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## Kids Learn More Than One Kind Of Harmony

**By Lewis Taylor**  
**The Register-Guard**

Beginning bass player Randy Mishler, 15, wasn't at all surprised by the way he sounded on CD. After all, he pointed out, he was there for the entire five-hour recording session.

"It sounded good," Mishler said, casually.

Meanwhile, Mishler's little brother Jacob, 13, was visibly excited. Jacob played guitar and helped write the tune "Jacob's Song," but his favorite track on the album was a cover of U2's "With Or Without You."

"I think guitars are cool," he said.

The Mishler brothers and seven other young musicians celebrated the release of their debut album, "Fountain of Youth," with a party on Wednesday at Station 7, a 24-hour crisis intervention center for youth ages 11 to 17 run by Looking Glass Youth & Family Services on Roosevelt Boulevard.

The project was designed to offer a healthy, alternative activity for at-risk youth.

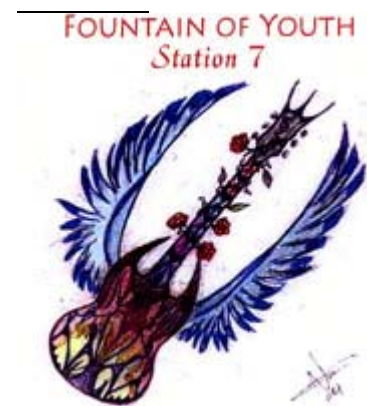
"They are definitely (showing) the beginnings of a musical identity," said David Helfand, a professional harp player and guitarist who oversaw the making of the CD. "It's definitely the first musical statement of these kids, but it's something that we thought they could be very proud of."

Each of the nine music students involved in the project took home two copies of the 10-song, 20-minute CD. The album, which is not for sale, featured cover art of a winged guitar drawn by beginning guitarist Nichoel Wright.

"I learned that it's not as easy as the musicians make it look," said Wright, summing up one of the lessons she learned.

The CD project was funded by a grant from the Lane Arts Council, plus a donation from the PeaceHealth Employee Council and several others. The program, which started in March, grew out of another music program at Station 7, which donates guitars to at-risk youth who agree to participate in 10 weeks of lessons.

"I really wanted a guitar and I was getting into a rock band and wanted to do more than sing," said David Jensen, 15.



The debut CD contains a mix of original compositions and covers, and features art by Nichoel Wright, a beginning guitarist.

Jensen, who aspires to be a famous rock star, says he learned how to play power chords and other rock techniques from Helfand and the other musical mentors: Bob Clayton, Brad Parshalle and Jeff Schenck.

Kari Whitney, program manager for Station 7, said the music programs provide an opportunity for youth to express themselves and use their imagination and creativity.

"To adults it seems like nothing could be more important than housing, but to the kids, their appearance, whether they're wearing cool enough clothes and whether or not they're still building on their talents and interests is relevant to them," Whitney said. "The way that (the instructors) teach them, so that they can play a song before they leave, is just this really empowering experience for them."

The CD project, which started in March, involved 12 sessions and a recording session in May at Song Tree Studios outside Eugene.

Helfand taught the basics of chords and melodies and helped mold the fragments the students composed into original songs.

"It's quite amazing what these guys do with relatively very little funds," said Catherine Ballard, youth arts director for the Lane Arts Council. "It's not a huge investment financially, but it has such a big payoff for the kids, it keeps them engaged in something positive and moving forward."

Ashley Bass, 16, played electric guitar, bass and keyboards on the album. She says getting to know new people was half the fun.

"I hope to just keep playing and keep practicing on my guitar and maybe someday be in a band," Bass said. "My main goal is just to have fun and keep myself busy."