

pop music

Top 10 Vermont CDs of 2003

BEST CDs: Local sounds feature intriguing blends

Continued from Page 3

■ **Will Patton Ensemble: "Peripherique."** Two weeks after the Tala show, the Bakersfield mandolin maestro, 55, and his accomplished sextet celebrated the release of their own CD to a capacity crowd at FlynnSpace. "Peripherique" takes you away to smoky Parisian bistros and balmy tropical landscapes with steamy gypsy jazz and breezy Brazilian sambas, providing the perfect prescription for the winter woes.

Upcoming show: Jan. 18 at Montpelier Unitarian Church.

■ **Raq: "Carbohydrates."** Released earlier this month at Raq's raucous two-night stand at Nectar's, "Carbohydrates" is an impressive studio set — produced by Grammy-winning engineer Mark Johnson — that blends rock, jazz, funk and soul on such winning tunes as "The Down Low," the booty-shaking "Brother From Another Lover," the down-and-dirty "Sweet Cream Butter" and the soar-



35th Parallel

ing instrumental title track.

■ **Tala: "Dances and Rites."** Led by dynamic Plainfield

trumpeter Brian Boyes, 30, Tala kicked 2003 off in style with a multimedia release

concert at FlynnSpace a mere four days into the new year. "Dances" delivers mesmeriz-

ing jazz-funk grooves and graceful horn-driven melodies laced with everything from Indonesian gamelan and Afro-Cuban rhythms to drum 'n' bass and bebop.

Upcoming shows: Jan. 17, Starlight Lounge, Waitsfield; Feb. 26, The Waiting Room, Burlington.

■ **35th Parallel: "The Green Vine."** A self-described "MediterrAsian jazz" duo consisting of Middlesex tabla master Gabe Halberg and New Hampshire multi-instrumentalist Mac Ritchey 35th Parallel employs a wide variety of worldly flavors and crystal clear production work on its distinctive debut CD. The twosome seduces with a gorgeous arrangement of a traditional "Armenian Wedding Dance" and such stunning original compositions as the all-too-brief "Eracinos" and "Folk Tune" and the frisky "Crabwalk Often?"

Upcoming show: Feb. 6, FlynnSpace, Burlington.

Contact Tom Huntington at thom-aswhuntington@hotmail.com