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New album remembers Red Rocks

By Evan A. Denbaum
Entertainment Editor

I was 30,000 feet in the air, crammed into an uncomfortable coach-section seat of an airplane and bored out of my mind. I had a ton of time left in the flight and had already done the courtesy magazine's crossword puzzle and word search.

It was a nice break from the monotony when the captain addressed the passengers over the intercom. He described the route we'd take to our destination, citing the states we'd fly over, etc. When he mentioned Colorado, it reminded me of an album some relative randomly purchased for me as a Christmas present. The double CD, which I hadn't asked for, nor knew much about, was Dave Matthews Band's "Live at Red Rocks." I was pretty sure Red Rocks was in Colorado, and I imagined it would be neat to listen to "Live at Red Rocks" while flying over Red Rocks, Colorado.

Honestly, I don't know if I was actually over Colorado, much less Red Rocks, when I placed the CD in my portable player, but the idea was cool, anyway.

What I didn't expect was that I would have one of my most engrossing live concert experiences while trapped on a com-

CD REVIEW



Live At Red Rocks
Dave Matthews Band

■ **STYLE:** jazzy rock

■ **RATING:** ★★★★★

puter flight, two-and-a-half years removed from the actual performance.

What made the show so memorable was how hard the band members pushed themselves. These songs were not simply a live regurgitation of the studio cuts. They were totally new musical incarnations, which often were twice as long as their studio counterparts, and were rich with intensely long violin and saxophone solos and improvisational instrumentals. The pace was also often quicker, forcing the performers to adapt and

keep up. From the very first song, which is a whopping thirteen minutes long, listeners realize what a treat they're in for. Even more impressive is the fact that the first CD alone contains seventy-three minutes of music, and that is in only nine tracks.

The fans live at Red Rocks in '95 were in for an even bigger treat, as Dave Matthews plays to the audience and even incorporates the words Red Rocks into the lyrics to the eighth song, "Dancing."

The bottom line is too many bands these days do nothing new in concert. Maybe this CD can be a learning tool for all of them. And there should be further lessons to come, as the Dave Matthews Band plans for this to be the first in a series of releases featuring the band live in concert.

"Live at Red Rocks" is one of a number of quality live albums recently released. Others certainly worth a listen include Jane's Addiction's "Kettle Whistle," and "Death to the Pixies." The Pixies release is a double album, with the first CD serving as a "best-of" from the studio. The second CD consists entirely of live renditions of The Pixies classic tunes, including "Wave of Mutilation," "Velouria" and "Monkey Gone to Heaven."

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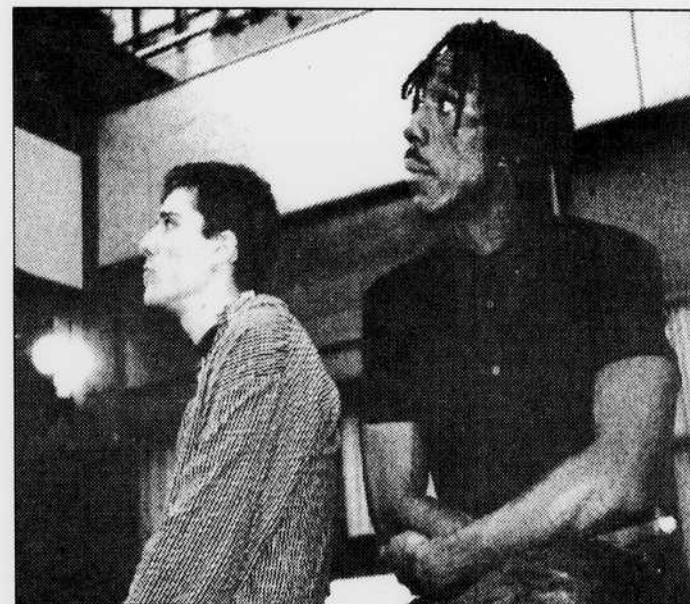
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COURTESY PHOTO

Dave Matthews (ABOVE) sits between a laptop computer and a video game system.

Violinist Boyd Tinsley (RIGHT) looks across the stage.



COURTESY PHOTO



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