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MUSIC

Pretty Mary Sunshine has striking sound

By Les Zaczek
 Freelance Reporter

Pretty Mary Sunshine's debut album has a sound somewhere between the unusual pop songs of Belly and the slow, psychedelic drone of Mazzy Star.

The striking element of the songs are the hypnotic swirl of guitars and the ethereal singing of vocalist Patrice Tullai.

Unfortunately, some of the tracks fall short on melody and interesting song structures, making the overall disc a bit boring.

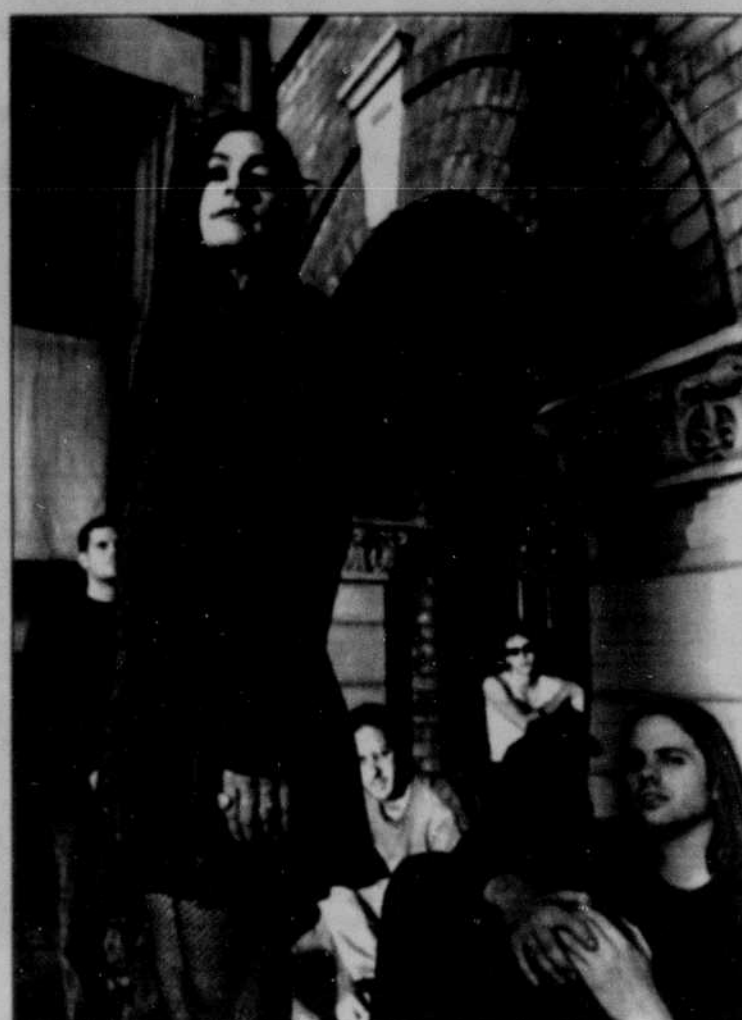
But the band has a good basis, and the album is worth checking out.

CD REVIEW
Pretty Mary Sunshine
Bird Medicine
 ★★★
Bird Medicine starts off with the song "Jessica." It has a pleasant melody with layers of fuzzy yet gentle guitars. One of the guitars hits high notes that hint at Hawaiian music.

"Reptile Girl" is a powerful song with a beautiful lead guitar that meanders around a dark melody, reminiscent of Bettie Serveert's first album. Unfortunately the vocals are a bit drowned by a wall of sound effects. This is one of the best tracks on the album.

"Selfish" is catchy and a bit more upbeat than the rest of the album, providing a nice contrast. About halfway into the album, however, starting on the track "Recycle," Pretty Mary Sunshine slows to a snail's pace and seems to run out of new ideas.

A couple of songs on the second half of the album do recover, however, like "Puerto Rican Rita," which has a great melody, and "Get it Together," which



COURTESY PHOTO

Pretty Mary Sunshine will perform in Eugene Feb. 16 at WOW Hall.

has an overall trippy sound.

The band is obviously a group of accomplished musicians—especially the guitarists, who create the dark, psychedelic-pop sound. The bass is not very loud in the mix, blending in and carrying the groove forward.

The drummer also does his job well, but because the songs are fairly mellow, there aren't any extraordinary drum parts to be played.

The vocalist has a pretty

voice, but her quiet whisper-like-singing seems fairly generic and cliché, a product of the 4AD sound created and perfected by bands like Cocteau Twins, Lush and Curve.

While there are some things this band may need to improve, they have created an interesting record with some really good songs.

Another good thing about this band is that they will be performing Feb. 16 at WOW Hall.

Harlem Boys Choir to sing in Eugene for first time

Jim Ransier
 Freelance Reporter

Celebrating their 25th anniversary, the internationally recognized Boys Choir of Harlem will give their first Eugene performance this evening at the Hult Center.

The Choir has entertained audiences worldwide with a broad collection of music, including classical, contemporary, spirituals, gospel and jazz. Combining soulful music and well-orchestrated choreography, the Boys Choir of Harlem puts on 80 to 100 concerts annually, including tours through Europe and the Orient.

Founded by nationally known educator and conductor Walter J. Turnbull in 1968, the Choir not only provides children between the ages of 8 and 18 with the opportunity to realize their creative potential, but it also educates and broadens their creative perception. The purpose of the Choir is to provide, in addition to music, counseling, tutoring and recreational activities.

Providing a broad-based education is one of the main goals of the Choir.

The Choir is open to all children, regardless of race, creed, color, or sex, from all five boroughs of New York City. Children take basic tests for vocal ability and musical ability to determine their eligibility for the choir.

Out of the 200 member concert choir, 35 to 40 children are chosen for touring performances based on musical progress, academic performance and attendance of rehearsals.

In 1994, the Choir released their first solo album, *The Sound of Hope*. The Choir's most recognizable style of music comes from the soundtracks of Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever* and *Malcolm X*, as well as the Grammy award-winning, Oscar



COURTESY PHOTO

The Boys Choir of Harlem will sing tonight at the Hult Center to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

nominated soundtrack of the motion picture *Glory*.

Tonight's performance, presented by the Hult Center and the City of Eugene with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Oregon Arts Commission, begins at 8 p.m. in the Silva Concert Hall. The performance will be sign-interpreted.

All senior and student discount seats are sold out, but general admission tickets are still available at the Hult Center Box Office, EMU Main Desk, and by phone at (541) 687-5000.