national rock radio tracks. Jeff’s association with The Badlees ended in March 2004. This has given him the freedom to pursue more productive and creatively satisfying projects including the Sweet Pea Felty band and producing projects such as this Christmas CD.

#### **Darcie Miner**

Very talented singer/songwriter

from Hershey

[www.darcieminerband.com](http://www.darcieminerband.com)

Growing up in a musical family, Darcie picked up on the records her parents played on the home stereo, including Fleetwood Mac, the Beatles and Bruce Springsteen, then started playing guitar at age 11. In no time, she was writing her own material and by age 16 she was drawing a lot of attention as a performer at The Badlees’ open mic nights in Hershey. Over the next several years she released a couple EPs, appeared on Star Search, signed a record deal, was an ‘artist to watch’ on WXPB, and toured the

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country with the likes of Edwin McCain, Patty Griffin, Heart, Richard Thompson, Jeffrey Gaines, Wyclef Jean and Beth Hart. Darcie is now back in the studio working on new material.

### **Poptart Monkeys** (“Mele Kalikimaka”)

Very popular and fun rock band  
from Berwick  
[www.poptartmonkeys.com](http://www.poptartmonkeys.com)

With the release of the band’s new video for “Valerie,” which will hit Fuse Television in the coming weeks, and their recent signing with Steve Corbin of Lupo Entertainment, the Poptart Monkeys seem to be on the right track. Their grueling show schedule has them playing over 200 shows per year all across the Eastern United States. The new album is set to drop in January and will be available nationally through all FYE, Tower Records and Coconuts stores, among others. They have sponsorships with many manufacturers, including Budweiser True Music Live, Ampeg Basses, Ernie Ball Guitar Strings and Vagenius Clothing. It appears that peoples’ curiosity over the band's early controversy involving a breakfast food giant has been replaced by the realization that the Poptart Monkeys deliver one of the best stage shows on the scene today.

### **Plus 3** (“The Chipmunk Song”)

Straight-ahead, popular, original rock band  
from Wilkes-Barre  
[www.plus3music.com](http://www.plus3music.com)

In December 2003, Plus 3 released their first full-length album, *Bad Math*. It has received praise from music critics throughout Pennsylvania, as well as positive feedback from out-of-state music industry resources. Songs from the album have found their way into regular rotation at three local radio stations. The media heralded the CD as "clearly, one of the best regionally released albums of the year," and for two years in a row they have been voted best original band in the Times Leader Weekender poll. Last year, they were chosen as a Top 50 Qualifier in “The American Music Awards® Presents The Coca-Cola New Music Award” competition. In the summer of 2004, the group played some notable shows including an opening gig for Fleetwood Mac and a slot at the 35th Annual Woodstock Reunion.

**JR Mangan** (“You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch”)

Very popular solo artist with the Penn State crowd  
from State College  
[www.jrmangan.com](http://www.jrmangan.com)

J.R. Mangan has been part of the State College music scene for over twenty years. He’s had a regular gig at one time or another at just about every club in town. Often he performs as a duo with a female singer - JR & Sharon, JR & Debra, JR & Katie, etc., and also has a full band for the larger venues. He’s recorded several albums with his various partners, some of which still sell briskly to the faithful Penn State alumni. He has had the pleasure of sharing the stage with Bob Dylan, Warren Zevon, Michael Penn, America, Grass Roots, The Spin Doctors, and many more. He continues to write music, perform, play golf, and write and produce radio jingles which can be heard on local radio stations, and is highly sought after for Penn State alumni parties nationwide.

**Bobby & John Tombasco** (“Next Christmas Day” - *original*)

Sound reminiscent of classic CSN  
from Hazleton  
[www.jayblackandtheamericans.com/jb2.htm](http://www.jayblackandtheamericans.com/jb2.htm)

The Tombasco brothers first started writing and playing together in 1970 and for the better part of the decade worked the Northeast circuit with various groups including the Brotherhood, a cover/original trio completed by brother Donny. In 1978, they hooked up with legendary 60’s singer, Jay Black, and have been part of “the Americans” ever since. Bobby sings and plays guitar & percussion while John is the drummer for the group. Over the years, Jay has featured many of their originals in the act, including “My Last Song,” “That Little Girl,” “Count on Me” and “Next Christmas Day.”

**Sherri Mullen** (“Please Come Home for Christmas”)

Popular and prolific singer/songwriter  
from Middletown  
[www.sherrimullen.com](http://www.sherrimullen.com)

Sherri Mullen is one of the Harrisburg-area’s finest singer/songwriters. With over 100 original songs in her catalogue - spanning rock, pop, folk, blues, Christian, & country

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genres, Sherri is the ultimate chameleon who is starting to gain the attention of the music publishing community. Her patriotic single, "Home of the Free," has made its way around the globe as a tribute to our service men & women, and is also featured in a local TV show. Several other songs are under consideration for future film and television projects. In addition to her busy schedule as a performer, Sherri hosts a weekly internet radio show and co-hosts a monthly cable TV show dedicated to exposing the talents of other musicians.

**Thom Palmer Band** ("Christmas Blues")

Great blues band  
from Bethlehem  
[www.thetpb.com](http://www.thetpb.com)

The Thom Palmer Band is grounded in the blues, but mixes it up with New Orleans jazz, Memphis soul, a bevy of funk and a few parts rock n' roll. They have had the pleasure of sharing the stage with such greats as Tommy Castro, Michael Burkes, Rhett Tyler and Roxy Perry, to name a few. They have opened the Cementon Blues Festival (Lehigh Valley) for several years and were also the winners of the regional 2003 International Blues Challenge, where they placed in the semi-final round in Memphis, TN. The TPB performances include tunes influenced by many old and new favorites, and fill them out with originals that are sure to get your body shakin'.

**Lykens Valley Bluegrass Boys** ("Christmas Time's A-Coming")

The premiere bluegrass band in central-Pennsylvania  
from Millersburg  
[www.lvbb.net](http://www.lvbb.net)

The Lykens Valley Bluegrass Boys have been performing throughout Central-PA & beyond for over 20 years. LVBB, the band's 5th album, was released in May of 2004. The CD, as well as their live show, consists of traditional, contemporary & gospel bluegrass. They mix in a variety of original tunes for a well-rounded, enjoyable 'Down From The Mountain' feel. The group hopes that their inclusion on this Christmas CD will help to open up a new audience for bluegrass music in this area.

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Visit [susent.com](http://susent.com) (click on the CD cover) for more information and links to all of the participating artists' web sites and email addresses.