



## Secret Sanity gets second chance

by Tricia Romano

Which artist during the first week of November beat out Guns N' Roses, Prince and Metallica in sales at a local Warehouse Records store?

The answer is Secret Sanity. The Las Vegas-based quintet sold 15 of their self-distributed compact discs *Life In the Clouds*, topping nationally renowned artists. Quite a feat, considering that they aren't even signed to a major label.

According to keyboardist and mouthpiece for the band, Rob Devlin, getting a record deal is next on their list. The band having already gotten air play on 98.5 KLUC and 91.5 KUNV as well as two radio stations in Cleveland, Ohio, are looking ahead to a signing with a major record company, and are confident that they will receive offers.

The band first began as Split Infinity roughly two years ago. Devlin and Rob Hamilton, (who is also a keyboardist) were attending UNLV together, and decided

to form a band. The two keyboardists found lead singer Joe Teubl through auditions, and later picked up guitarist Peter Marchese. They played without a "live" drummer for six months and decided to add drummer Dean Marino because as Devlin summed up, "Our live show sucked."

Split Infinity soon became Secret Sanity. Why the name change? Marino offered, "I just didn't like the name."

Devlin maintained that the change of name was mostly a cry for a second chance.

"There were some clubs (that) we went in (to) messed up. Little things had happened. We figured if we could get one more chance and just maybe trick them (the clubs) into thinking we're a new band. When we first started, we didn't know what we were doing," said Devlin.

With a new name and a new CD in tow, Secret Sanity have gotten the second chance that they all yearned for. The CD was

recorded in nine days at Son Song Studios in Las Vegas with producer Thomas "T-Bone" Demman. The songs sound surprisingly professional, considering the short time it was recorded. The bands' sound conjures up memories of early 80s pop groups like A Flock of Seagulls and Duran Duran. Not surprisingly the band members contend that the major influences for Secret Sanity do come from that era. Early Cure, Depeche Mode and Duran Duran have all affected the sound of Secret Sanity.

But Marchese pointed out differences in musical tastes.

"You've got to realize that this band is so varied when it comes to what we listen to," said the guitarist, who names Nine Inch Nails as his current favorite, while Devlin remains true to his early 80s roots.

And Marino insists that Secret Sanity isn't just some throw back from the early 80s new wave era.

"We are modern 90s dance music with a touch of early 80s," said Marino.

Like many dance bands, Secret Sanity strays away from political messages in songs, and instead focusing

on surreal imagery.

"It's just strange to me that someone who's a rock musician, all of a sudden because they are a rock musician they are a huge political figure," said Marchese.

Musical politics aside, Secret Sanity in its current form is a far cry from Split Infinity which performed a large percentage of cover songs. The band now has 20 original songs on its roster.



Secret Sanity

photo courtesy of Art Chivis

## They're creepy, cooky and spooky

by Kidd Andrade

The bizarre and ghoulish style of the new film, *The Addams Family*, follows in the same tradition of Charles Addam's dark humored sketches which originally appeared in *The New Yorker* magazine in the early '30s.

The all-star cast includes Raul Julia (*Presumed Innocent, Tequila Sunrise*) who gives a splendid performance as the head of the family, Gomez, and Anjelica Huston (*Prizzi's Honor*) as the mother of mayhem and object of beauty, Morticia. Christopher Lloyd (*Back to the Future*) plays the infamous Uncle Fester and fast rising newcomer Christina Ricci (*Mermaids*) gives a haunting performance as daughter Wednesday in a role she seems born to play.

The film has a grandiose appearance with its large, lavish studio sets and superb special effects which gives it a macabre resemblance to a cross-



The entire motley crew of the 'Addams Family.'

section between *Beetlejuice* and *Batman*. All of this saves *The Addams Family* from a particularly weak plot which

involves a missing Uncle Fester and a scheme to rob the Addam's of their hidden

treasures. It seems that the film is made up of little skits loosely tied together rather than a full length feature film, which makes *The Addams Family* a relative disappointment. If you are a fan of the television version of the Addam's, then you should

enjoy the characters and the darkness of the film. So if you go into the theater with an open mind and don't expect much in the way of a story, you'll probably dig this flick. One reminder worth mentioning, the tenebrous humor of the film is not for everyone, especially the young and the soft at heart because this film pushes the PG-13 rating to the limit.

### MOVIE REVIEW

#### 'The Addams Family' (★★★)

Starring Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston.  
Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld.

## 'Herod and the Innocents' to play at UNLV

As a special treat for the Holidays, the Charles Vanda Master Series presents *Herod and the Innocents*, 8 p.m., Dec. 10, at the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

*Herod and the Innocents* is a lavishly staged retelling of the Christmas story including the Nativity, the journey to Bethlehem, the intrigue of Herod's court, the flight to Egypt and the slaughter of innocents. As realized by Frederick Renz's 23-member Ensemble For Early Music, the manuscript from 12th century France leaps to life as a richly evocative piece, replete with all the pageantry, mystery and drama which this story holds.

This production is a fully staged and costumed music-drama from the medieval and renaissance periods constituting one of the earliest forms of opera known today. Despite their historical significance, this repertory is seldom performed on a professional level in the United States.

The Ensemble for Early Music was founded in 1974 by Renz and other members of the legendary New York Pro Musica Antiqua. Since its inception, the Ensemble has been in residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

For his pioneering work in this medieval and renaissance genre, Renz has reaped numerous acco-

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