

Jewel's holiday album a gem

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Editor in chief

Just when you thought the end was near, that another pop artist could not possibly put out a Christmas album, it happened. This fall, Jewel released her newest album, *Joy: A Collection of Holiday Favorites*.

For Jewel fans, this release came as a pleasant surprise. For others, though, the disc may have seemed like just another way to make money, to keep up with the crowd. And non-Jewel fans may have expected folksy twists of favorite carols.

For all three groups, however, the album is perfect. Though Jewel does not always follow the traditional route, this time she does.

From religious songs like "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night" to more secular songs like "Winter Wonderland" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," Jewel covers a wide genre of songs and, therefore, reaches out to a wide audience.

Of course, she has not completely abandoned her folk roots that most fans adore. Jewel is one of the few artists who has recorded "Winter Wonderland" with a yodel in the middle of the song.

And how many people have heard "Rudolph" performed in a jazzy, two-part harmony?

While Jewel begins the acapella song traditionally, she and her mother split into harmony and melody for a second time through.

In the way of original songs, Jewel includes four, including a new Christmas arrangement of last year's top 40 hit, "Hands." In this new version, she changes the arrangement and background slightly. And of course, the chorus, "In the end / only kindness matters," fits the Christmas theme of the album perfectly.

Another new song is "Face of Love," which expresses most of what Jewel usually sings about. The listener can tell that Jewel earnestly believes what she is singing about. The song itself is quite fitting with what the audience expects from the author and performer of "You Were Meant for Me."

In addition, "Gloria" is another new song that has a classical, aria-like quality. Jewel's voice sound like a professional classical singer." Her voice has this same distinction in the traditional "Ave Maria."

The only part of the album that seems out of place is a medley containing "From a Distance," a song made popular by Bette Midler. It seems out of character for a folk artist such as Jewel Kilcher to per-

form a sentimental, almost sappy, song.

The medley also includes "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and Jewel's original "Life Uncommon."

Joy: A Holiday Collection is Jewel's third album with Atlantic Records. Her other two albums, *Pieces of You* and *Spirit*, are well-known and have reached the top 40 lists.

Other songs on the album are "O Holy Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "I Wonder as I Wander."

Whether you are a Jewel fan or whether you just love Christmas music, *Joy* is perfect for you. Jewel's album perfectly exudes her own eclectic personality, yet at the same time, she does not steer too far away from the traditional music that many people value.

Dave Matthews Band delivers double whammy

TANESHA WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

November 23 was an exciting day for all Dave Matthews Band fans. It was the day of the band's latest live release, *Listener Supported*. This is the third double compact disc released by the band, and the old adage is true, the third time really is the charm. The discs were recorded at a concert in New Jersey during September 1998.

Along with old fan favorites such as "Jimi Thing," "Crash (Into Me)," "Two Step" and "Warehouse," the band adds three newly-released songs, including Johnny Cash's "Long Black Veil," "True Reflections" (sung by Boyd

Tinsley) and "#40."

Like all of Dave Matthews Band's live albums, the CD brings the actual concert to your personal cd player. With the rhythmic blows of Leroi Moore's saxophone and the perfect beats of Carter Beauford's drums, it is hard not to get up and start dancing.

If you like Dave Matthews Band then you will love this CD, which carries the best from all of their albums.

The double CD runs anywhere from \$17 (at Best Buy) to about \$20. So, if you're just dying to buy a new CD or are searching for a music-lover's Christmas gift, I highly recommend *Listener Supported* by Dave Matthews Band.

This is the final issue of the *Meredith Herald* for the fall semester.

The first issue of the spring semester will be published on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2000.



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