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The Symphonic Chronicler

Senior Billy Christiansen has sold over 100 CDs on MP3.com. He has 3 albums, Electronic Stories, Fantascap and Discoveries, all of which he composed on a single keyboard. This semester he is assisting Marlon Carey in his show, Connectionz. He will be hosting his own art show in Vardell opening May 1st.

How Long Have You Been Making Your Own Music?

That's kind of difficult to answer. I've played around with music ever since I was a kid, making my own cheesy little melodies. It's been 5 years since I first composed a whole song. I've done a whole body of work on my Roland JV-1000.



When did you first put your music on the Internet?

This past summer my friend showed me this site where artists could put up their music. I thought it was cheesy. How could anyone become known through this? I thought it was some ridiculous little online ploy to steal people's music. But I put it up anyway under the name "Funky Tunes." I didn't think it was serious until I got a check in the mail. I had started selling CDs. I thought it was really cool.

How does MP3.com work?

They do everything for you. All you've got to do is upload music, give yourself a name and a description of your songs. Then it takes a couple of days for them to upload your music. It goes into the appropriate genre. I've been putting mine in game soundtracks. I've got two in the symphonic subgenre of classical.

The songs are placed on a statistical chart. That tells you how popular you are.

They get a 50% commission from CDs. They make the CDs for you. It's as simple as creating an account. You can create your own cover and set the price between \$5 and \$15.

How many CDs have you sold?

I'm at 109.

Is that good?

Because of the genre I'm in that's above average, especially with one keyboard. But I'm often humbled by emails I get from other saying, "Good luck. I