

# Children of the Damned

## Maiden chicks have got the licks

Some people make fun of Iron Maiden fans these days, but those people don't grasp the musical prowess of the band. Don't believe us? Pick up a guitar and try to play Maiden's "Phantom of the Opera," with its triple riffs, head-spinning timing changes, and twin lead harmony guitars (hand-picked on every note). Just looking at the guitar tablature for most of Iron Maiden's songs could cause migraines. But that's the way the acclaimed all-female tribute band **The Iron Maidens** likes it.

"Of all the music to cover, this is some of the hardest. That's why we're doing it," says singer Aja "Bruce Lee Chickinson" Kim. "It's the challenge of the music, because it's so incredibly difficult."

But the L.A. quintet pulls it off, with a repertoire that includes mutating Maiden masterpieces like "Aces High," "Killers," and the 13-and-a-half-minute song "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." And the band really got the stamp of approval when Maidens members Aja Kim and bassist Wendy "Steph Harris" Ortiz sat in with Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain.

"When I got done singing 'The Trooper,' he jumped up from behind the drums and gave me a big hug, and I felt like that was all the validation I needed," Kim says. "He said he liked looking at my butt more than [singer] Bruce [Dickinson]'s."

The Iron Maidens hit Alice Cooper's town, 101 East Jackson Street, on Friday, April 14. Crazy Train, Kraised, and Auralast are also on the bill. Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 to \$15. Call 602-253-7337.

— NIKI D'ANDREA