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Review Holiday music: Seth MacFarlane, Downton Abbey, Idina Menzel, more

By RANDY LEWIS

contact the reporter

Over the Rhine, "Blood Oranges in the Snow" (GSD). The Ohio-based husband-wife Americana duo of Linford Detweiler and Karin Bergquist examine memories, loss and reunions both joyful and melancholy in these nine songs, six of which Detweiler wrote or co-wrote, plus Merle Haggard's aching country classic "If We Make It Through December" and two others. The really savvy part is the way they inject snippets of other seasonal songs into the originals, underscoring how much music itself is an integral part of the holiday season and spirit. If every musician brought this much inspiration and imagination to the task of recording holiday songs, what a wonderful world it truly would be. Rating: Four stars