



Peter Utsey Emerald

Anime

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subtitles are up to Animeigo's usual excellent standards and should pose no problems to anyone trying to follow the dialogue. One caveat to those who like dubs: There are none. Harmony Gold, which also approved a re-release of "Robotech" on DVD at the same time, doesn't want a competing dub of "Macross."

One slight problem with the show is the spotty animation quality from episode to episode. In late 1982, after "Macross" was garnering a sizable fan following, the show's sponsor, Takatoku Toys, approved a request to bump the show's run from 23 episodes to a full 36-episode season. While it gave the creators more leeway sto-

rywise, it left the producers of the show scrambling to complete an extra 13 episodes in a relatively short time. One partial solution was to farm certain episodes out to so-called "understudy" studios.

This is why Episode 24 ("Goodbye Girl") and Episode 26 ("The Messenger") — which both have excellent animation — sandwich Episode 25 ("Virgin Road"), which has animation that is amateur at best and painful at worst.

The packaging for each disc is good-looking, if somewhat minimalist. Each cover consists of a black background overlaid with a colored outline of one of the main characters and the show's Japanese title logo at the bottom. The menus on each disc are interactive, which is a surprise — my own experience with Animeigo discs is that menus

are often given short shrift — and mimic the cockpit of the "Valkyrie," the main mecha of the show. Each disc (except for Disc 9) comes with illustrated liner notes that have trivia and creators' insights into the show, as well as lyrics for most of the songs presented in the show.

The "Macross" DVDs will be released this summer for individual sale at most video stores at an expected price of about \$30. The other shows that were part of "Robotech," "Chou Jikyu Kidan (The Super Dimension Cavalry)," "Southern Cross" and "Kikou Sou-seiki (Genesis Climber) Mospeada" will be released later this year by ADV Films.

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Quartet

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an instrument," Joy said. He added that Summer sometimes plucks the cello as if it were an upright bass, and the violinists sometimes use their instruments for percussion.

"You can pretty much make anything work," Summer said. Some people assume that only certain types of songs can be played by a string quartet, he said, but Turtle Island tries to show the different styles that can be incorporated into the music.

Summer described their sound as being influenced by many different music styles, including jazz, blues, rock 'n' roll, chamber and Indian music.

"It gets old doing the same thing," he said, adding that it becomes more like transcribing music than playing it. For this tour, Grammy Award-winning composer

Paquito D'Rivera will join Turtle Island and add a Latin flavor to the quartet's various rhythms, playing the clarinet and the saxophone.

"It's a wonderful thing to play with (Paquito)," Summer said. He said Turtle Island has touched on Latin themes before, but Cuban native D'Rivera gives them a deeper understanding of Latin music.

Turtle Island recorded three songs, including their centerpiece song, "La Jicotea," with D'Rivera for their new album, "Danzón."

"This concert is very special," he said. "Paquito is just an amazing player."

Turtle Island has played in several countries around the world and has become well-known internationally, Summer said.

"We like to travel — see the world," he said.

In addition to its performances, Joy said the group also engages in educational activities in some of

the cities they visit. They have conducted classes for aspiring musicians, lecture demonstrations and discussions with kids about music.

"They try to show kids, especially, that there's a lot of things you can do (with music)," Joy said.

Turtle Island will hold a master class, entitled "It's About Time," from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at Beall Concert Hall. The class will be open to all students.

"It's a great opportunity to see them up close," said Fritz Gearheart, a violin professor at the University's School of Music.

Gearheart said music students often become bored with violins and cellos because they don't realize the versatility of stringed instruments. He said Turtle Island shows students that they can play anything from Bach to the Beatles.

E-mail reporter Jen West at jenwest@dailymerald.com.



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