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Taarka's 'Even Odd Bird' displays growth, energy

Though the album is good, their live performance will be better at WOW Hall and this weekend's Folk Festival

By Aaron Shakra
Pulse Editor

Notes pour from a bowed violin, plucked double bass, picked mandolin and slapped drums, unstitching all our definitions of what jazz should be. Before our ears even know what hit us, these notes are promptly sown together again in a patchwork of Indian rags, Irish jigs, bluegrass and a good dose of funk.

Taarka's musicians are poets, but the only spoken words come

CD REVIEW

from the rhythm and melody of their instruments. The quartet in question — David Tiller, Enion Pelta, Jarrod Kaplan and new bassist Jason Flores — is unquestionably talented, with "Even Odd Bird," the band's oft-delayed second release, serving as ample proof.

Because Taarka is an instrumental band, it should be said that any interpretation of the music translated into words is highly subjective, even more so than songs with lyrics. For this reason, there are no standout hits on "Even Odd Bird," merely the tunes you can dance to, trance to, write to, draw to and paint to. Here is an album that resembles a large iridescent mood ring.

"Dance for Impeachment" begins with violinist Pelta playing a melody

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TAARKA

Where: WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave. with Afro-beat group Albino! (Friday) and Willamette Valley Folk Festival, main stage (Sunday)

When: Doors open at 9 p.m., show begins at 9:30 (Friday); main stage, 3 p.m. (Sunday)

How much: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door (Friday); free (Sunday)



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