World Dance, Do'ah, Global Pacific Records (c/o Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019]. New Hampshire's Do'ah (formerly Do'a World Music Ensemble) finally has made it to where so few area artists do: a major label willing to give them a decent promotional push. It's worth noting that there's an element of luck involved in the guise of timing. Radio stations across the country now are willing to program the mostly instrumental, multicultural music that Do'ah has been playing for a decade and a half. But hey, you don't do anything as financially and egotistically risky as professional musicianship for 15 years without talent to back it up.

Founders Randy Armstrong and Ken LaRoche have composed half a dozen songs (actually three, with the fourth being a suite containing three movements) that again utilize the incredible array of instruments they've mastered. And though the polish demanded by a major label obscures them somewhat (as on "Wayo," the song getting the most airplay), you'll hear a number of African percussive instruments on "Night Season," wind instruments from an ocarina to a bansri flute on "Moth-Like Lovers of the Light" and literally dozens of others throughout "One World Symphony."

Marty Quinn (percussion) and Volker Nahrmann (bass) provide an appropriately shifting yet reliable rhythm section for Armstrong and LaRoche's wide-ranging melodic excursions, but the excellent saxophonist Charlie Jennison is too often lost in the big mix. Regardless, Do'ah can safely throw World Dance up against anyone else in the genre and come out favorably compared, and maybe even better.

FACE

10 Beach Street Portland, Maine 04101 (207) 774-9703







