

## It's OK to bring the kids: The band probably will

By David Steinberg Journal Staff Writer

Having two small children at home might put a crimp in the lives of some musicians. That domestic situation might slow or stop mom and dad from performing if both are in a band.

That happens to be case of half of the Albuquerque electro-pop band Leiahdorus. Mom is keyboardist Darla VanWinkle and dad is Jason Smith, pianist. As it is, VanWinkle and Smith are integrating parenthood in their professional lives.

"The kids are a huge inspiration," Smith said. "It's nice to keep them in the (home) studio with me. I feel like I incorporate them while writing in the studio."

His 4-year-old daughter might be banging on a drum set while her 2-year-old brother is playing with an xylophone, he said.

In the studio, Smith usually starts by laying down tracks with a drumbeat, then adding strings and piano parts over that, VanWinkle said.

"I just kind of fill in lyrics along with the beat that he's working on," she said. "Jason and I do most of the writing together, but Fox (Fletcher) and Ryan (Goodman) write in their parts. Every song is a collaboration of the four of us."

Goodman is the drummer and Fletcher the guitarist in the band.

VanWinkle said in one sense or another all of the band's original songs are about relationships.

The theme of its most recent CD, "Ode to the Builders," is about the people who have helped make you who you are, "the people who have built you and that the things that have happened in your life to create who you are," said VanWinkle, who was born and raised in Alamogordo.

Leiahdorus will be in concert tonight at the Harwood Art Center. The concert is part of the familyfriendly Burque Bop series.

VanWinkle said she also manages to find time to act as the band's business manager. She books shows while keeping an eye on the kids.

Goodman, she said, built the band's website, [www.leiahdorus.com](http://www.leiahdorus.com), and stays in touch with fans and with online inquiries.

"I'm glad he stepped up. With the kids, I couldn't do it all," VanWinkle said.

### **Burque Bop with Leiahdorus**

WHEN: 6 p.m. today

WHERE: Harwood Art Center, 1114 Seventh NW

HOW MUCH: \$8 suggested donation for adults. Kids free



The Albuquerque electro-pop band Leiahdorus plays tonight in a family-friendly show at the Harwood Art Center.