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**MARK OF THE UNICORN SHIPS MAJOR UPGRADE OF DIGITAL PERFORMER™ MIDI SEQUENCING AND DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDING SOFTWARE**

**DIGITAL PERFORMER™ VERSION 2.0 SHIPS WITH PureDSP™ SAMPLE RATE CONVERSION, 100% POWER PC NATIVE CODE AND OTHER NEW FEATURES**

**MARK OF THE UNICORN ADDS HIGH-QUALITY SAMPLE RATE CONVERSION AND OTHER MAJOR NEW FEATURES TO DIGITAL PERFORMER™ VERSION 2.0**

CAMBRIDGE, MA - JANUARY 16, 1997. Mark of the Unicorn, Inc. (MOTU) announced today that it is now shipping Digital Performer Version 2.0, a major upgrade of MOTU's flagship MIDI sequencing and digital audio recording software. The upgrade boasts major feature enhancements and 100% PowerPC native code for optimum performance on Power Macintosh computers.

Recently awarded the prestigious MacWorld World Class Award for 1997, Digital Performer combines state-of-the-art MIDI sequencing with hard disk-based digital audio recording, editing and mixing. Included is MOTU's ground-breaking PureDSP™ audio processing technology, which provides the ability to pitch-shift, time-scale and "gender-bend" digitally recorded audio. Digital Performer is well known for the quality of its audio processing and its well-crafted, seamless integration of audio and MIDI.

Digital Performer Version 2.0 introduces many new audio-related enhancements and includes all of the new features recently introduced in MOTU's major upgrade of Performer Version 5.5.

Most notable is 100% native operation on Power Macintosh computers for optimum speed and performance. The Tracks window, one of the program's main windows, now provides an improved, bird's-eye view of both MIDI and audio tracks. Audio tracks show actual wave forms at a size that allows you to see many tracks at a time. MIDI tracks show a piano-roll style display of MIDI data inside blocks, which let you edit the MIDI data as singular phrases of music, just like their audio counterparts.

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Another notable upgrade feature is Digital Performer's new PureDSP™ sample rate conversion algorithm,  which lets users convert, for example, material recorded on their Alesis ADAT™ at 48kHz down to 44.1kHz for their final CD mix. MOTU's PureDSP™ sample rate conversion algorithm uses proprietary filters to completely eliminate the significant aliasing and imaging typically produced by other audio software programs with this feature. For example, Digital Performer's total harmonic distortion (THD+n) remains below 0.002% for most of the audible spectrum, whereas competing programs exhibit as high as 18% THD+n within the audible range. Also unique is Digital Performer's "draft" quality conversion, which lets Digital Performer users hear their audio right away (at the correct pitch) while "best-quality" processing continues in the background. Digital Performer automatically replaces draft-quality audio with its final , "best-quality" version as soon as processing is complete.

Digital Performer 2.0 also provides more extensive support of Digidesign's TDM virtual mixing environment and plug-in architecture. Digital Performer's TDM implementation closely matches that of Digidesign's popular Pro Tools software so that Digidesign users can quickly find their way around. Located in Digital Performer's on-screen virtual Mixing Board window, new TDM features include 16 TDM busses, Aux tracks, 4 sends per track (pre or post fader), and master faders. Aux tracks, with both mono and stereo inputs, provide a wide array of powerful and flexible mixing capabilities, help conserve precious TDM DSP resources, and also help automate TDM plug-in effects. Master faders provide control over TDM mixer outputs and serve as a convenient mechanism for sub-mixing and other tasks.

A new mode, called "Direct Line Outs", lets users assign audio tracks to individual outputs (instead of output pairs) on their audio system I/O unit for straightforward setup with an external mixing environment.

Other new features in Digital Performer Version 2.0 include:

• <u>More non-destructive MIDI output processing effects</u>, including Groove Quantize, Shift, Humanize, Echo, Arpeggiator and more. These effects can be applied as an "insert" on a MIDI track in the Mixing Board (up to five inserts per track) and because they only affect playback of the MIDI data in the track, they can be adjusted or bypassed at any time.

• <u>Unlimited multiple mixdowns</u> for an entire sequence with instant recall. This feature allows users to create an automated mixdown of all the tracks in a sequence, both MIDI and audio, and then save the mix as a whole. Then, users can either duplicate the mix or create a new one. Digital Performer saves the original mix, which consists of all the volume and pan information in the entire sequence, under its own name for instant recall at any time. This features is ideal for easily creating alternate mixdowns of the same music.

• <u>Adjust Beats</u>. The Adjust Beats feature lets users record music (audio or MIDI data) without listening to a metronome and then graphically drag beats and barlines in the time rulers of Digital Performer's graphic editing windows to line them up with notes in a MIDI performance or peaks in an audio waveform. This results in readable

notation transcription, as well as musical editing on measures and beats. Adjust beats does all of this while precisely preserving every nuance of the user's original material. For faster results, Digital Performer allows users to drag measure barlines as well as individual beats. Among other things, this feature is ideal for film composers because it allows them to freely record their music while slaved to picture and then afterwards place measures and beats wherever they want – all while preserving their original performance (and its synchronization with picture).

- <u>Drag-and-drop markers</u> in the main tracks overview allow users quickly and easily create, view and edit markers directly in the time ruler without having to go to a separate window.

- <u>Unlimited "takes" per track</u>. A "take" stores the entire contents of a MIDI, audio, or conductor track. Digital Performer allows users to create an unlimited number of takes for each track. This helps keep user's track lists short and manageable because they don't have to make a new track for each take. Instead, users can maintain one track, such as "Bass," and then store all alternate takes for the bass track under that one track heading.

- <u>Global selection</u>. Global selection means that data stays selected in all edit windows until another selection is made, even after users apply successive edits.

- <u>Smart Selections™</u>. This features provides "intelligent assistance" to basic editing tasks for fast, musical editing. For example, if the user has grid-snapping turned on and makes a two-bar selection, but the notes at the beginning of the selection actually occur a few ticks before the downbeat, Digital Performer will automatically include them in the selection. Also included is measure-relative pasting, which allows the user to quickly place the playback wiper anywhere in the measure into which they want to paste, without having to worry about the wiper's exact location. Pasted material is then inserted inside the measure at the same location from which it was originally cut or copied.

- <u>Support for QuickTime Musical Instruments</u>. Digital Performer 2.0 can play MIDI tracks on the Macintosh's built-in synthesizer through the Mac's internal speaker. This allows users to hear their MIDI sequences without external MIDI gear.

- <u>Enhanced soloing and gliding over play-enable buttons.</u> Digital Performer now saves the play-enable status of all tracks when the program is put into solo mode. This lets users instantly A/B-compare between two playback configurations. In addition, users can now "glide" the cursor of play buttons in track list to quickly mute or unmute groups of tracks.

- <u>MIDI scrubbing</u>. Users can now drag Digital Performer's playback wiper forwards or backwards and hear their MIDI tracks play at the speed at which they drag.

- <u>Extensive Macintosh System 7 balloon help</u>. Digital Performer's balloon help is extensive, with detailed, explanatory graphics that provide quick, on-line answers for users.

- <u>Improved real-time notation transcription</u>. Mark of the Unicorn's advanced notation transcription technology, which first appeared in FreeStyle, has now been incorporated into Digital Performer. This technology produces more readable notation transcription with a minimum of "tweaking" by the user. Features include floating split points, multiple voices per staff, and n-tuplet recognition. The Straighten Swing feature displays swung eighths as straight eighths (instead of triplets).
- <u>100% file compatibility</u>. Digital Performer 2.0 can export files to Performer 5.5 and Digital Performer 1.6, 1.7 and 1.71.

Digital Performer supports Digidesign hard disk recording systems for Macintosh and Power Macintosh, including Audiomedia II and III, Pro Tools, Pro Tools Project, and Pro Tools III with TDM (Nubus and PCI).

Mark of the Unicorn is a leading developer of computer based, music production tools, including the TEC Award and MacWorld World Class award-winning Performer Version 5.5 professional sequencer, Digital Performer, FreeStyle for Windows & Macintosh, UNISYN universal patch editor/librarian, MOSAIC notation publishing program, and a complete line of MIDI interfaces, including the MIDI Timepiece AV.

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