

Kidz Bop tour live-music experience

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A new junior rock concert, designed for kids, is making its Pittsburgh premiere on Friday at The Benedum Center. Kidz Bop World Tour presents a live version of the popular CD series, which has sold more than 10 million copies and is known for its 'tween-friendly, fun and energetic style. The show features a full band, video screens and adult and child singers who sing popular songs and encourage audience members to sing along, jump out of their seats and dance. Beach balls bounce around in the audience, where people will get sprayed with occasional confetti.

"It's really just a great introduction to live music," says Jeff Leatherwood of Los Angeles. He plays the lead male vocal role, and Jodi Katz plays his female counterpart. "We encourage an interactive environment, and for them to really get up," says Leatherwood, 27. "So far, they've just been going nuts. The kids just go absolutely crazy, and we welcome that. There's definitely no sitting still in this show."

Boys and girls love the Kidz Bop energy, Leatherwood says. "We're basically giving them permission to just let loose and go crazy and have a great time," he says. "Any other show that they have to go to, they're going to have to sit in their seats for 90 minutes and be quiet. We're encouraging them to get up and sing along and just let loose."