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### **MARK OF THE UNICORN ANNOUNCES MAJOR UPGRADE OF FREESTYLE™ TRACKLESS SEQUENCER SOFTWARE**

### **MOTU ANNOUNCES FREESTYLE™ VERSION 2.0 WITH INNOVATIVE SENSE TEMPO™ FEATURE, 100% POWER PC NATIVE CODE AND OTHER NEW FEATURES**

### **MARK OF THE UNICORN'S FREESTYLE 2.0 SOFTWARE UPGRADE SERVES UP MORE SEQUENCING INNOVATIONS AND ADVANCED FEATURES**

ANAHEIM, CA - JANUARY 16, 1997. Mark of the Unicorn, Inc. (MOTU) today unveiled FreeStyle™ Version 2.0, a major upgrade of MOTU's innovative, "trackless" MIDI sequencer software. The upgrade boasts major feature enhancements and 100% PowerPC native code for optimum performance on Power Macintosh computers. Well-known for its innovative MIDI sequencing features, FreeStyle™ now introduces another sequencing first with its new Sense Tempo™ feature, which allows users to record into their computer without having to follow a metronome as they play.

FreeStyle 2.0's new Sense Tempo™ feature lets users play their MIDI keyboard without listening to a metronome click or drum loop. As the user plays, FreeStyle 2.0 captures every nuance of the performance at 960 parts per quarter note, the highest timing resolution offered by any sequencer on the market today. As recording continues, FreeStyle applies sophisticated notation transcription technology, which displays music notation in real time on the computer screen. FreeStyle's Sense Tempo™ feature automatically identifies where the beats and measure boundaries are in the user's performance and displays the notation accordingly. The final result is readable music notation that plays with all of the nuance of the original performance. And users also enjoys being able to view and edit their music right away with beats and barlines in FreeStyle that match what they played.

FreeStyle 2.0 also provides several new beat adjustment features, which allow the user to align FreeStyle's beats and barlines with a pre-existing MIDI performance. For example, the user may have a standard MIDI file recorded without a metronome in another program. With the Identify

Beats feature, the user can simply click on notes in the graphic editor or notation window to identify them as downbeats. The Adjust Beats feature lets users drag barlines and beats in FreeStyle's graphic editor to match the displayed notes, "scrubbing" the music as they drag so they can easily zero in on the correct downbeat. And finally, the Record Beats feature lets users simply tap along while listening to their pre-recorded rubato performance to tell FreeStyle where the beats are. After using any combination of these features, users can choose to listen to their music with its original tempo and feel, or they can temporarily switch to "Constant" tempo mode to hear it at a perfectly straight tempo. And all of these beat adjustment features preserve the user's original performance exactly as it was played.

FreeStyle 2.0 now supports tempo changes. Users can graphically draw tempo changes in the graphic editor. Or they can record tempo slider movements in real time as their music plays. Tempo maps can also be imported from standard MIDI files. Lastly, tempos can be recorded with FreeStyle's Sense Tempo feature, described earlier. FreeStyle's tempo slider introduces another innovating sequencer feature: "% variable" tempo mode. This mode lets users speed up or slow down an entire piece of music – even music that already has tempo changes – with a simple adjustment of the tempo slider.

FreeStyle 2.0 lets users change meter and key signature anywhere in their music. Several convenient methods are provided. When changing key, FreeStyle lets users choose to keep the notes at the same pitch while FreeStyle automatically re-spells them correctly in the new key. Or users can choose to can transpose the notes altogether to the new key.

FreeStyle 2.0 now provides SMPTE synchronization. Users can slave FreeStyle to a tape deck to record vocals and other audio tracks that are precisely synchronized with their MIDI performance in FreeStyle. Users can also now lock FreeStyle to a video tape recorder to write music for film or TV. All frame rates are supported. FreeStyle 2.0 also transmits MIDI Time Code (MTC), which allows users to synchronize FreeStyle with popular hard disk recorders such as the Roland VS-880™.

One of FreeStyle's early innovations was a unique, dynamic MIDI channel allocation feature that helps users avoid running out of MIDI channels on their synthesizer or sound module. Version 2 builds on this concept by allowing users to lock players to a specific MIDI channel, which is useful for working with samplers and other MIDI devices that require specific MIDI channel assignments.

FreeStyle 2.0 also lets users create layered sounds with ease. For example, to create a stack of brass sounds, the user can just hold down the shift key on the computer keyboard while choosing several of their favorite brass sounds from FreeStyle's convenient pop-up sound menus. The layered sound can then be named and saved for future projects.

Many sequencers allow users to place MIDI patch changes in their sequences so that the sound being used for a track can change in mid-stream during playback. FreeStyle 2.0 takes this much further by allowing users to change to a layered sound – or even an entirely different MIDI instrument – at any time.

FreeStyle 2.0 builds on its highly-recognized automated notation transcription technology with many new notation enhancements. FreeStyle players can now have a score transposition as well as a transposition for individually printed parts. Players also now have a recording transposition. This allows users to read a Bb trumpet part, for example, and record it in Bb while the rest of the orchestra plays in concert key.

FreeStyle 2.0 also now has intelligent note-spelling algorithms. For example, it correctly spells chromatic runs with sharps when they go up and flats when they go down. In addition, FreeStyle's takes into account more complex factors, such as the current key signature, mode (major or minor) and voice leading. Users can also adjust note spellings manually.

Other new features include note velocity and duration scaling, an extensive MIDI Monitor window that shows MIDI input and MIDI output activity, namable takes, and a new Duplicate Take command.

FreeStyle 2.0 is expected to ship in the first quarter of 1997. It will be available as an upgrade to all existing FreeStyle Version 1 users.

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.