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SPORTS

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SECTION A

GIG of the week

Triumphant band
pulls into Triumph
Brewery tonight



FILE PHOTO

Sage

Sage, 9 p.m., Triumph Brewery, 138 Nassau St., Princeton. \$5. (609) 924-7855, www.triumphbrew.com

Talk about ambitious! Sage is one of the better and more popular jam bands in Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The group has proved it with a self-titled double live CD.

Unlike a lot of other jam bands that seem to just want to noodle and not concentrate on good songs, Sage takes a cue from Jerry Garcia and Robert Hunter by writing great songs, around which they jam. Dead and Phish fans will love this band because of similar song structure, such as on the oh-so-funky "Word Up!"

Other live favorites include the staccato groove of "Bob Jones," the Santana-like "Dagobah," the rootsy, soulful, reggae-tinged "Find My Way" and the otherworldly, tongue-in-cheek heavy blues, "Elfin Jam."

A frequent stop for Sage — lead guitarist Marc Gallo, vocalist-guitarist Tim Nayfield, vocalist-drummer Gabe Rohmann and bassist Dave "Tree" Ryden — are the Triumph breweries in Princeton and New Hope, Pa., the band's hometown. Sage will be at the Princeton location tonight and in New Hope on Dec. 20.

Upcoming Sage gigs include:

- Dec. 19, The Fire, Philadelphia, with Scarecrow Collection, Normadic Design and Acoustic Mystic
- Dec. 26, Maxwell's, Hoboken, with Addison Groove Project
- Dec. 27, The Country Tavern, Pipersville, Pa.
- Dec. 28, John & Peter's, New Hope
- Dec. 29, Joe's Mill Hill, Trenton.

Good players, singers and writers, Sage will move your feet and your mind. The fact that the four members all write and sing makes for a surprisingly cohesive sound in spite of its improvisational nature. The results are much more rewarding than most other jam bands. **Info:** www.sageband.com

BOB MAKIN

Makin, Bob. "Triumphant band pulls into Triumph Brewery tonight." Courier News, 13, Dec. 2003: C1.