



Books, films and now gigs: Harry Potter rocks

Tim Dowling
Tuesday July 17, 2007

Guardian

If you've never heard of Wizard Rock, you're too late: this musical movement will reach its apex on Friday evening, with a free concert in Harvard Square. How many of us will have to make do with pretending we were there?

Wizard Rock is a genre whose adherents come from the massive, global Harry Potter fan base. Wizard Rock bands sing about the books, dress as the characters and name themselves in homage: the Whomping Willows, the Parselmouths, the Ministry of Magic, the Quaffle Kids, Animagus. They tour libraries, often inspiring young readers to start their own HP bands.

At midnight on Friday, the engine that powers Wizard Rock comes to a halt, as JK Rowling releases the final book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. This will be Wizard Rock's biggest, and possibly last summer. The Harvard Square concert features what is arguably the first Wizard Rock group, Harry and the Potters, alongside one of the newest, the Hungarian Horntails.

Harry and the Potters - brothers Paul and Joe DeGeorge, who dress as Harry Year Seven and Year Four respectively - first performed at a family barbecue in 2002, and now tour non-stop. The Hungarian Horntails, fronted by eight-year-old guitarist Darius Wilkins, have just released their first CD, Burn Voldemort's Butt. Also on the bill are Draco and the Malfoys, whose songs are written from the point of view of the Hogwarts bully. There are more than 30 other Wizard Rock gigs taking place this weekend.

Where the Wizard Rock phenomenon goes from here is unclear. Harry and the Potters say, "Voldemort can't stop the rock!"

But perhaps he can. We'll find out on Saturday.

Guardian Unlimited © Guardian News and Media Limited 2007