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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 4, 1996

LOCAL STUDENTS FEATURED ON UM MUSIC DEPARTMENT'S FIRST CD

MISSOULA --

Fans can bring home the sounds of The New Jubes and the Virtual Orchestra this month.

UM's premiere singing group is releasing the first CD ever to come from the University's Department of Music. "Off The Wall!" includes 15 selections ranging from country to avant-garde, with a good dose of vocal jazz. The CD was engineered, mastered and produced by students.

"This is an exciting project for me," says Dennis Thurmond, music associate professor and the group's director. "Mainly because students generated work that involved many levels of technological expertise."

All of the computer-generated Virtual Orchestra music was recorded in UM's music technology labs, as well as all accompaniments and original compositions by students.

The CD is a collection of works by the 1995-96 New Jubes and Virtual Orchestra, featuring the talents of Greg Bolin, Chad Curtis, Jason Derlatka, Amanda Duff, Maria Gonzales, Julie Johnson, Tomoko Makuuchi, Peter Park and Laura Smith, along with engineer Angela Hill, manager Scott Billadeau and Thurmond.

Most members of the student group have graduated and moved on, but Billadeau says creating the CD was the experience of a lifetime.

"I think people will really be blown away when they hear it," Billadeau says. "You almost can't explain the experience. It's a professional group that's made up of students."

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But Thurmond points out the group may be "a student group made up of professionals."

"I would like to think that the experience in the group took them to that place," he says.

The cover art for "Off The Wall!" features a photograph by Dennis Kern, curator of the Paxson Gallery of the School of Fine Arts. The photo depicts UM art Associate Professor Tom Rippon while he was working on the ceramic mural that adorns the east side of UM's Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

The 1996-97 New Jubes and Virtual Orchestra will perform Nov. 23 in UM's Music Recital Hall. The free concert begins at 7:30 p.m. The group also has plans to perform with the Missoula Pops in May.

"Off The Wall!" was produced by Sparrow Sound Design of Chicago. Some 5,000 copies are available through the UM School of Fine Arts for about \$15; call (406) 243-4970.

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Contact: Dennis Thurmond, New Jubes and the Virtual Orchestra director, (406) 243-4612.

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