

Fits Right In *Cyrus* will

By Kevin Sullivan
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In just 16 years, the rapid rise of child star Miley Cyrus has given the adolescent idol recognition in film, television, music, fashion and even rap songs — opportunities most musicians don't come by over the course of their entire lives.

Though Cyrus' music is associated primarily at a teenage audience, an older crowd is noticing the young artist's flair.

Her concert tonight at the Bryce Jordan Center will prove just that when she brings her "party" to Penn State.

Bernie Punt, director of sales and marketing for the Bryce Jordan Center, said the gig has definite crossover appeal with college students. Some students are right around the same age as Cyrus, Punt said, and those older could relate to her teenage accessibility as well.

Christine Hardos (sophomore-geography) is excited to attend and thinks music as straightforward as Cyrus' works to the pop star's advantage.

"She's a teenager, and like anyone else, makes music people can relate to," Hardos said. "Some people think it's weird, but I don't see a problem with it. Her music is really good — it's upbeat and makes you want to dance."

As Cyrus has grown over the years, so has her music and image. In stripping

away her Hannah Montana persona in favor of Miley Cyrus, Hardos said, she has become even more relatable to an even wider audience.

Stephanie Viggiano (junior-German) is another student attending the concert. Though she's more into indie rock and electronic, she still likes the broad appeal of pop music like Miley Cyrus'.

"I haven't been to a pop concert since I was 13 and saw Britney Spears, so I want to kind of relive my childhood," Viggiano said. "To me, that kind of music reflects a background of having a good time. It helps us remember the good old days when we were younger and watched 'Hey Arnold.'"

Viggiano said she knows many other students who play Miley Cyrus songs at parties, especially "Party in the U.S.A." She is interested in what kind of a show the singer puts on and how she is currently trying to brand herself.

Cyrus is still young but is starting to make the change from teen idol to serious performer, Viggiano said. Though the performer has run into a degree of controversy with some of her more provocative actions, Viggiano said it's a natural outgrowth of a performer trying to reach out to as wide an audience as possible.

"She's 16 and in the spotlight and had to mature faster, so I can empathize for her as a musician trying to come into her own," Viggiano said. "There's always a business aspect no matter

what kind of music you make, and musicians try to engage as many people as possible to sell records."

Cyrus' dual personalities probably contribute somewhat to these reactions, Viggiano said. Having two audiences and saying different things to both makes it difficult to separate, she said.

"I think she's starting to mirror these other artists that came through Disney and matured into sex symbols, like Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake," Viggiano said. "She's trying to explore her older age range, but she still has a lot of the younger Hannah Montana fans, so maybe she should hold onto that a little longer."

Much like other Disney artists before her, Cyrus' tour is selling extremely well.

Cyrus is part of a new wave of teen superstars that was around when students were about 10 years old, Punt said.

'N Sync, O-Town, Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys all performed at the BJC, and they all sold out the venue, he said, including two consecutive nights by the Backstreet Boys.

"When 'N Sync came, we had to, for the first time, turn down a long line of people who couldn't get in, which wasn't an easy thing to do," Punt said. "We could have easily had a second night."

Though students are definitely a part of the ticket-buying masses, Punt said fans are coming from many far-away

places. People bought tickets from neighboring states as far as Quebec, he said.

Metro Station, with her older brother Tracey, is performing the concert at the Metro Station in California to tour with her.

Though Metro Station has worked with bands like Fall Out Boy and Blake Healy said she's a bit different from what she's used to.

"At first, I didn't know what to expect," Healy said. "It's a different experience. When I watch her perform, only 16 — she definitely fits into it."

Healy said the biggest Metro Station draw is the group, he thinks.

Seeing young children at shows is not unusual at Metro Station, Healy said. "It's a great opportunity to perform in front of a great audience."

"It's not weird because she makes a lot of records really great," Healy said. "I have a lot of music she makes a lot of."

Metro Station, like Healy, is still young, so Healy can empathize. While Healy

