

An interest in Buddhism started early for dePrisco

Next performance for songwriter will be at City Island festival

Live isn't the only rock band giving a nod to Middle Eastern culture.

"MANDALA" was over a year in the works, and the 12-song effort was worth it to local singer-songwriter Jeremy dePrisco, 26.

His interest in Buddhism began in high school.

"Just as Christianity has many branches, so does Buddhism. My studies are primarily in the areas of Zen and Tibetan Buddhism, and I'm very influenced by the writings of the Dalai Lama," dePrisco said.

The release highlights a blend of original folk, rock and pop music with guest appearances by Full Tilt drummer Joe Schrum, Psycho Candy guitarist Jim Nowak, Lee-Damon Band guitarist Lou Damon, and Cosmetic bassist Matt Homiak.

While the material was recorded in Harrisburg and mixed in York, its quality is on a par with a national release.

DePrisco's background includes a decade of experiences ranging from writing music for theater, WVIA FM's Homegrown Music program, opening for 38 Special, and organizing grass-roots efforts of musicians.



BLUE BUDDHA RECORDS

Jeremy dePrisco became interested in Buddhism as a teen.

The computer programmer has performed throughout the Northeast in orchestras, rock bands, folk duos, and as a solo artist.

His next local stop is at 1 and 4 p.m. Sunday at the American Music Festival on a stage at City Island.

While dePrisco is serious about making music, his aim isn't fame.

"I never really wanted to be a starving artist. I really get the most enjoyment from the collaborative effort ... 'MANDALA' contains music that is appropriate for modern radio, and in fact was produced with that in mind, but it wasn't the most important goal of making the record. Commercial radio is driven by many factors that I quite honestly don't concern myself with," dePrisco said.

His single, "Just A Matter Of Time" was recently selected as the "Philly Pick of the Day" by WXPB FM radio station.

The CD is available at shows and from the following: online outlets including TheOrchard.com, Amazon.com and cdnow.com or by calling (800) 448-6369; CD Warehouse in Harrisburg and select Gallery of Sound outlets. For more information, readers may check out dePrisco's Web site at www.mindspeak.com.