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It's Raining New Album Releases

By Mike Breen

- If you ask Santa for the best CD by one of the best Americana bands in Greater Cincinnati, **Wild Carrot and The Roots Band**'s new live one, *Crowd Around the Mic*, will magically appear in your stocking (if not, Santa's existence and/or musical tastes are in serious doubt). The CD is due on the local Blue Jordan Records imprint in late January, but this Sunday at the Leo Coffeehouse (at the Zion United Church of Christ Founder's Hall in Norwood) Wild Carrot gives local fans an early chance to get the disc (the release event starts at 7 p.m.).

The 24-track collection is a whirlwind of Roots music forms, touching on Bluegrass, Country, swinging Jazz, Modern Folk and Celtic music — the original songs stand up remarkably well against the well-chosen covers — with a consistently masterful grace, while the expansion from duo to quartet proves to be a great excuse to show off some flawless four-part harmonies.