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Parents, rockers electrify kids' music

By **Kate Moser** | Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor



WE ARE DEVO - SORT OF:

The new quintet of 10- to 13-year-olds, Devo 2.0, was selected by original Devo members Gerald Casale and Mark Mothersbaugh to play versions of the '80s band's hit songs.

PHOTO COURTESY DISNEY
SOUND

Parents who can't stand listening to songs about rainbows or dressing their children in clothes with hearts and bears are turning to rock 'n' roll. And serious musicians who used to scorn kids' music are being drawn to it, partly for the freedom they find there.

Joining a host of other current and former rockers, alt-rock bands Devo and They Might Be Giants, which first had hits in the '80s and '90s, are now making music for kids . . .

Devo started in 1972, and original members Gerald Casale and Mark Mothersbaugh are handing over their red "energy dome" hats for the March 14 release of Devo 2.0 on Disney Sound. Devo 2.0 is a quintet of 10- to 13-year-olds singing Devo's original hits, plus two new songs. Lyrics have been adapted for a kid-friendly appeal, and the band only pretends to use whips in "Whip It."



ROCK REDUX: Devo 2.0 singer Nicole says the '80s are back. Parents are also fueling the 'rock for kids' trend.
PHOTO COURTESY DISNEY
SOUND

It may be her parents' music, but lead singer Nicole Stoeher, 13, says kids will like Devo 2.0 because the '80s are back, in music and fashion. "The generations are passing down," she says by phone as her mom drives her home from school.

"The kind of music that's being written and recorded for kids now, it's giving kids a little bit more credit for their music sensibilities," says Steve Roslonek, a New England-based children's musician.