

## *Rocking Out With Maidens*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

Who doesn't like Iron Maiden? Well, people who aren't into heavy metal music probably don't. But even some of them like Maiden songs like Two Minutes to Midnight. A lot of bands over the years have tried to copy the musical style of Iron Maiden. There have been more than one or two cover bands playing Maiden music over time as well. But one thing that you haven't seen is a truly excellent Iron Maiden tribute band. That is, until now. Not only is this band living and playing in the spirit of Iron Maiden, they have a unique hook. They are the only totally female Iron Maiden tribute band in the world. The name of this extraordinary band? They call themselves The Iron Maidens.

The Iron Maidens have a self titled tribute album that they produced. The album was recorded at the Silver Cloud Studios in Burbank . This is supposed to be the first “full length tribute CD to a band ever recorded by one artist.” The album was released on DRZ Records.

The women who make up The Iron Maidens are Aja Kim, Sara Marsh, Josephine Draven, Linda McDonald and Wanda Ortiz. Aja does the lead vocals. Linda is on drums and Josephine and Sara play guitar. Wanda is the bass player for the band. Sara is also known as MiniMurray, while Josephine has a nickname of Adrienne Smith. Wanda is known as Step Harris and Linda is Nikki McBURRain. Aja also goes by Bruce Lee Chickinson.

The women in the band come from varied musical backgrounds. Aside from playing bass for this band, Wanda plays for an original band called Field of Vision. She also does some classical gigs. Sara is a member of Phantom Blue as well as The Iron Maidens. In fact, Linda and Josephine are also in Phantom Blue. Aside from their work with those two bands, Linda and Sara just formed a tribute band to Ozzy called The Little Dolls. Aja has her own rock / soul album out called Modern Babylon. In fact, it is through checking out Aja's music that I found out about The Iron Maidens.

The album cover is really cool. Done in the tradition of a typical Iron Maiden album cover, the artwork is from Derek Riggs, the creator of Iron Maiden's mascot, Eddie.

There are ten songs on the album, with the total play time just over an hour.

The songs are from several of Iron Maiden's albums, covering several years' worth of music.

The album starts out with a hard cranking version of The Number of the Beast. Aja puts all of her energy into giving the listening audience the essence of Iron Maiden's lead singer Bruce Davidson. The song has scorching guitar as well.

The second song on the album is one of my favorite Iron Maiden tunes. This one is Two Minutes to

Midnight. With the guitar laying in a solid backdrop, Aja kicks out the vocals with a vengeance.

Other songs on the album include Killers, Wasted Years, Aces High and The Trooper. Another excellent song, Children of the Damned, is on the album too. They added Phantom of the Opera near the end of the album. The band kicks it out with Run to the Hills.

The album ends with a 14 plus minute rendition of Hallowed Be Thy Name.

*The Iron Maidens is a fantastic tribute band. They play so close to the original band, that if you didn't know better, you'd swear that Iron Maiden was actually playing. Aja has the right inflections for the vocals, the guitars scream through and the bass and drums are in sync with the original music by members of Iron Maiden.*

To hear clips from the album, visit [www.theironmaidens.com](http://www.theironmaidens.com).

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