Older, wiser New Edition returns

SIATY WHITE Singers Bobby Brown, Michael Bivins, Ricky Bell, Ronnie DeVoc, Ralph Tresvant and Johnny Gill are no longer the pre-pubescent boys they were when New Edition topped the charts in the mid-1890s. And that sort of posed a prob-lem for the newly reformed group who range in age from 28 to 30. When puberty came, the falsetto voices went.

group who rungs' in age troit as 30. When puberty came, the folsetto voices were been as the keys of the song. We definitely had to," said Ronnie DeVoe calling from his cellular phone on his way to his favorite seafood restaurant in Boston.

"As a matter of fact the other day we were working on a little medley of some of the old ballids like 'Lost in Love' and 'Jealous Girl' and Ralph was in there changing the keys to something lower."

After nearly a decade since their last album, New Edition has come full circle with the release of the band's new album 'Home Again' (MICA), which has

TWISTED!"

OUTRAGEOUS!"

charted high on Billboard's Top
R&B and Top 200 albums. The
smooth R&B album - produced
by a slew of knob-turners including Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis,
and Sean "Puffy" Combs includes the singles "Fighten It
Up," "Im Still in Love With
You'You Don't Have to Worry,"
and "Hit Me Off."

De Voc called "Home Again"
New Edition's best effort yet.

"It's our best album, no gentle ston about it. I think it reflects
the growth that we've all gone
through both as peoplo and
recording artists. The songs are
more who we actually are. I still
listen to the album when I'm
driving around town. I'm not
tired of it yet."

Tracks colobrating New
Edition's return - "Oh, Yeah, It
Feels So Good" and "Home
Again" - act like bookends for
the album.

It's not exactly home but New
Edition will return to the area to
play The Palace of Auburn Hills
at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, as
part of its reunion tour. Keith
Sweat, 702, and Blackstree featuring Teddy Riley are also on

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the bill. DeVoe promises an "incredible"

the bill.
DeVoe promises an "incredible" show.
"It's going to be like the greatest show on Earth," DeVoe said.
"We're gong a give them a little bit of everything. We'll do songs from our sole careers. We'll take them back through the history of New Edition and do some of the stuff off the new album."

The teeny-bop pop group was formed in 1981 in Boston, Mass., by singers Brown, Bivins, Bell.
DeVoe and Treavant, all junior high school classmates in Boston's Roxbury district. While performing in a talent show, New Edition was discovered by impresario Maurice Starr.
The group signed to Streetwise records and scored top ten R&B singles in 1983 with "Candy Girl" and "Is This the End.
Later that year, New Edition severed ties with Starr and signed to MCA. It's self-titled,

major-label debut album reached No. 6 on the charts and spawned more hits.

New Edition's success continued in 1985-1986. Brown wasn't happy with the group and left in 1986 to pursue a solo project. Washington, D.C., native Johnny Gill, who sang on the 1988 hit 'If It Isn't Love,' was recruited to replace Brown. Gill and Tresvant eventually went solo as well. In 1988, the remaining members formed the hip-hop trio Bell Biv DeVoe.

The plans were always to make another New Edition album, according to DeVoe. It was just a matter of timing.

So, now that New Edition's album is doing well, will the group record a follow-up?

"Most definitely." DeVoe said. "That would be like Michael Jordan winning the championship and not signing again for \$30 million."







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