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# FINITES I

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Phone: Call (615) 782-3456

Internet: Visit our Web site at www.country.com

In-Store: Look for the display at your local participating Yamaha retailer

Deadline for entries - August 31, 1998

Eee required per entry. Void In VT, AR, MD and where prchibited.



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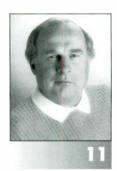
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Artist Name: Trisha Yearwood

Label: MCA

Current Single: "There Goes My Baby"
Current Album: Where Your Road Leads
Current Video: "There Goes My Baby"

Current Producers: Tony Brown/Trisha Yearwood

Hometown: Monticello, GA Management: Kragen & Co.

Booking: CAA Publicity: FORCE

Hits: "Perfect Love," "In Another's Eyes," "How Do I Live"

Awards: 1998 ACM Top Female Vocalist, R&R Readers Poll Best

Female Vocalist, CRS Female Vocalist; 1997 CMA, Nashville Music

Awards, British Country Music Awards and CMT Europe Female

Vocalist of the Year; 1997 Grammy, Best Country Vocal

Collaboration ("In Another's Eyes" w/Garth Brooks) and Best

Female Country Performance ("How Do I Live"); 1994 Grammy, Best Country Vocal Collaboration ("I Fall To Pieces" w/Aaron Neville); 1991 American Music Awards, Billboard, R&R, Pollstar, Performance Readers Poll, ACM and Music Row Best New Country Artist.

RIAA Certifications: Double Platinum: Trisha Yearwood, Songbook (A Collection of Hits); Platinum: Hearts In Armor, The Song Remembers When, Thinkin' About You; Gold: Everybody Knows Special TV Appearances: VH-1, Hard Rock Live, RuPaul Show,

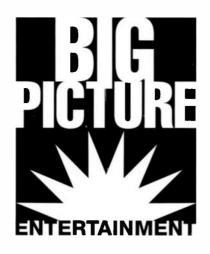
Jag, Ellen

Birthdate: September 19 Birthplace: Monticello, GA

Interesting Facts: Married to Mavericks bassist Robert Reynolds; recently sang with Luciano Pavarotti in Italy.

Musical Influences: Linda Ronstadt, Patsy Cline, Elvis







#### MEMO TO:

Keith Stegall & Dan Hill

RE:

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FROM:

Big Picture Entertainment

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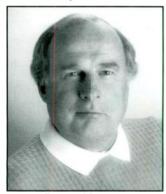
P.G. Special thanks to Mark Wills, Carson Chamberlain, Luke Lewis and all our friends at Radio and Mercury Nashville.

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#### Mounting Competition

"I'd like to recommend that they call it PUNI," smiles WEA Chairman/CEO David Mount with a friendly grin. Of course he's talking about the new entity which will result from the



DAVID MOUNT

merging of the Universal and PolyGram distributions arms. WEA has been No. 1 in overall distribution for all but one of the last 27 years, but Mount admits that if the new merger took place today it would likely place WEA a few points behind in market share. "We'll just have to sell some more records and break a few more acts," he asserts, sounding every bit the corporate warrior. "Six companies are very com-

petitive in terms of getting retail floor space so five won't make it any less competitive. Where the competition may lessen is in the artist signing area. A few years ago, country music had lots of Gold artists, but now there are a handful of Platinum artists and lots of 100,000 sales artists."

Based in L.A., Mount was visiting Fan Fair and taking meetings with some of the sales managers from the various Nashville-based WEA labels (Warner Bros., Reprise, Giant, Asylum, Atlantic). WEA is a Time Warner company that comprises manufacturing, distribution and packaging operations. "There is real consolidation going on at retail," Mount continues. "It used to be many small dynamic regional retailers. Today decisions are being made further from the consumer. You don't go into the local manager and say, 'We're getting airplay in your market, let's put in five more records.' Now you have to go to the buyer who is responsible for perhaps 1,200 stores, and that is much more difficult. WEA has genre specialists who are marketing experts within their markets. Decisions on how many units to put into the marketplace are collaborative. It is really based upon the story the labels have to tell about the record. Country has a bit of an advantage because a typical product launch begins with one or two singles in advance of the album. So we first get a reaction to that artist in the marketplace."

Mount sees great possibilities for DVD audio, which becomes a reality next year. "The real potential is in cars where lots of people already have six speakers. It doesn't cost much to make a CD player into a DVD player. It could be a nice piece of business down the road. We certainly need something to replace the cassette."

On Mount's wish list would be more recognition for the important role played by the distribution companies. "Sometimes Nashville forgets distribution, because the labels dominate this town so much," Mount chastises. "For example, the CMA Board of Directors has every facet of the business represented *except* distribution. We seem to be forgotten heroes in the chain from the creative writers and artists down to the retail consumer."

—David M. Ross

#### ALBUM SALES: ARE WE BACK?

"I don't know if I'd jump to that conclusion," says Mercury Nashville President Luke Lewis. Celebrating the return of country's heyday may be premature, but SoundScan figures have been looking up of late.



For the week ending May 10, year-to-date country album sales were down six percent, but seven weeks later, sales for the year were *up* six percent. Interestingly, during much of that stretch as many as 22 records were selling better than 10,000 units a week, meaning the

growth can't be pegged to one huge album.

"As long as record labels can function with a batch of records

in that range, it's fine," Lewis says. "What's probably tough on some people is when you don't have a big tonnage record running through your system. It's awfully hard to get enough of the small ones to keep the books balanced."



"I don't want to be totally pessimistic," says Arista Nashville President Tim DuBois, "but I'm not totally optimistic either. We have a lot of records that are very early in their release period, and we've seen how fast albums seem to fade.



"[Country music is] getting credit for all of Shania's record sales when we're only getting a portion of the airplay," DuBois continues. "I don't know if Garth's box set sales are an indication of market health or attributable to Garth

being such a superstar and the set being an exceptional value." Additionally, the top album during four of those weeks was *Hope Floats*, a Capitol L.A. project also partially driven by non-country airplay.

"I don't think we're out of the woods yet," DuBois cautions. "As an industry we're making great music and I'm excited from that standpoint, but the challenges that face us concern our ability to develop a new generation of superstars."

Lewis agrees. "If we're missing anything it's new superstars who could punch these numbers through the roof. Quickly."

—Chuck Aly

#### THE BUZZ

#### DOG DAYS EDITION

Though a bit like living on the surface of the sun, Nashville in mid-summer is comfortable in many ways. Sales are up, cicadas are gone and the music is good.



Rate War—Studios do battle, but look at the upside—clients sure aren't complaining.



**Bicycling**—*Music Row* honcho takes one for the team. Road rash—the new fashion statement.



**The Ranch**—Recipients of New Faces' sole ovation split as brilliant album dies of neglect, unheard & under-appreciated. Moment of silence, please...



Song Holds—Intrinsically dependent upon integrity, but do enough in this business possess that commodity to keep the practice viable?



CMA Balloting—Let the promo mailings begin!

# Congratulations

Department of Recording Industry 1997-98 Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients



1997-98 winners: Pete Fisher, Rob Dalton, and Randy Himes (not pictured - Gene Radzik)

1996-97 Recipients: Jim Scherer, Gary Overton, Will Beasley, Daniel Pfeifer

1995-96 Recipients: Mike Milom, Martha Sharp, Jim Zumpano, Geoff Hull

Outstanding people from a superior program

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DY CHARLENE BLEVINS

#### TBA Buys Titley/Spalding, Cybersquatter Suit Settled

#### NEWS

titley/spalding acquired—TBA Entertainment, the parent company of Avalon Entertainment Group has purchased the management firm of Titley/Spalding & Associates, and will combine the artist management operations of the two companies. Titley/Spalding, currently represents Kathy Mattea, Brooks & Dunn and Chely Wright, and plans to expand operations through management associations and acquisitions, and will continue to operate from their offices at 900 Division Street.





BOB TITLEY

CLARENCE SPALDING

ROUNDER WIDER-Rounder Records, one of the bedrocks of the independent label community for 28 years, has signed a production and distribution deal with Mercury Records that will allow about 1,000 of Rounder's 2,500 titles to be released through Mercury and its major distributor, PolyGram Group Distribution (PGD). The portion of the catalog that will go through Mercury and PGD accounts for about 90% or \$21.5 million of Rounder's \$24 million in volume last year, according to a Billboard estimate. The remainder of the Rounder catalog will likely retain the label's current distributions deals-with DNA and Bayside—although negotiations were still under way at press time.

COUNTRY ARTISTS WIN SUIT-On June 29, a Los Angeles federal judge ruled in favor of 27 country artists in the McGraw vs. Salmon internet domain name case. The artists had sued Los Angeles businessman Jim Salmon for linking Internet domains based on their names to a pornography site, and "buying"—through registration the rights to the artists names on the Internet. The artists, including Tim McGraw, Trisha Yearwood, Randy Travis and Lee Roy Parnell, have said they won't seek damages from Salmon but will try to recover attorney's fees. The rights names www.randytravis.com revert to the artists.

McFadden died on June 16 following a long illness. McFadden's management clients included Buck Owens, Keith Whitley, Lorrie Morgan and Billy Ray Cyrus. McFadden, who was 71, is survived by his wife Jo, two sons and two daughters.

CMT UNFOLDING—CMT is expanding its programming with a two-hour Video Bio

series, featuring videos from a single artist intercut with footage of the artist talking about the videos. *Video Bio* debuts 1pm EDT on August 8 with **Shania Twain**. Another new program *CMT Hit Trip*, is an hour-long music video series that will



PAUL HASTABA

be shot on location from different US cities. According to CMT VP/GM Paul Hastaba, the series will feature new and established acts that appeal to teenagers. The CBS-owned video channel will also debut an as-

yet-unnamed live series in November, modeled after their April live music special that featured **Faith Hill**.

UNIVERSAL APPOINTMENT—Jorgen Larsen has been named Chairman and CEO of Universal Music International, effective upon the completion of Universal's acquisition of PolyGram N.V. Larsen will be responsible for overseeing the combined Universal and PolyGram International record operations. The appointment was announced by Universal Music Group Chairman and CEO

Doug Morris.

GRAMMYS GO WEST—The 41st Annual Grammy Awards will move back to Los Angeles after two years in New York City. The 1999 show is scheduled for the Shrine Auditorium on Wednesday, February 24. At the announcement in mid June, the Recording Academy presented a check for \$2 million to the NARAS Foundation. This annual donation is the largest ever and comes from the proceeds of the 1997 Grammy Nominee CD.

#### HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED-

The CMA's 1998 inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame will be George Morgan, Elvis Presley, Tammy Wynette and E. W. "Bud" Wendell. The formal induction will take place during the 32nd Annual CMA Awards on September 23.

songwriters hall of FAME—Fifteen songwriters have been nominated for induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. One winner in each of three categories will be announced at a dinner and induction ceremony scheduled for September 20 at Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel. Nominated in the pre-1968 category are Tommy Collins ("If You Ain't Lovin', You Ain't Livin'"); Wayne Kemp ("The Fireman"); Merle Kilgore ("Ring Of Fire"); A. L. "Doodle" Owens ("All I Have To Offer You Is Me"); and Glenn Sutton ("Almost Persuaded").

Nominees in the 1968-78 category are Paul Craft (Brother Jukebox"); Randy Goodrum ("You Needed Me"); Larry Henley ("Wind Beneath My Wings"); Layng Martine, Jr. ("The Greatest Man I Never Knew"); and Kent Robbins ("Love Is Alive").

Nominees in the songwriter/artist category are Mac Davis, Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs, Freddie Hart, Jerry Reed, and the late Eddie Rabbitt.

[continued on page 66]



OPERA MEETS OPRY—The Nashville Opera Association and Guild presented its inaugural Opera Honors Awards recognizing outstanding contributions to music education and leadership. Award recipients were L-R: Ed Benson, Esecutive Director of the Country Music Association; Bill Ivey, former Director of the Country Music Foundation and current head of the National Endowment for the Arts; and Kenneth Schermerhorn, Music Director and Conductor of the Nashville Symphony. *Photo: James Trigg* 

## Bobby Kowl... Works The Room

### **BOBBY KARL'S** FAN FAIR **DIARY**

Two cheese pizzas, one Polish sausage, 13 liters of bottled water, a half-dozen Diet Cokes, a Curb omelet, a Capitol bagel, three Press Room buffets and a couple of six packs of beer later and Fan Fair is a fond, hazy memory.

I mentioned the kick-off IFCO, Step One and Intersound shows (6/14-15) in Chapter 105. We resume our saga at the Rounder Fan Fair show (6/15), which featured Riders In the Sky, Heather Myles and The Woodys, all lovable. Backstage, Wylie (of the Wild West), David Skepner, Joan Saltel and Tony Lee grinned for Beth Gwinn's camera. Fan Fair's first Aussie/Canadian showcase was next (6/15). Gina Jeffreys (who was everywhere during the week) and Duane Steele were the highlights. Sweet Linda Davis was presented with her new recording contract onstage at the DreamWorks show (6/15), which was headlined by Randy Travis. As usual, Monday night was the annual duel between the Bluegrass Show at the Fairgrounds and the TNN/Music City News extravaganza, this year debuting at the Arena to mixed reviews.

Getting a Leg Up-BR5-49 member Chuck Mead works up the Fan Fair crowd during the star-studded Arista Records show. Photo: Tony Phipps

Tuesday (6/16) dawned bright and (too) early. We headed for the Curb show and immediately met backstage Tony Marty, the songwriter behind "Commitment" and Jeff Carson's excellent new "Shine On." Dan Wojcik was backstage beaming the Fan Fair cybercast, which got 700,000 visits a day and hits from 55 countries. Those working the Curb tent got the week's greatest breakfast-omelets, sausage biscuits, coffee and danishes-thank vou, Mike!

has formed his own indie song plugging/publishing firm, that

Curb/Universal is folding and that Jim Halsey is getting his own Curb imprint for The Clark Family of Virginia, whom Sherman Halsey discovered while watching public-access TV. Show headliner Tim McGraw will produce.

Jo Dee Messina kicked things off splendidly. In between performers, Curb's baby acts tossed frisbees to the crowd, which was cute. Despite his diagnosis with a rare spinal disease and consequent inablity to play guitar, Hal Ketchum sang splendidly. LeAnn Rimes was mechanical—I just don't think this girl is having any fun with this music thang. Sawyer Brown is still dancin' and Tim glowed with energy and warmth.

The gimmick at the Mercury show (6/16) was having NFL and Oilers personalities on stage. I don't think most of the crowd knew or cared who coach Jeff Fisher was, but I did get to bond with Chris Sanders backstage. Phil Sweetland was taking in his first Fan Fair, as was Seagram's rep Chuck Baeder (checking out the new property?). Bruce Feiler said he's received an offer to

> ghost a novel for Donald Trump. "Ask for a lot of money," I sagely advised.

> On stage, Sammy Kershaw kicked butt. Rocking Eric Heatherly made his Fan Fair debut. But I think Mark Wills emerged as the label's Secret Weapon, Sadly and ironically, while Billy Ray Cyrus was performing, Jack McFadden lay dying at home of liver disease.

I headed for the booths on their opening day (6/16) to see who



We learned that Steve Pope Hat Acts—Terri Clark gives correspondant Lisa Stewart a hat tip while the TNN cameras roll at Clark's Fan Fair booth. Photo: Rusty Russell

the Early Bird autographers were. Mindy McCready, Vern Gosdin, Kippi Brannen, David Lee Murphy, Tim and Faith, Jack Greene, Ronnie McDowell, Jimmy Kish "The Flying Cowboy," Tracy Byrd, Ricky Skaggs, yodeling Marty Merchant, Gary Allan and Joe Diffie were among the first spotted. Vince Gill stayed all day long, at one point ordering dozens of doughnuts for the folks waiting in his long CMT line. Ms. Rimes worked like a dog all week.

Fan Fair also has gobs of industry schmoozathons. At Masterfonics (6/16) we were treated to a listening party for the newie by Sara Evans. Produced by Norro Wilson and Buddy Cannon, it is simply a gem of a CD. Just ask attendees Phyllis Stark, Hazel Smith, Neil Pond, Kip Krones. Covote Calhoun, Mansfield or Brenner Van Meter.

Onward to the excellent Castle Door facility, where we were blown away by live performances by Billy Dean, David Gates and a string section (6/16). Ken Kragen, Ron Baird, John Huie and David Ross cheered. Pat Quigley said that Everything I Own, the Bread hit written for Gates's late father, choked him up because he'd lost his own father this year. Dean got a standing ovation at this classy event.

There were also showcases by The Thompson Brothers at The Exit/In (6/16), by Asylum newcomers at The Church (6/17), by various acts at Tower Records, by South 65 at 12th & Porter (6/18), by black country acts at Caffe Milano (6/19) and by Rhonda Vincent at The Station Inn (6/19), plus the all-star CountryFest at The Arena (6/20).

The Luke Lewis house party (6/16) is always a Fan Fair highlight. In addition to scrumptious food, you get to schmooze with Jack Hurst, Terri Clark, Tom T. Hall,



Girl Power—Sony Music Nashville President Allen Butler gathers a bevy of blondes backstage with, from left, Heather Kinley, Dixie Chick Martie Seidel, Jennifer Kinley and Dixie Chicks Natalie Maines and Emily Erwin. Getting in for his own squeeze is Sony sales VP Dale Libby. *Photo: Ed Rode* 

Roger Sovine, Tom Collins, Dick Frank, Woody Bowles, Ben Payne, Mark Wills, Gillie Crowder, Tony Conway, Rod Essig, Kim Richey, Dwight Wiles, Lon Helton, Dan Hill and so many more.

Fortified, we returned to the Fairgrounds for the MCA/Decca show (6/16). New signee Dolly Parton made a surprise appearance to sing with Lee Ann Womack. Charisma rippled all over the place. Host Vince sang with Chely Wright. Mark Chesnutt had a wrestler named Mr. Perfect in tow. Newcomer Shane Stockton did quite well. The Mavericks were delightful with a rocking horn section. Olivia Newton-John closed with "Physical" and her other pop hits, with an assist from Vince doing Travolta's part on "You're the One That I Want." Backstage, Kevin Montgomery told me he's co-producing a Triple-A gal named Anna Wilson with Matt Rollings.

Mind you, this is still Tuesday (6/16) and we're not done yet. On a whim **Bob** Merlis, Davin Seay, Jim Bessman and I decided to catch the midnight showcase by Trini Triggs at Graham Central Station. Trini does everything by the cowboy-hunk book, but there's no denying the talent. I've been saying for years that all we need is a handsome bronze hat act to break another African-American country star. I think Triggs is that man.

Stamina is essential for Fan Fair. I made the Capitol show Wednesday morning (6/17) in time to see **Trace Adkins** get his Platinum record and **John Berry** get pelted with biscuits from fans when he sang "Better Than A Biscuit." The folks in front of me in the grandstands started to get up and leave to get in the lunch line during **Steve Wariner**'s set. "I don't think you want to do that," I said. "You'll miss **Garth Brooks**'s surprise

appearance." When GB walked out unannounced and worked the crowd into a lather, I was a hero to those fans. "How did you know?" they asked. "I just do," I replied. Backstage, Pat Casey Daley told me she has matried fellow *Tennessean* photographer Bill Steber. That's almost too much talent for one household.

Who was working the press room? Well, I found T. Graham Brown, BR5-49, Eddy Raven, happy new Lyric Street signee Aaron Tippin, Keith Harling, Kacey Jones, Royal Wade Kimes, Chris Cummings, Jo-El

Sonnier and Charley Pride schmoozing Danny Proctor, Barry McCloud, Shannon, Jim Dandy, Chris Blizzard and Mark Edwards during my first pass through (6/17).

Back at the grandstands Warner/Reprise/Giant strutted their stuff (6/17). George Jones made a surprise appearance to introduce Connie Smith. Legendary Bill Anderson did the same for The Lynns and also performed, telling the crowd he's cowritten with Hal, Lee Ann and Wariner for his upcoming WB CD. Daryle Singletary warmed up Too Much Fun with James Brown's I Feel Good. Michael Peterson connected powerfully and Faith Hill was divine, but the poor Wilkinsons were an acoustic audio trainwreck.

That afternoon, **Ed Benson** reported that a survey of Fan Fair attendees indicated that they do not want to go back inside, to the Arena or to anywhere else. Come rain or shine, they want to stay outside. Maybe the state will build us a nicer Fairgrounds.

Backstage that eve at RCA (6/17), **Ken Levitan** said he's reopened his management

company and signed **The Warren Brothers.** The industry rumor *du jour* was that RCA's BMG parent might buy EMI. I went out front to watch the show with **Tim Menzy**.

Restless Heart still sounds so flawless. Jason Sellers still deserves to be a star. Lonestar and Mindy lit up the stage. Martina McBride closed with a set that said, "Female Vocalist of the Year" clearly. RCA also introduced a guy named Andy Griggs, arguably the finest of the new talents of Fan Fair '98.

Perhaps the loudest ovation of the week went to **Neal McCoy** during his performance of *The Shake* on Thursday at the Atlantic/Asylum show (6/18). **Mark Nesler, Lila McCann** and **Bryan White** were other highlights. **Kevin Sharp** cancelled due to hip surgery.

I returned to the booths to learn the contest winners. IFCO honored out Singletary's black-on-black design, the Sons of the Desert garage sale, Chesnutt's honky-tonk, Byrd's country cabin, Martina's daisy garden and Wade Richardson's Harley theme. among others. Some of the ones I also liked were The Hager Twins' Hee Haw country store (which they manned full-time), the Vegas showgirls in the Oaks' booth, Kershaw's green gold purple Mardi Gras, Faith's big flowers a la the This Kiss video. the first Fan Fair booth by the Black Country Music Association, Chelv's "Shut Up and Drive" with a VW front end for taking snapshots through the windshield. Alabama's "Angels Among Us," with appropriately costumed booth workers, the Dixie Chicks '60s crash pad and the Mattea booth with fan folk art of her.

Terri Clark had a good one, too, a welcome-to-Nashville for professional ice hockey and the Predators. Hey, it's a big sport in Canada. While she was signing an aide asked, "Are you hungry?" She replied, "Well if I am they must be too," and ordered boxes of pizza for her autrograph line.



Autograph Line—Lyric Street Records execs head for the Fairgrounds to get Aaron Tippin's autograph...on a new recording contract. From left are manager Billy Craven, Tippin, Lyric Street President Randy Goodman, A&R VP Doug Howard and promotion VP Carson Schreiber. *Photo: Glen Rose* 



Five-Alarm Blaze—Garth Brooks and Steve Wariner team up on "Burnin' the Roadhouse Down" on the Capitol Records stage. Brooks, Dolly Parton and George Jones were among those delighting fans with surprise appearances on stage during the festival. *Photo: Alan L. Mayor* 

Kenny Chesney's and Tracy Lawrence's booths were opposite one another and the two have an ongoing pranks relationship. Kenny hung a big sign in Tracy's booth that read "Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Fan Club." When Tracy got there he jumped up angrily on his booth and ripped it down. "You're gonna get yours, Chesney," he snarled, pointing down at the culprit. "Wanna step outside?" snecred Kenny back, sticking out his chest to show that he was wearing a Tracy Lawrence t-shirt that read, "President of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader Fan Club." I think Tracy was steamed, but what could he do with all those fans around?

The Fan Fair temperature always reaches its zenith Thursday afternoon, which is why **Tim DuBois** calls Arista's show "the hottest of the week." He's in the lucky position of having two superstar acts who want to per-

form every year, Alan Jackson plus Brooks & Dunn. In order to make room for his baby acts he has asked them to alternate. This year (6/18) it was Alan's turn. Love that Fan Fair commitment.

Pam Tillis opened with a sprightly set, including "your basic nana song," "I Said A Praver." The crowd caught on and sang along after she coached them with such other "na-na" hits as "Land of a Thousand Dances" and "Na Na Hev Hev Kiss Him Goodbye." Pam also did the best Fan Fair press presentation, a behind-the-scenes tour Good Morning America (6/17) that featured cameos by Garth.

Dolly and Lorrie Morgan (autographing in her booth). True to his word, DuBois showcased babys Brad Paisley, Clint Daniels and Shannon Brown before bringing on Alan.

The Sony show that night (6/18) boasted the fullest grandstand of the week. Cigarsmoking, watergun wielding host **Gary Chapman** poo-pooed his notes saying, "I love these little cards they give me telling me about these artists; I already know them all." Two years ago he'd barely heard of the format and now he's an expert?

Patty Loveless turned in one of the week's most clearly "country" performances. Rick Trevino tossed his cowboy hat to the crowd. Ty Herndon's slithering treatment of "You Can Leave Your Hat On" was easily the most overtly sexual number of the week. "Are y'all ready to get nekkid?" inquired Ricochet's Heath Wright. Now there's a heat solution for future Fan Fairs to consid-

er. As it was, we had several faintings, despite the increasing youth of the crowd.

Headliner Collin Raye's odd set list featured his two most recent singles, "Honky Tonk Heroes" with Joe Diffie, Perry Como's "And I Love You So" and Grand Funk Railroad's "The Locomotion." The Dixie Chicks stole the show. The night before they'd wept on TNN when presented with a Gold Record. The only new act of '98 with two top-10 hits wowed the Sony crowd with musicianship, wit, vocals and showmanship. Stogie smokin' Paul Worley backed 'em on guitar. Lead singer Natalie Maines had the audience stare at the drummer's op-art psychedelic "trance" shirt. "Repeat after me," she intoned; "I love the Dixie Chicks. This is my favorite song. Don't the Dixie Chicks look good tonight? Don't they look thin?" It was hilarious.

Fan Fair's closing Legends show was Friday (6/19). The delightfully wry Bobby Bare announced his new Bear Trap store across from Planet Hollywood and talked about his upcoming *Old Dogs* CD with Waylon, Tillis and Jerry Reed. Host Charlie Daniels jammed with Doug Kershaw. Lynn Anderson used the Opry's Carol Lee Singers. John Conlee, Johnny Paycheck and the rest of the bill sang to a sparse crowd. Some people don't know what good country music is.

Each year, some hardy soul tosses an end-of-Fan-Fair party. This year, Pam Lewis did so at her office (6/19). **Brad Schmitt, John Lomax III, Chuck Howard Jr., Hal Bynum, Kylie Harris** and **Mark Meckel** snacked and reminisced.

Then we all went home and slept for three days.◆



All Access—Posing on the Fan Fair stage steps is Intersound Records general manager George Collier, top center, with artists Becky Hobbs, Lynn Anderson and Howard Bellamy at bottom; David Bellamy, Billy Joe Royal and Jo-El Sonnier on the middle row and T. Graham Brown, top left, and Tim Briggs, top right.

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"You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." —Bob Dylan

#### by David M. Ross

t's so much easier to be deeply creative with hard disk (HDR) recording than it is with tape," attests musician engineer/producer/arranger Carl Marsh. "Once you get into using a system on that level it is frustrating to go back. With tape, you feel moments when your creativity is being boxed in, whereas on an HD recorder you can catch them. There is a certain mentality about tape... Those who haven't worked with HD systems aren't privy to how really locked in they are in their thinking."

"I don't see any reason for new products that use tape," agrees Georgetown Masters' Denny Purcell. "Tape is the weak link for digital products."

"In five years," predicts producer Michael Clute, "I don't believe there will be tape machines other than analog. There's no point in it. It is absolutely insane to spend a quarter of a million dollars for 48 or 32 tracks."



MAKE CLUTE



TED BAHAS



ERIC SILVER

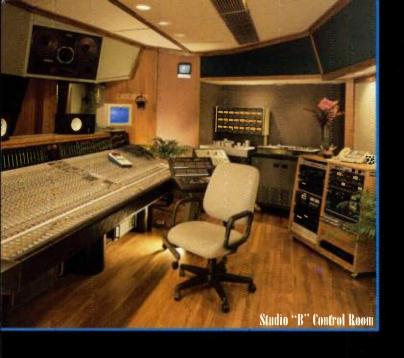


DENNY PURCELL

#### HARD DISKS DON'T REWIND

Hard disk recording systems are not new. Some prominent members of Nashville's audio elite have been using them for more than ten years. But during that time the "boxes" have gotten better, hard disk storage has gotten cheaper and the ability to perform higher quality multitrack recording has become routine. Traditional multi-track tape machines (both analog and digital) store their material by recording it on tape. To return to a certain point in a song, it is necessary to rewind or fast forward the machine in a linear manner. Tape-based systems also have limited options for editing specific tracks. Re-recording and/or "punching in" require skill and are time intensive.

Think of a hard disk recorder as a specially designed computer which stores data on its hard disk. These hard disks provide





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random access to the data stored on them which means there is no rewinding or fast forwarding—the machine goes directly to the location of the required data. Also, as every computer user who has ever cut, copied and pasted a few words with their word processor knows, digital processors thrive on editing.

#### FOUR OUT OF FIVE AIN'T BAD

Today's high end digital hard disk recorder market has five offerings: Otari RADAR, Fairlight, SADiE, Sonic Solutions and ProTools from Digi Design. Music Row invited these companies (at no charge) to submit a 350-400 word essay touting their box and its unique characteristics. (All companies participated except ProTools.) The resulting "FactoryFacts" sidebars (written by the manufacturers) will hopefully delight our more technical readers. This article is not intended to be a "shoot-out" to pick one winning system. Our mission is to find out what these machines have to offer, why they are becoming so popular and to learn a little about how they are fitting into Nashville's recording community.

#### I LOVE 'EM

"When I began using the Fairlight, you

#### FACTORY FACTS

#### SONICSTUDIO DIGITAL WORKSTATION

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■ HDSP™ Plug In Processor: High Density Signal Processing Partners is part of the framework for Sonic's recently announced High Density Audio Architecture. The HDSP is a group of industry-leading third party developers with exclusive alliances with Sonic Solutions to participate in ground breaking technologies for mastering, High Density Audio, and new audio format developments like DVD-Audio and Super Audio CD.

 Quad-patched 56301/80MHz host DSP processor for third party plug-ins. HDSP Members: George Massenburg (GML), Daniel Wiess (Wiess Electonics), Pacific Microsonics, Spatializer, Pow-r Consortium, Genex, Metric Halo Labs, Z-Systems USA.

 High-performance signal processing: 24-bit functionality throughout including mixing desk with 10 types of real-time mastering quality EQs and filters, dynamic and snapshot mix automation, real-time 96kHz<->44.1kHz sample rate conversion, internal digital mixdown, Sony Super Bit Mapping™ and Sonic Turbo Bit Mapping bit reduction algorithms.

 Format flexibility: True 16- to 24-bit resolution with sampling rates up to 192kHz. SonicStudio is the professional choice for High Density Audio formats such as 88.2/96kHz for audio release on DVD. SonicStudio EDLs are directly compatible with Sonic's well known DVD Creator™ and DesktopDVD All-In-One DVD publishing workstations and workgroups.

 Productivity: Multitasking, background recording to hard disk, background dumps to CD-R and DDP, background archive and restore; multiple simultaneous records and playback functions make Sonic the most productive workstation available today

 Workgroup collaboration: High-performance, reserved bandwidth networking.

SonicStudio combines powerful hardware and flexible application software modules which deliver real-time performance at a broad range of price points. Each system is available in an 'all-in-one' turnkey configuration or a la carte in a customizable package to suit your needs.

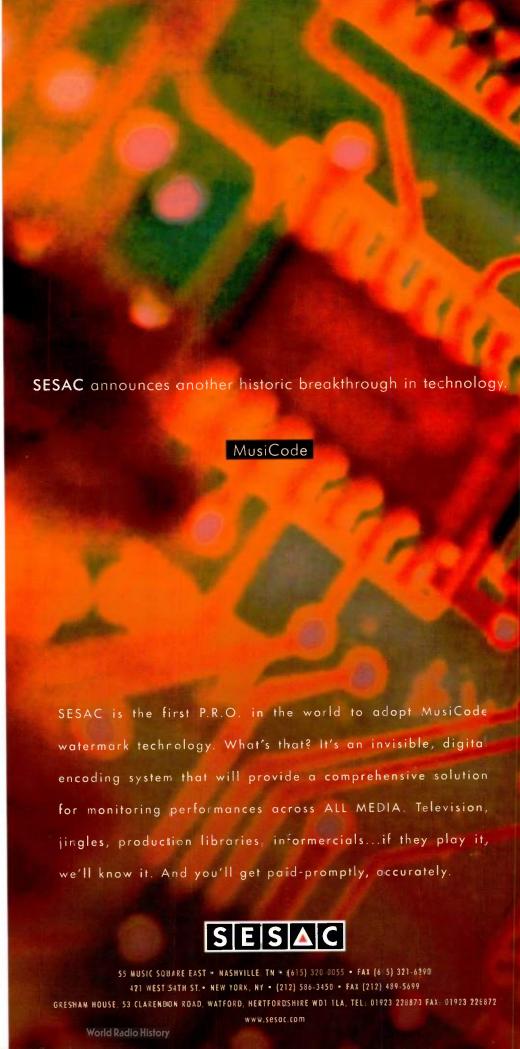




could only record four inputs at a time," says Clute. "I used it for several records to do overdubs and totally fell in love with it. Later, when more inputs became available, I began using it from the beginning of the recording process. You can capture performances and allow the artist to perform more than they can on a linear format because of the ability to combine parts of various takes. It allows more freedom. With tape, performers might feel they need to be a little safer just to make sure their part will work, because fixing something is time consuming. With digital, it's, 'Have fun and use as many takes as you want.' The tool which is more surgical with respect to editing becomes more natural in that it allows you to just play without as many constraints. About five years ago we began using HDR to do albums with Diamond Rio. They are extremely particular and loved the precision this process offered. They saw the benefits immediately. I love the Fairlight because of its speed. There aren't a bunch of windows and it can show waveforms. Everything is on one screen and you are not switching from function to function. It's quick, reasonably intuitive to work with-bulletproof."

Studio C owner and Nashville Association Of Professional Recording Services (NAPRS) President Fred Bogert has been using a hard disk multitrack system for almost a decade. "I relate all this to the visual arts," he says. "I had just stopped recording all together. The process was frustrating to me and for various reasons I didn't like the lack of transparency. When I saw a hard disk recorder and what it could offer, it just grabbed me right to my core as a creative person. I immediately understood what they were trying to do-so for me it has been wonderful. The platform is so intuitive. It doesn't get in the artist's way. They can be who they are and let the muse drive the bus. Imagine if you could go back and give Van Gogh all the digital imaging tools we have today, such as airbrushing, for example. There are pictures that would benefit from that and some that wouldn't-sound recording is the same way. If you take the fanciest set of paintbrushes in the world and put them into the wrong person's hands they are not going to crank out the next Mona Lisa. What I like about HDR is that you have the option to involve the platform in the process or keep it away. There is a great deal of transparency that allows the colors of the recording to be preserved and/or manipulated."

Bogert uses the 16-bit Spectral Audio engine system which is no longer available, but he's not thinking about switching. "It's sort of like the Hammond B3. The company walked away from it and only afterwards



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did enough people realize how special it was. Spectral made a grave error in passing over the benefits of this stuff. I've used all the others and for multitrack recording it's the best there's ever been."

#### THE NO SWEAT EDIT

Musician/producer/EMI writer Eric Silver is a RADAR man. Asked if the added editing power of HDR translated into saved time or if the myriad of possibilities ultimately enticed him to spend more time perfecting projects. He replied, "It depends upon what you are looking for and how insane you want to get on corrections. Maybe after recording harmony singers you find there is a part that wasn't sung as tight as you thought. Having the ability to line up their words a little bit tighter, to physically slide the consonant and make it line up with the other singers is great and a huge time saver. I love the RADAR because its remote control is made to look and feel like an analog tape machine. Operationally, you are just pushing play/record like you always did. The other features are clearly marked. It makes the learning curve much easier-I rarely even read the manual. I have worked with Mutt Lange who is a master at the art of manipulating audio-moving things around and lining them up. He records on digital tape, but then manipulates everything with ProTools. You have to have some kind of insane patience to do it as he does."

Michael Clute compares recording via tape to the process of building a house. "You build a house from a blueprint and try to decide where you want the rooms, hallways and windows. Then you get the wood and build it. Perhaps you walk through after it's done and think, 'It's great, but I wish I had put this bedroom over there or moved a window or something.' Yes, you can tear it out and modify it, but the cost and time are extreme. Using the digital model, you build every room exactly as you want and can arrange and/or re-arrange them into any form with minimal time and effort. So hard disk recording speeds up and makes creative arrangements a snap. It is exciting when you turn someone on to what is available both technically and as an artist. They get excited. It changes their perceptions."

#### **BEST QUEST**

Does the wealth of new possibilities this technology offers violate some kind of purist ideology that increased editing takes



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#### FACTORY FACTS

#### FAIRLIGHT DEBUTS SOFTWARE REVISION 14.3 FOR MFX3plus

CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, June 12, 1998-Reinforcing its commitment to Fairlight MFX3 users worldwide, Fairlight ESP has introduced Revision 14.3 software for MFX3plus systems. The powerful new features of Revision 14.3 provides MFX3<sup>slus</sup> with significant improvements in audio resolution and connectivity while offering enhanced recording and editing functions.

Improving Fairlight's already legendary sonic quality, Revision 14.3 supports wide word audio in 18, 20 and 24bit formats, in any combination within a project. Mixed bit-

width clips (audio segments) can now be freely mixed within a project, allowing the use of existing 16-bit library material with any combination of higher bitrate clips in 18-, 20- or 24-bit formats. What's more, Revision 14.3 also offers seamless, real-time crossfades between clips with differing bit rates.

The Fairlight MFX3olus uses a multiprocessor architecture and a true multitasking, real-time Disk Operating System adapted for the unique needs of digital audio. This advanced DSP engine internally processes audio with 40-bit floating

point precision. As a result, the support of higher bit-rate audio is achieved with no degradation of processing speed.

Wide word audio is implemented on all digital inputs and outputs, each supporting word sizes of 16, 18, 20 or 24 bits. MFX30 analog inputs and outputs currently employ A/D and D/A converters with 18-bit resolution. Users desiring 24-bit A/D and D/A conversion will be able to utilize external third party converters interfaced via the MFX3 AES/EBU digital I/O ports. MFX3 can be configured with up to 24 digital and analog inputs and outputs (in groups of 4 inputs or outputs).

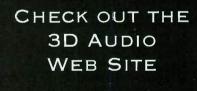
Another significant feature of Revision 14.3 software is the new 'Overwrite Recording' mode of MFX3", providing destructive multichannel recording (up to all 24 channels), with completely seamless drop-in/drop-out capability. The new Overwrite Recording mode will make MFX3phs and FAME ideal for music recording and post production mixing.

Additional editing functions of Revision 14.3 include

'Fade Across Clips' providing fade in/out across a range of clips; 'Solo Follows Edit' solo assignments follow track selection: and enhancement of 'Wave Menu' functions to include precise, preset conversion ratios for commonly used sample rate conversions of 44.1.48 and 48:44.1 kHz, as well as frame rate conversions of 25:24 and 24:25 fps.

The Fairlight MFX3obs is a hard disk-based recording, editing and mixing system capable of up to 24 tracks. The system's controller is designed to allow simple, yet highly accurate and

powerful interface with the MFX3olor' extensive recording, editing and mixing features, as well as full, transparent machine control capability. While the MFX3 has made a name for itself in audio post production applications throughout the world, its potential as a music production platform is equally comprehensive. It has been used as the main recording system for numerous major music releases.



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the "soul" out of the music? "In this age of digital cameras and video you still need an artist behind the technology," says Ted Bahas of Sam's Music. "So yes, you cam make a really polished lousy record with this stuff. The bottom line is that it's a really good hammer—not a replacement for the artistic decision-making process that takes place in a recording."

"You have to go back and examine the 'this is cheating' ideal," postulates Mike Clute. "If it's true, then we shouldn't be using multitracks, and anything beyond recording live to two-track should be considered a crutch. Multitrack recording is a building process versus a single performance. The fact that HDR is a better tool for doing that shouldn't infer any less integrity."

Producer engineer Justin Niebank cautions against overindulging the editing function. "You can spend too much time and kill the musical side of the performance," he warns. "But you can also use it to enhance the performance. It's a great medium. I prefer to cut basic tracks analog and then use HDR for editing, mixing and overdubbing, which allows the greatest momentum and flexibility."

"One of the most controversial editing aspects is the vocal tuning abilities of the ProTools system," says Bahas. Tuning is the digital process which can "fix" wrong notes. "In the last year a new piece of software has arrived called Auto-tune. In the hands of a skilled editor its use is virtually indistinguishable. That may raise some philosophical issues, but I don't see it as a problem; it's a wonderful thing."

"It's unfortunate that performers have so much less pressure to get performances right because they know we can fix pitch and meter after the fact," reflects Silver. "It has created a world where everyone expects perfection, and sometimes what is perceived as imperfection is the beauty of the performance. Anything that shows the human quality is nowadays perceived as wrong. They do minor pitch corrections behind the scenes for even the greatest singers because no one is willing to accept hearing little flaws any more. Twenty years ago we weren't using electric tuners, you just tuned up and the music was good. People go to concerts now with no idea of what they are going to get. They don't know whether the singer is really great or if some of the music they are hearing is from tracks. You don't have the same excitement of knowing that everything is really being done live."

#### LEARNING COSTS AND CURVES

"The average 32-track ProTools system I put together for people is right around \$30,000 by the time you do hard drives and everything," tenders Bahas. "That's cheap compared with digital tape machines (they can range up to \$250,000), which is one reason why the product has become so popular. From a practical standpoint, the benefits of having the random access and processing power these tools offer will eventually relegate tape machines to storage devices. But I don't foresee the demise of linear digital recording devices, at least in the next five years, because there are a lot of people out there who still have a big chunk of a nut to pay off on those machines. The economics has a lot to do with it."

According to Bahas, the new technology has created opportunities for some younger engineers to quickly advance. "If you've never touched a computer before, you can expect a learning curve of a few (intensive) weeks or more. They say in the literature you can walk up to each of the different systems and learn it in an hour or two, but that just isn't the case. Recording schools like Belmont and MTSU are offering HDR training. There are a couple of hot shot operators in town who, if it wasn't for workstations, wouldn't be where they are now."

Dreamhire Manager Barry Sanders confirms that based upon his company's rentals

of the RADAR and ProTools systems, Hard Disk Recording is "definitely not going away. It's exploding as the cost of drives and storage drops." Sanders continues, "As always, it takes time to become fully conversant with new systems. But someone who has been involved with MIDI sequencing or the early HDR systems is ready to continue on. Regardless, the learning curve is becoming less of an issue because so many people have been around computer-based systems. People are using these systems at their house and there is an explosion of mini mastering suites."

Master Mix's Hank Williams pinpoints a prime reason for falling costs. "Hard disk space is getting cheaper and cheaper. An hour of hard disk time on the Audiofile in 1988 was \$15,500. Today the cost has dropped to under \$100." Williams operates four Sonic Solutions rigs and has them networked which means they can all share and exchange data. (Master Mix is moving into a new 6,000 sq. ft., three working-room facility which will include Surround Sound mastering and DVD authoring.)

"I see a lot of advantages to the new multitrack HD systems, plus they are starting to sound really good," offers Sound

#### FACTORY FACTS

#### New Sadie 24.96 Daw Demonstrates 192kHz Editing While Setting Pricing Standard

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 18, 1998—SADIE, Inc., distributors of the renowned SADIE Digital Audio Workstation, has designed the SADIE 24.96 DAW to be capable of 192kHz editing and mixing, full surround sound panning, and can be configured to provide up to 32 inputs and outputs, all at an affordable price.

"Our new 24.96 is an astonishing editor in both ability

and price," says Jeff Giedt, vice president of sales for SADiE U.S. "Users that need new technology features such as 96kHz sample rates or surround capabilities can purchase a new SADiE 24.96 for less than the cost of upgrading their current audio workstation." The SADiE 24.96 DAW is available now worldwide and is shipping in the U.S. for the phenomenal price of \$9,995 including computer.

The SADIE 24.96 is the latest system in the SADIE digital audio workstation range, and is perfect for any audio editing application including film and TV post production, CD/DDP mastering, music editing, radio production, telecine transfer, speech editing, education and multimedia.

Based around the Windows 95/98 PC platform, the SADIE 24.96 cards are controlled by the powerful SADIE software. SADIE continues to offer free software upgrades free to all users. Each SADIE 24.96 PCI card is equipped with 8 inputs and 8 outputs and can replay 24 tracks of edited 16 bit audio. 20 bit AD/DA converters are included with the system as well as AES/EBU digital I/O on every channel.

Standard features for the SADIE 24.96 include: RS 422 machine control; time compression/expansion; PQ editing; AutoConform; 24-bit up to 192kHz sampling rate; Creates and edits industry standard multimedia files; Built-in timecode support; HHB Genex support; and Full surround sound mixing.

Options for the SADiE 24.96 include: UV22 plug in;

Cedar DeNoise plug in; Digital Mastering Limiter plug in; Enhanced CD option; and SADIE Edition Apogee AD 8000 24-bit A/D/A converter with SADIE AMBus card option.

Support for 24-bit 96kHz and 192kHz audio is standard, making every SADiE 24.96 system DVD-ready. The 8 channels of 1/0 make the card perfect for surround sound editing and mixing,

which is supplied as standard in the SADiE software. All internal audio processing utilizes 32-bit floating-point accuracy, ensuring the highest possible sound quality throughout the system.

The SADiE Classic disk editor offers two physical inputs and four physical outputs. Internally, Classic can play and edit 10 streams of 16-bit audio. 20- and 24-bit playback reduces the overall amount of playback streams. "Classic features, such as real-time EQ and dynamics, plus the entire professional mastering implementation for CDR and DDP, make Classic the ideal solution for basic mastering," Giedt says.



## THE SONGPOWER INDEX

predicting new single success

#### THEY'RE LINING UP TO TESTIFY FOR SPI

In a world of projections, reflections and hype, the SPI gives a voice to the folks who consider it part of their job to listen to the music.

---Jay Morgan, WJCL-FM Savannah, GA

It's a useful first look at how the new releases stack up at radio. Because SPI reporters have to hear the records to give a Passion score, it's an additional way for us to get our songs really listened to by radio.

-Larry Hughes, VP of Promotion Mercury Nashville

We were fortunate enough to be put on the panel in the spring and I love it. Many times it's my only communication with the labels, and it's how I know how to gauge the marketplace.

-Bob Waters, WHYL-FM Carlisle, PA

SPI lends a voice to markets large and small, and shows that a one-size-fits-all mentality is self-defeating for country music.

---Mike Hays, WJMA Orange, VA

I already know where the records are added. [SPI] gives me a better understanding of what radio's "initial feel" is for a record. Not being on the front line, this information combined with the programmer comments keeps me better informed. Plus, I get to see Gregg Swedberg's name in print.

---Mike Dungan, Senior VP/GM Arista Records

I read it! I like it! I sleep with it! Honest comments from some pretty cool people, keep it coming.

—Mike Kennedy, KBEQ-FM Kansas City, MO

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predicting new single	SUCCESS TO

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THIS	LAST WEEK	ARTIST/TITLE/LABEL (# of reports)	ADD FACTOR	PASSION
9.33	•	GARTH BROOKS/She's Gonna Make It/Capitol (45)	4.93	4.40
8.51	•	TRISHA YEARWOOD/Perfect Love/MCA (45)	4.44	4.07
7.98	7.14	JO DEE MESSINA/Bye Bye/Curb (40)	4.18	3.80
7.90	•	ALAN JACKSON/House With No Curtains/Arista (43)	4.09	3.81
7.78		TRACE ADKINS/Lonely Won't Leave Me Alone/Capitol (35)	3.89	3.89
7.57		SONS OF THE DESERT/Leaving October/Epic (44)	3.89	3.68
7.19		LONESTAR/Say When/BNA (42)	3.76	3.43
7.19		MARTINA MCBRIDE Valentine/RCA (33)	3.61	3.58
6.89	6.94	JOHN ANDERSON/Takin' The Country Back/Mercury (45)	3.56	3.33
6.64		RHETT AKINS/Better Than It Used To Be/Decca (39)	3.26	3.38
6.17	6.07	PAUL BRANDT/What's Come Over You/Reprise (41)	3.32	2.85
5.95	6.04	JEFF CARSON/Cheatin' On Her Heart/MCG/Curb (40)	3.05	2.90
5.70	•	SHERRIE AUSTIN/Put Your Heart Into It/Arista (34)	2.79	2.91
4.35	•	BILL ENGVALL/It's Hard To Be A Parent/WB (38)	2.11	2.24

ticking off a new year for *The SongPower Index* (SPI)

new readers and a first round of research conhighest score of the week

with new readers and a fresh round of research confirming this sheefs hit-picking powers. For those of you who have just joined us, welcome. If you are searching for information about SPI reethodology, or would like a look a the new research numbers, see page 2. Also, an in-depth explanation of how SPI works and a closer look at the research will appear in the February B issue of Muser Row.

Garth Brooks christens the inaugural chart of '98 with the sixth
9- song in SPI's history. "She's Gonna Make It" leads a chart full

of new songs, with only four cuts returning from the last chart of '97. Tishs Peravood, Alan Desert, Lonestar and Maribound scores, in the returning song of note, to Dee Messin

.Teff

WIVK, KSOP

WMTZ, KTTS

WJCL, WFMB,

KJUG, WNOE

D

securing Highest Gainer status and propelling her to the third highest score of the week.

Our on-going quest to tap the psyche of the nation's radio programmers hit pay dirt this week as SPI received a flood of comments from our panel. The stars get star-ier and the new faces get to wait another week or more for re-consideration," says WBCT's Doug Montgomery as his English teacher rols over in the grave. "Will this be the year of truth for a lot of our starter acts? Are three enough his toongs in Nashville to support newbies

Kevin Mason at WQMX says, "Much of the current product i

#### METHODOLOGY/RESEARCH

The SPI number shows a new single: strength, as perceived by radio programmers, on a 2 to 10 scale. Our panelists rate each song up to five points for Add Factor (5=add), and up to five points for passion. Those scores are combined and averaged to compute the SPI score. The correlation between peak SPI number and ultimate chart success is shown below:

	BILLBOARD SINGLES CHART REACH			
SPI PEAK	Top 40	TOP 20	TOP 10	TOP 5
8.5+	100%	96.6%	89.7%	75.9%
88.4	100%	90.9%	78.8%	60.6%
7.5—7.9	84.2%	52.6%	38.6%	31.6%
7—7.4	38.8%	14.3%	10.2%	6.1%
6.5—6.9	18.6%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%

(Research sample 245 songs through 1/2/98)
9+ SPI songs with their Billboard peak: Tim McGraw, 9.34 "Everywhere" (No. 1);
9.14 "H's Your Love" (No. 1); George Strait, 9.18 "One Night At A Time" (No. 1);
Alan Jackson, 9.00 "Everything I Love" (No. 9).

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Recently completed research underscores the correlation between a song's SPI number and chances for future chart success.



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Emporium's head engineer Dave Sinko, who has only slightly tested the HID waters to date. "There is definitely a learning curve on these machines—they can actually affect the whole technique of how you record. I love analog, but one can still record analog and then dump onto an HDR. One engineer told me you can save an hour a day in rewind time."

#### MISCELLANEOUS EDITS

One of tape's benefits is portability—the ability to cut basic tracks in one room and then carry the tape to another studio. Hard disk recorders are not quite that interchangeable-yet. "Manufacturers such as Fairlight and SADiE and others are trying to get file format compatibility between machines," says Clute. "A universal file format would allow you to play the data on any machine-which is the smart way to go. There are ways around that problem now. but none of them are very elegant. That's really the only downside to hard disk recording: the portability of your music. For now, I just carry my system. The way Nashville works there are tracking rooms and mixing rooms and overdub rooms, and sometimes you need to be able to just drag a tape from studio to studio. There has always been the portability problem. For example, you can't play a 32-track Mitsubishi tape on a 48-track Sony. With universal file formats this whole technology could become more economical and flexible."

"Each system sounds different," insists Denny Purcell. "It is not as simple as, 'It's digital, there is no difference.' You wouldn't think the cards that accept digital information would change the sound, but they do. To me, the object of a recording device for mastering is to reproduce faithfully what you put into it. Put in a gallon of water-get back a gallon of water; use purple water-get purple water. Most all the systems change sound somewhat. The majority of the people that do mastering use Sonic Solutions, that's just a fact of life." Purcell notes that audio standards and his company are headed towards higher sampling rates (resolution) and Surround Sound which are both supported by most of the hard disk recorder systems.

"Sound is getting smaller," Purcell continues. "Imagine that a complete 'page' of sound generated the enthusiasm for the record label to sign an act. By the time the recording process is done and in the hands of the consumer, often a torn off postage stamp is all they get. Once it's shoved down the Internet there is only a little piece of that stamp left and the labels ask why the audience isn't feeling the level of excitement emanated from the original page.

"It will improve, but people are also adjusting to mediocrity. They are doing it in what they look at in pictures and what they accept in audio. I can tell you that if you got to hear a master in my room and then listened to some of the CDs that are out there, you'd wonder what the heck happened."

Eric Silver perhaps sums the feelings of many when he states, "You can't fool yourself into thinking you will make better music because you have a digital machine, but HDR is a better medium for the source, whatever that may be."

"Once you go to these systems and realize their power, it is really tough to turn around," suggests Carl Marsh. "I'm not saying tape will disappear, because it is an excellent storage medium, but more and more engineers will switch to HDR as they learn how it can make their projects better."

"Not unlike any craft you had worked all your life to master, when someone comes out with new tools they may not feel right," empathizes Clute. "So that is part of the evolution. But there are enough people out there, like myself, who are crazy enough to try new things. If I pick up a new tool I might grow and discover new ways to do things—and that excites me."

#### FACTORY FACTS

#### OTARI RADAR II HARD-DISK RECORDER

The RADAR II HDR Series from Otari Corporation is a multitrack hard disk recorder capable of 24-bit operation at 48 kHz sampling rates. Supplied with a single 9-gigabyte removable hard drive, RADAR II provides up to 42 minutes of record/replay capacity—more record time can be achieved by adding extra hard drives. Multiple RADAR II systems can be interlocked together to provide 48-track operation via a single RE-811 full function remote. Optional 48-track metering is also provided. With 24-bit A-to-D and 24-

bit D-to-A converters, RADAR II is the world's first high resolution disc-based recording system.

Sonic Integrity

Everyone agrees that 24-bit operation is the future of digital recording. Overall sonic quality of a 24-bit recorder versus other, lower bit-rate devices is undeniable. The fact that the system is

fully 24-bit—and not 24-bit on disc, but down sampled to produce a 20-bit output, as is the case with many other recorders—makes RADAR II sonically superior.

**Ease of Operation** 

One of the problems studio engineers face today is that technology has become so complex that it often encumbers the creative process, instead of enhancing it. The designers of RADAR II have purposely emulated the traditional multitrack machine, so that recording and playback is dramati-

cally simplified. The RE-811 Remote Controller's standard transport controls, track arming (48 tracks) and dedicated function buttons are designed so that anyone familiar with a traditional multitrack tape machine can quickly learn to operate the system.

Reliability

For decades, Otari has been known throughout the audio production industry as the pre-eminent audio technology com-

pany. Products such as the MTR-Series analog multitrack machines and other tape-based products are well known for their ability to run for years with minimum attention. RADAR II continues this tradition by building on the success of RADAR I software and hardware, which has now been in routine use at hundreds of facilities around the world for over four years.



There are several 24-track hard-disk recorders currently available. However, 48 tracks of non-linear recording have become the new benchmark. Only Otari's RADAR II can meet these criteria. A pair of RADAR II systems can be connected via a single cable and used under the control of a single RE-811 remote. The user can arm, record, edit and playback all 48 channels in perfect phose-locked synchronization.



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# STUDIO SURVEY '98 Let's Make A Deal

#### BY CHUCK ALY

The good news? Nashville seems to be generating and attracting more studio business than ever before. The bad news? Even so, supply almost certainly exceeds demand. The results are in for *Music Row's* annual survey of studio owners and managers. Though admittedly unscientific, the exercise has proven a reliable barometer of the climate for recording facilities.

Forty Music City studios returned survey forms this year

with answers to questions ranging from published rates (up 1%) to overall outlook (generally positive). Due to limited data, this year we have not separated responses for 4-16 track studios in the Studio Business Analysis and Project Analysis (see graphs).

Some of the more interesting results in this year's survey include a 9% jump in master sessions by the larger (32+) rooms, and significant increases in rock/pop and Christian format projects. Consistent with last year's numbers, most business (68%) is generated locally.

There is trouble in Tune Town, however. For the fourth consecutive year, studio business growth has declined, to 13% from 1997's

PROJECT ANALYSIS			
BY STUDIO SIZE	24 TRACK	32+ TRACK	
DEMOS	52%	28%	
MASTERS	36%	65%	
SOUNDTRACKS	1%	1%	
JINGLES	5%	3%	
OTHER	6%	2%	

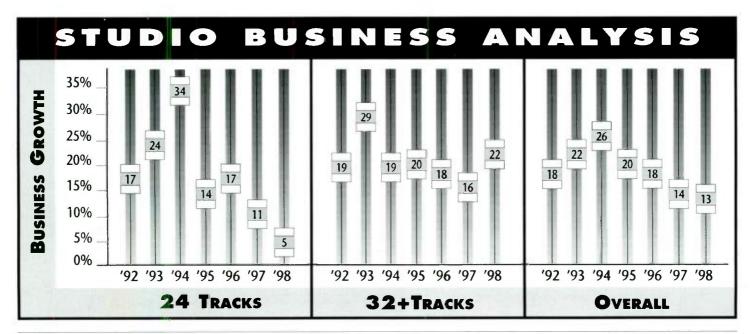
14%. Survey form comments and interviews with studio personnel confirm marketplace concerns including the proliferation of home studios, technology questions and an ongoing rate war.

"I've been doing this 25 years and this is the most fragile time I've ever seen," says Georgetown Masters' Denny Purcell. "I'm not frightened, but I'm aware you have to really watch yourself. I've seen people get into DVD that haven't had a client yet. We're busy, but from my indicators, all genres of

music are down 25-30%."

More competition creates pressure for studios to offer rate discounts. "That's pretty much always existed for studios," says Mike Bradley of Soundshop. "It's not as bad as it has been in the past, but you do get people calling with a fixed budget and they want to be able to include 'hard-line' things they feel are not negotiable, so it always comes down to studios coming off their rates."

"I haven't experienced that," says Jennifer Rose, who manages The Sound Kitchen. "I like to bring people to the studio, show them our rooms and let them know our card rate. Nine times out of ten,



# Year after year... Hit after hit...



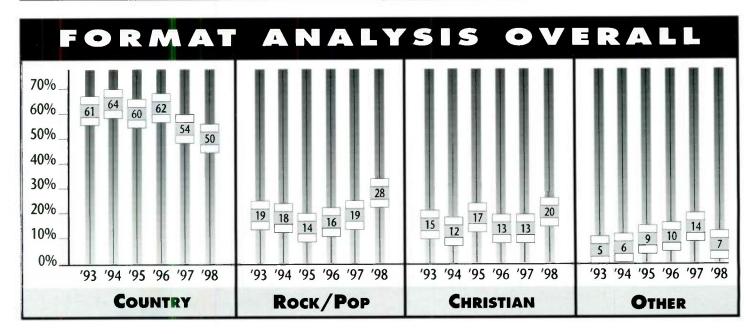
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I'm booking for card rate. It's kind of like the car business. Saturn has been very successful selling their cars for a flat price. I plan to do that with this studio. I don't plan to make concessions or undercut anyone. People will return here because of good quality and support."

Undercutting is going on, however. One indication of trouble in the marketplace was Masterfonics' bankruptcy filing earlier this year. "Reorganization is moving along on schedule," says President Glenn Meadows. "Business is good—stronger than it's been in the last several years. We're getting a lot of first-time users in the Tracking Room—and they're coming back. We're getting a lot of business from other segments of the industry who have taken a step up with mastering. A lot of the gospel and alternative people are seeing the advantages of having

somebody clean and tighten up their stuff."

As to rate cutting, Meadows feels a little honesty is in order. "We keep looking for who the enemy is in the rate wars, but we have nobody to blame but ourselves. Look in the mirror. At the first hint of anybody asking for a deal we are always so eager to bend over. Just say no! How do we get everybody to do that? Studios are the only segment that is getting less money for having to invest more money. If everybody says no, then all the boats rise. But once you cut, the client is going to want that rate next time. Everybody in town talks—we all know what everyone else is charging. We've started down a slippery slope."

Perhaps the most alarming figure in this year's survey is that the business growth rate for mid-level, 24-track rooms has fallen to 5%. Some speculate that high-end rate wars

and better technology in the smaller rooms create a climate in which mid-level studios are squeezed. "Only by the clients," laughs Bill Holmes with 24-track Comanche Sound. "You've got a million dollar song, they want a free demo. I had a lady call me yesterday from a [major, corporate-owned publisher] to try to get me down on my rates. This will grab you—they were paying the musicians direct, not going through the union, and paying them \$30 a song. It's crazy.

"Mid-level studios should hold their prices and not let clients dictate their rates," Holmes says. "Go negotiate with Kroger. I blew the water pump out of my car two days ago. They said it was \$193.1 told them I'd give \$150 and they said go somewhere else. Studios have to do that or the clients will milk you to death. You have no best friends when you run a studio."



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Can Music City's studios hold the rate line? "There have been feeble attempts in the past," Bradley says, "but the bottom line is everybody's trying to stay afloat and they'll do what it takes to get the business."

In addition, Bradley says the balancing act between offering the latest technology and keeping rates in check has become more difficult. "We're expected to have and maintain practically everything that is available, but [client recording] budgets don't seem to want to reflect that."

Richard Adler, owner of Suite 2000 says, "I'm very conservative in that area. Studios don't need to be driven by client requests for technology. In many cases clients base their requests on advertising that is partially true or somewhat misleading. I purchase technology based on what it really does as opposed to client perceptions."

For smaller studios, the business isn't just about gear. Studio 23's Bryan Cumming says. The clients and I are both aware of the importance of the relationship and artistic process, rather than the technical side though I do respect and enjoy that aspect. What I do is more non-technical, however. It's really consulting that goes along with the recording process.

Falling equipment prices have prompted a turn towards home studios for many songwriters, producers and other potential clients. "You can't get from a home studio what you get from a commercial studio," Rose says. "Those basic wants and needs are going to stay the same—tech support, isolation. At home the phone is ringing, the kids are screaming, there isn't parking and you can't get cartage in.'

Meadows offers, "You can do it at home on small speakers with ProTools, but when it gets down to mixing, there are so many problems you spend more money. These are things studio owners have got to be able to sell to the people who are leaving for lesser rates, but spending more time. If you're spinning your wheels and having more unproductive time, then you've done your project a disservice."

Holmes says there is no substitute for a professional studio. "They'll get burned out on those cheesy sounds. It will swing back around.

Beyond those issues, Adler sees other problems. "One of the particularly disturbing things that happens in our business is that as soon as a new facility opens a lot of people will flock there. Whether or not they get the results they like, they are then often ashamed to return to studios that gave them good results." Is there a way to address that? I'm very patient," he quips.

Not for profit studios are also an area of concern. "There are major players at all three levels of studios that derive their income from other sources such as songwriting, publishing or family wealth," Adler says, "They have opened a studio because it's basically a pipeline for them to be able to be in touch with personalities and performers. Those studios exist strictly for the ego gratification of the owners. That's very difficult to compete against. They don't care if they make any money; all they want to do is break even. For people like me, this is how I survive."

Survival, ultimately, may not be as assured for Nashville's studios as it was a few years ago. "People can tell you that there is more business than ever," Purcell says, "but if you have a room that cost \$3.5 million and you're getting \$800 to \$1,200 a day, you're out of business."

As always, outlook is a matter of perspective. "I feel really positive about the studio climate in Nashville," Rose says. "We need to look at this as a team effort for the community instead of a one-on-one war. I call friends at other studios and tell them the days I have open in case they get a call and they're booked. At the same time, if I'm booked I will give the referral."

Whether or not a spirit of cooperation can ease Nashville's studios through this difficult stretch, it seems certain that the volatile marketplace will keep managers and owners on their toes for some time to come.



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#### How Much Does It Cost to Record an Album?

The short answer is—from around \$10,000 for low end productions to several million dollars for major pop albums. To narrow this range down a bit, we'll be exploring an example which is the average of the actual production costs of a few recent albums produced in Nashville for major country record labels. We'll also be looking at the various stages of recording and the cost of each stage.

It all begins with the production budget. Major record companies require artists to submit a production budget prior to beginning the recording process. This budget, prepared by the producer, is an estimate of all of the recording costs necessary to deliver that one master tape to the record company for mass manufacturing. The record company's interest in this budget lies in the fact that the company will pay these costs as they are incurred and will be at risk for a portion of these costs if the album doesn't sell. The artist also focuses on this budget because they must repay the record company out of the royalties they earn before they can begin to receive royalties for themselves.

Once the record company has approved the production budget, it's time to go to the

studio and begin the first stage of recording, commonly referred to as the tracking dates. During the tracking dates, studio musicians are recorded simultaneously and the basic foundation of the musical tracks are recorded. The number of musicians and the required studio size and complexity make this the most expensive stage of the recording process. Costs incurred during the tracking stage, which generally takes three to six days to complete, might look as follows:

#### **TRACKING**

Studio (5 days @ \$1,650) Musicians - 7 Players,	\$8,250
Ten 3-hour sessions each*	42,000
Engineer & Assistant	5,000
Total Tracking Costs	\$55,250

\*Includes drums, bass, piano, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, steel guitar and fiddle. In this example, all musicians were paid double scale or double the minimum session rate established by their union, plus applicable union fees.

Overdubbing, the second basic stage of

recording, adds the lead and background vocals and the necessary solo instrumentalists to the foundation recorded during the tracking dates. As lead and background vocalists and solo musicians are recorded separately, required studio size and complexity are reduced. This stage of recording generally lasts between 10 to 20 days and typical costs include:

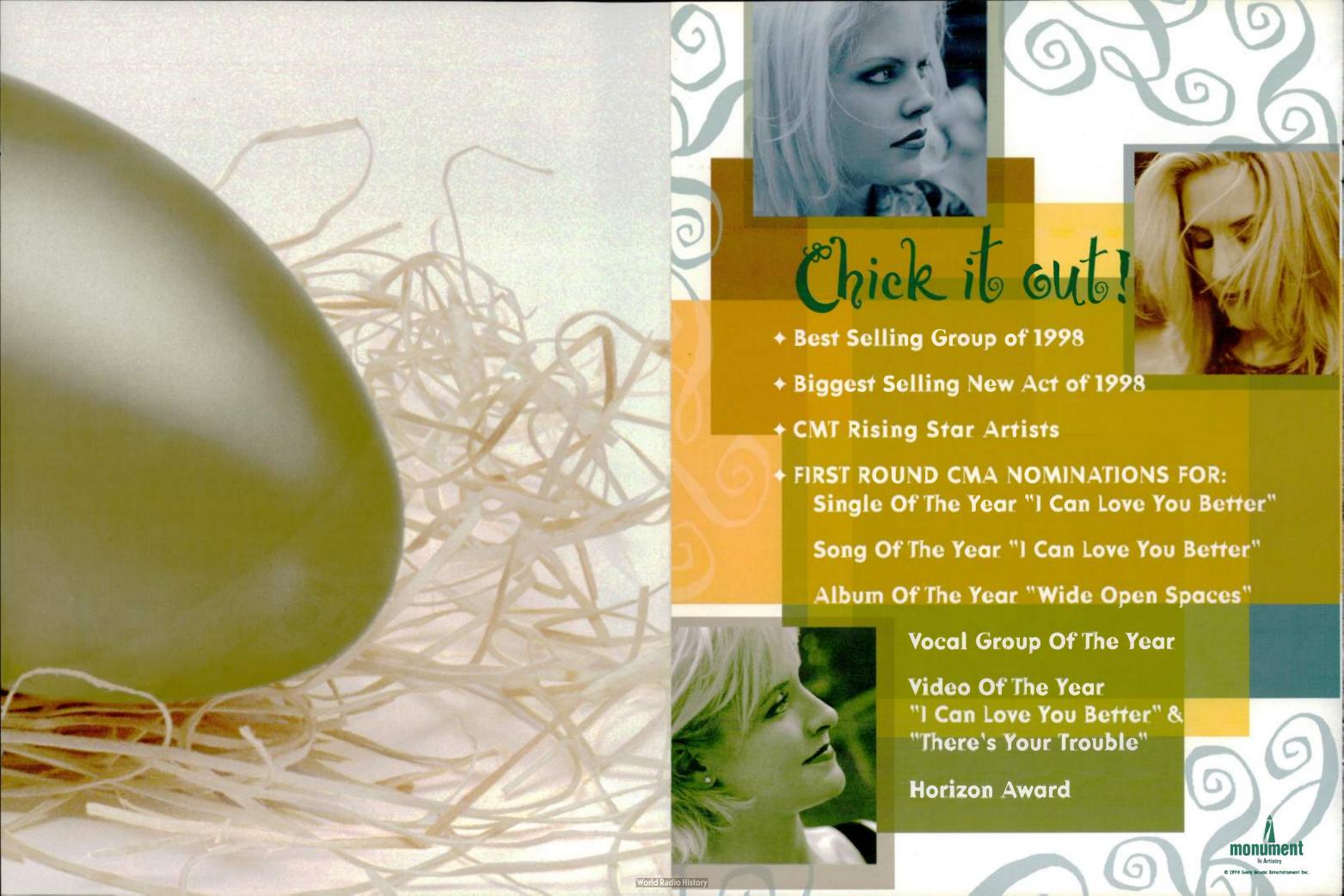
#### **OVERDUBBING**

Studios (20 days @ \$650)	\$13,000
Musicians: 4 players,	·
Two 3-hour sessions each	5,150
Background Vocalists	5,000
Engineer & Assistant	12,000
Tape Transfers	600
Total Overdubbing Costs	\$35,750

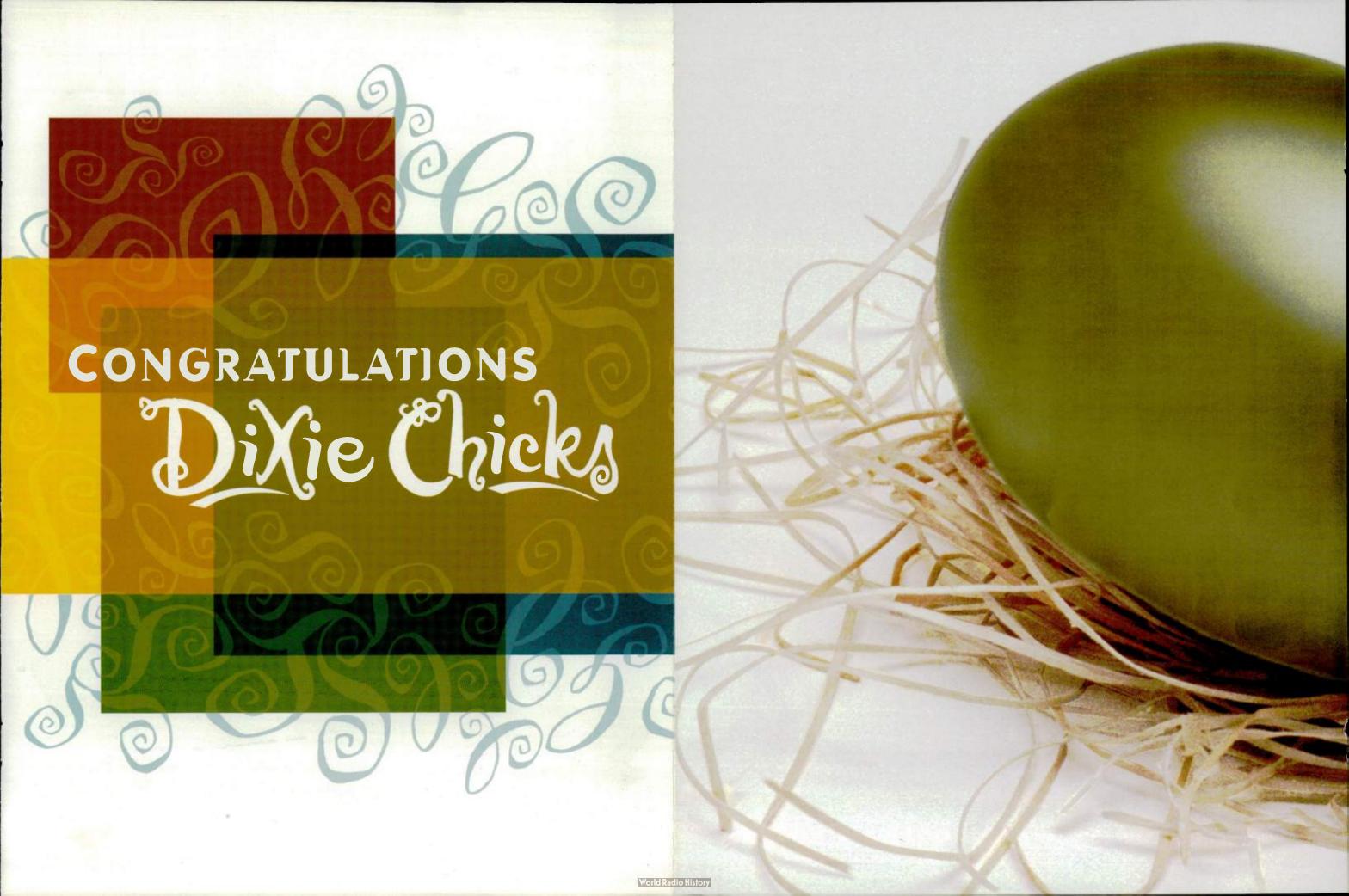
Through the overdubbing stage, all of the sounds which make up the album have been recorded separately on from 24 to 48 different tracks. The mixing stage establishes the volume level of each of these separate tracks (bass guitar, vocals, etc.) and blends these sounds into the two track or











stereo version that the public will eventually hear. This stage generally takes between eight and 15 days and generally only involves the artist, producer and engineers. Typical costs include:

### MIXING

Studios (12 days @ \$1,650)	\$19,800
Engineers & Assistant	12,000
Total Mixing Costs	\$31,800

.....

Additionally, a number of other costs are incurred during the recording process. These costs include the rental of equipment such as digital tape recorders, special effects equipment, microphones, etc.; cartage or freight charges to move equipment; miscellaneous supply costs; and the cost to master or digitally process and sequence the final product. Typical charges might look like the following:

### MISC. COSTS

Equipment Rental	\$10,000
Cartage	2,000
Mastering	5,000
Tape Supplies	1,000
Catering	600
Total Miscellaneous Costs	\$18,600

Summarizing the basic stages above, the total cost of the album in our example was as follows:

### **TOTAL COSTS**

Trackin	\$55,250
Overdubbing	35,750
Mixing	31,800
Miscellaneous Costs	18,600
Total Production Costs	\$141,400

Not included in our example are advances paid by the record company to the artist and producer. These advances against their respective royalty earnings typically range from \$20,000 to \$40,000 for producers and from \$20,000 to \$100,000 for the artists.

With this much money involved, a great deal of emphasis should be placed on the production budget and subsequent control of costs. Effective planning and negotiations long before going into the studio can result in significant savings. Vigilance in following the production budget during the recording process will assist in controlling actual costs, and help explain any variances.

It is important to note again that album production costs vary substantially. The

above example is offered only to demonstrate the basic stages and related costs of recording an album, and to point out that effective planning and attention to controlling recording costs will help ensure that production dollars are being spent wisely.







### ANOTHER GREAT NASHVILLE PERFORMER SWITCHES LABELS.

Now that CBS has taken us under their wing, we've changed our name. Though that's the only thing that's changed. We may have joined forces with one of the biggest names in the business but we're still the same folks you've come to know and love over the past 10 years. We still produce the very highest quality duplications, including JVC-licensed VHS, D2, Digital

tions, including JVC-licensed VHS, D2, Digital
Betacam, Betacam SP, S-VHS, 8 mm, 1", 2" and 3/4".

NETWORK DUPLICATION SERVICES

We can still take your project from start to finish, from specialized package design and customized printing to mailing anywhere in the country. We will still fulfill any order whether it's for a single duplication or five million. And our staff still checks duplicates for audio, video and tape stock quality before shipping. Even our phone

number's the same, so make sure you don't lose it. In fact, make a copy. Make a copy. Make a copy.

1-800-554-2348



# STUDIO KAST GUIDE

Facilities are listed in alphabetical order; rates are hourly unless otherwise noted.

3D AUDIO, INC.—2 track digital

216 Fairfax Ave., 37212, 269-5533 • (FAX 269-5533) • www.3daudioinc.com

Contact: Lynn Fuston, Owner

Basic Rate: \$80

Clients: Amy Grant, Andy Griffith, dc Talk, Russ Taff, Pam Tillis, Cindy Morgan, 4Him, Faith Hill, Jodi Benson, Larry Stewart, The Newsboys, Michelle Shocked, Gaither Vocal Band, BJ Thomas, First Call, The Martins, Carman, Bob Carlisle and Roots Rock Action Figures.

**Special Services:** Check out our Web site for discography, client list, services offered, and interactive recording forum.

601 POST-32 track digital

1219 16th Ave. S., 37212, 327-1000 •

(FAX 320-1051)

Contact: David Pinkston

# **Music Works**

**Music Production Studio** 



- •24 track ADAT Recording
- •32 track Hard Disk Recording
- Yamaha O2R fully automated digital 40 input console
  - CDR recording
- Yamaha Maple Custom Drums
  - •Drum Kat 3.5
- Extensive midi gear and mic list



Pre Production, arranging, complete turnkey production available on request

> 1010 Sixteenth Ave. South Nashville, TN 37212

615.259.3103 fax 615.256.5440

e-mail•riddem@earthlink.net

ProTools 24-bit recording and mixing. Also full video production services. Audio is mobile, allowing recording at artists' preferred location.

615 MUSIC STUDIOS—24 track analog

1030 16th Ave. S., 37212, 244-6515 •

(FAX 242-2455)

Contact: Laura Palmer, Manager Clients: NBC, CBS, A&E, The Rosie O'Donnell Show, ABC Sports, The History Channel, Tri-star Pictures, Good Morning

America, Dateline NBC

Special Services: Facility completely redesigned by Russ Berger Design Group in 1998. Studio A can accommodate up to 40 musicians, with 4 iso booths. Genelec and PMC monitoring. Control room designed for 5.1 surround mixing. 7' Kawaii grand piano, Otari Series 54 console with discmix 3 automation, MTR 90 multitrack. Control room is wired for 32 track digital, 4 composition/scoring rooms with lock-topicture capabilities. 2 SADIE sound design/mastering suites. We produce a 51 CD music production library, digital SFX, and over 3,000 original production tracks available for use in post-production. Whether your project is a demo or master, come and give us a try! Call Laura Palmer for more info.

# ABTRAX RECORDING—24 & 48 track analog & digital

2935 Berry Hill Dr., 37204, 297-3723 • (FAX 297-3723)

Contact: Jerry Abbott, Owner

Basic Rate: \$75

### AFTER 3 PM MUSIC—24 track digital

5716 Briarwick Ct., Hermitage 37076, 872-7177 • (FAX 874-4856) • www.after3pmmusic.com *Contact:* Richard Kearney, Owner

Basic Rate: \$50 with engineer

# ALLISONGS STUDIO—24 track digital 1603 Horton Ave., 37212, 292-9899 •

(FAX 327-4204)

Contact: Jim Allison, President

Basic Rate: \$25

ANGELLO'S SOUND STUDIO—24 track

analog, 32 track digital

526 E. Iris Dr., 37204, 383-0888 •

(FAX 383-0888)

Contact: Bob Angello, Owner

Basic Rate: \$50

## ARCHER PRODUCTIONS, INC.—8 track

3212 West End Ave.#303, 37203, 297-3787 • (FAX 297-8056)

Basic Rate: \$110

**Equipment:** 8 track ProTools, Mackie 24/8, Marantz CD recorder, AVID AVR 75, DEC Alpha 3D animation, 3D2 fiber optic

lines, Internet delivery of audio.

Clients: Elektra UK, OneMusic, Random

House, Penguin Books

Special Services: Produced "Building the Wrecking Ball"—Emmylou Harris PBS video, TLC documentaries "Stories of Miracles," audio books for Naomi Judd, Barbara Mandrell, Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace."

# ATLANTIS STUDIO—48 track analog/digital

194 Cherokee Rd., Hendersonville 37075,

822-7648 • (FAX 822-7648) *Contact:* Voytek Kochanek,

Owner/Engineer

Basic Rate: \$30-\$100

Equipment: SSL 4048 E/G Computer, Telefunken MI5A 2" 24/16 track machine; Sony 3348, ADATS, Tascam DA88: Neumann, AKG, Sennheiser, EV mics; Neve, API, Manley mic pre's: UREI 1176. dbx, Valley People; Yamaha, Lexicon, Eventide H-3000 signal processors; Yamaha NS-10, UREI monitors; Panasonic SV-3700 DAT; full MIDI Workstation with Atari Mega II and Power Mac computers; Korg, Roland, E-MU keyboards. Clients: Record labels, publishers, songwriters, TV/film post-production companies. Special Services: Relaxed atmosphere in seclusion on the lake. Covered patio, swimming pool and kitchen area. Live-in quarters available for out-of-town clients.

# AUDIO PRODUCTIONS—24 track digital, two 8 track digital

1102 17th Ave. S. #200, 37212, 321-3612

• (FAX 321-5770)

Contact: Jim Revland



# BATTERY STUDIO—32 track digital, 24 track analog

916 19th Ave. S., 37212, 329-0600 • (FAX 321-4616)

Contact: Lee Groitzsch, Manager

Basic Rate: \$1,100/day

### BAYOU RECORDING—24 track analog

1708 Grand Ave., 37212, 340-9000 • (FAX 340-9009)

Contact: Susan Clinton, Manager

Basic Rate: \$60

Equipment: Owners George Clinton, Kenny Beard and Joe Spivey have teamed up to create a facility which provides full production services, featuring a Trident 80 console, Otari 24-track Analog, (Studer 48-track digital also available), Mackie Cue System, total isolation, uptown automation, a Yamaha C-7 grand piano, lounge, kitchen and a great atmosphere for recording. Installation by John McClure. Opened in May, 1998, clients so far include Trace Adkins, Sony/ATV Tree, Warner Bros., Norro Wilson, Buddy Cannon, Muy Bueno, Chad Brock, Monk Family Music, many songwriters and artist projects.

# BEAIRD MUSIC GROUP, INC.—24 track digital

107 Music City Circle #314, 37214, 889-0138

Contact: Larry Beaird

Basic Rate: \$50 or per song

# BEECHWOOD STUDIOS—24 track analog, 8 track digital

1709 Beechwood Ave, 37212, 386-3984 •

(FAX 386-3984)

Contact: Eric Pittarelli, Owner

Basic Rate: \$25/\$15

### BENNETT HOUSE-48 track analog

134 Fourth Ave. N., Franklin 37064, 790-8696 • (FAX 790-9034)

Contact: Daryl Bush, Manager

Basic Rate: Call

# BIG STUDIO—16 track analog, 16 track digital

701 Brook Hollow Rd., 37205, 356-0094 • (FAX 354-1798)

Contact: Tim James/Steven McClintock,

Owners

Basic Rate: \$30

### BIGG SKY-32 track digital

1309 Paulson Way, Antioch 37013, 832-3473 • (FAX 837-0479)

Contact: Gary Jenkins, Owner

Basic Rate: \$45

### BLUE PLANET STUDIO— 24 track digital

Forest Hills area, 377-0480 *Contact:* Steve Allen, Owner

Basic Rate: \$30

### BOARDROOM RECORDING STUDIO— 24 track analog

1616 16th Ave. S., 37212, 292-1616 • (FAX 385-9817)

Contact: Laron Pendergrass, Owner Equipment: Trident 80B 32x24x24 w/TT patchbay, Uptown 990 moving fader automation w/Penny & Giles faders, Otari MX-80 2" 24 track, Panasonic SV-3700 DAT

# BRADLEY'S BARN—48 track analog & digital

P.O. Box 120838, 37212, 244-1060 • (FAX 726-2945)

Contact: Michael Bevington Sayles,

Manager

Basic Rate: Call

# BROCK MUSIC, INC.—24 track analog, digital editing

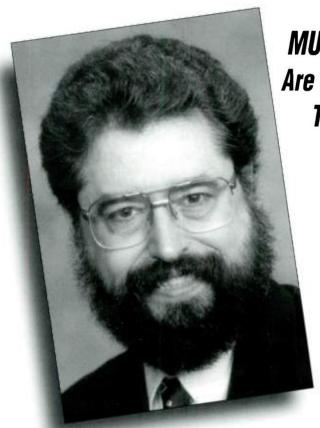
2937 Berry Hill Dr., 37204, 298-2200 •

(FAX 297-4061)

Contact: Jeff Brock

Basic Rate: \$75

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### **BURNS STATION SOUND**—

24 track analog

211 College St., Burns 37029, 255-4343 •

(FAX 255-4343)

Contact: G.D. Stinson, Owner

Basic Rate: \$50

CAPSTONE STUDIOS—24 track analog

5505 Cottonport, Brentwood 37027,

837-7324

Contact: John Conner, Creative Director

Basic Rate: \$50

CASTLE RECORDING STUDIO—Two 24 track & one 16 track analog, two 32 track & one 16 track digital

1393 Old Hillsboro Rd., Franklin 37069,

791-0810 • (FAX 791-1324) **Contact:** Mike Janas, VP

Basic Rate: A: \$175, B: \$75, C: \$80

Special Services: The Castle is a truly unique recording studio—its physical plant was once a rest stop for the Roaring Twenties' most notorious figure, Al Capone. "Legend has it Ed Welch (The Castle's original owner) had a Mafia connection with Capone. They needed a gambling casino, a place to hide criminals, and a retreat from pressure," said a local official. The building has seen various incarnations, including an elite restaurant and bootleg distillery. The "hits" tradition was reborn when The Castle

**CENTER ROW** 

13 Music Sq E, 37203, 254-9248

opened in 1983. It is still a retreat from

pressure located on 34 acres just 15 min-

Contact: Mark James

utes south of Nashville.

CHAMPAGNE STUDIOS— 24 track analog

54 Music Sq. E., 37203, 256-7648 •

(FAX 255-8549)

Contact: Randy Best

CHELSEAMUSIC—32 track pro digital, 24 track analog

7118 Peach Ct., Brentwood 37027,

373-5222 • (FAX 661-4538) • www.chelseamusic.com

Contact: Chuck Haines, Mark

Montgomery, Neil Einstman

Basic Rate: Call

Equipment: Studio: Mitsubishi X850, 32 track digital recorder with Apogee filters and Labarre modifications. Studer A80 Mk III 24 track analog. Modified MR3 console with automation. Wadia stereo A/D converters. Mastering Suite: Sonic Solutions digital editing system, Valley 730 Dynamap digital compressor, Sony CDW-900E PMCD recorder. Chelsea remote: vocal tuning, sampling and MIDI services featuring ProTools,

Digital Performer and Studio Vision.

Clients: Curb, Warner Bros., Mercury,
Intersound, Word, MCA Music, Balmer
Ltd., BMG, Morningstar Publications

Special Services: CD and cassette replication services. Art direction, photography, printing, special packaging. Internet services: Web site design, secure transfer, on line sales.

ilile sales.

CINDERELLA SOUND—24 track analog & digital

1108 Cinderella St., Madison 37115, 865-0891 • (FAX 612-2400) • BAREFOOTJERRY.COM Contact: John or Wayne Moss

CLASSIC RECORDING—24 track analog & digital, 32 tracks ADAT

130 Seaboard Lane, Suite A-1, Franklin 37067, 370-3790 • (FAX 370-3793)

**Contact:** George Cumbee, Owner/Aimee Birdwell, Office Manager

Basic Rate: \$90

COMANCHE SOUND—24 track analog, 24 track digital

11 Music Cir. S., Suite 201, 37203, 254-6820 • (FAX 248-3472)

Contact: Bill Holmes, Engineer/Producer

Basic Rate: \$50

COUNTY Q PRODUCTIONS—Three 24 track analog, three 24 track digital P.O. Box 40228, 37204, 298-1434 •

(FAX 269-6241)

Contact: Patze Fischer, Studio Manager

Basic Rate: \$80

COWBOY ARMS HOTEL AND RECORDING SPA—24 track analog

3405 Belmont Blvd., 37215, 383-0330 •

(FAX 292-5685)

Contact: Niles Clement, Studio Manager

Basic Rate: Call

CREATIVE RECORDING—24 track analog, 32 track digital

2806 Azalea Pl., 37204, 385-0670 •

(FAX 297-7319)

Contact: Deanna Atkinson Basic Rate: \$95/\$135

CREATIVE WORKSHOP— 24 track analog

2804 Azalea Pl., 37204, 383-8682 •

(FAX 383-8696)

Contact: ShelleyLynn Wims, Administrator Basic Rate: \$35, special introductory rate Special Services: Buzz Cason's Southern Writers Group USA (SWG), is Nashville's first writer-owned group of publishing companies, and was founded in 1970, the same year Cason built Creative Workshop to produce in-house published acts. Jimmy Buffett's second album and Carl Carlton's "Everlasting Love" were two of the studio's early projects. The SWG catalog contains songs by the late Kent Robbins and Bobby Russell, Mac Gayden, Richard E. Carpenter, Debbie Hupp and Randy Goodrum, in addition to the Buzz Cason Publications catalog. New writers include Jason Manning and Gary Gibson, BMG International is SWG's sub-publisher outside the United States.



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### CUSTOM MASTERING INC.— Mastering studio

54 Music Sq. E., Suite 100, 37203, 244-8132 • (FAX 244-8191) **Contact:** Hollis L. Flatt, Owner/President

# CYPRESS ROOM—24 track analog, 8 track digital

P.O. Box 110911, 37222, 834-2826 • (FAX 781-9176)

Contact: Don King, Owner Basic Rate: \$50, \$35

# DARK HORSE RECORDING—48 track analog & digital

2465 Old Charlotte Pike, Franklin 37064, 791-5030 • (FAX 791-5800)

Contact: Robin Crow, Owner

Basic Rate: \$85

### DENNY'S DEN-24 track analog

3325 Fairmont Dr., 37203, 269-4847 • (FAX 297-7733)

Contact: John E. or Pandora Denny,

Owners

Basic Rate: \$40

### MEET THE MAN BEHIND THE MENU.

# Guillaume Burlion

Executive Chef, The Wild Boar

In his teens, Guillaume Burlion decided that to develop his taste for fine foods, he must first dine at only the best restaurants in Paris. The experience inspired Guillaume to create new dishes, original sauces, and pastries that have earned him world wide recognition as:

- •Executive Chef, Beaurivage Restaurant, Malibu, CA
- •Executive Chef, Europa Restaurant, Palm Springs, CA
- •Chef, <u>Le Palais De L'Eysee</u> Annual Gala for President François Mitterand, Paris
- •Chef, Patrick Lenotre Restaurant, Paris
- ·Sous Chef, Hotel Crillon, Paris
- •Chef de Partie, Maxims Restaurant, Paris
- •Sous Chef, Pavillon Elysee Restaurant, Paris
- •Sous Chef, Precatelan Restaurant, Paris

 $N_{joins}$  as Executive Chef for The Wild Boar Restaurant in Nashville, Guillaume joins a highly acclaimed team dedicated to the notion that superior cuisine is instrumental to wine enjoyment.

### SAVOR CHEF BURLION'S NEWEST CREATIONS.

A new season of delights has arrived. Enjoy!

Roasted Maine Lobster with fresh summer vegetables in a coral sauce.



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# THANK YOU NASHVILLE AND COUNTRY MUSIC FOR 10 GREAT YEARS.

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42 No. 1 SINGLES AS REPORTED BY R&R MAGAZINE.

Randy Travis "Out Of My Bones" '98 • Anita Cochran With Steve Wariner "What If I Said" '98 • Toby Keith "We Were In Love" '97 • Reba "How Was I To Know" '97 • Patty Loveless "Lonely Too Long" '96 • James Bonamy "I Don't Think I Will" '96 • Patty Loveless "You Can Feel Bad" '96 • Vince Gill "You Better Think Twice" '95, Patty Loveless "Here I Am" '95, Patty Loveless "You Don't Even Know Who I Am" '95, Reba "And Still" '95, Reba "The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter" '95, Reba "Till You Love Me" '95, George Strait "You Can't Make A Heart Love Somebody" '95, Vince Gill "What The Cowgirls Do" '94 • Sammy Kershaw "Workin' Woman's Holiday" '94 • Vince Gill "Whenever You Come Around" '94 • Vince Gill "Tryin' To Get Over You" '94 • Reba With Linda Davis "Does He Love You" '93 • Vince Gill "One More Last Chance" '93 • Reba "It's Your Call" '93 • Vince Gill "No Future In The Past" '93 • Patty Loveless "Blame It On Your Heart" '93 • Reba And Vince Gill "The Heart Won't Lie" '93 • Tanya Tucker "A Little Too Late" '93 • Vince Gill "I Still Believe In You" '92 • Tanya Tucker "Two Sparrows In A Hurricane" '92 • Vince Gill "Take Your Memory With You" '92 • Reba "Is There Life Out There" '92 • Aaron Tippin "There Ain't Nothin' Wrong With The Radio" '92 • Reba "The Greatest Man I Never Knew" '92 • Reba "For My Broken Heart" '91 • Tanya Tucker "Down To My Last Teardrop" '91 • Reba "Rumor Has It" '91 • Patty Loveless "Chains" '90 • Reba "You Lie" '90 • Reba "Cathy's Clown" '89 • Patty Loveless "Timber I'm Falling In Love" '89 • Reba "A New Fool At An Old Game" '89 • Oak Ridge Boys "Gonna Take A Lot Of River" '88 • George Strait "Famous Last Words Of A Fool" '88 • George Strait "Baby Blue" '88.

### **GUESS WORK PRODUCTIONS AND ENGINEERING**

—John Guess



# DIGITAL ASSOCIATES—32 track digital, cassette duplication service

300 12th Ave. S., 37203, 742-1221 • (FAX 742-0649)

Contact: Rick Horton, Owner/Elaine Bolduc. Secretary

Basic Rate: \$100

DIGITAL AUDIO POST—24 track digital 1033 16th Ave. S., 37212, 321-0511 • (FAX 329-9417)

Contact: Michael Davis, President Equipment: Our equipment includes: Solid State Logic ScreenSound and Akai DD-1000 workstations, ProTools, Yamaha 02R and Promix 01 digital consoles. Genelec and JBL monitors. Fostex D-30 timecode DAT, DA-88 multitracks w/video sync card, DA-98 multitrack w/video sync card, DA-38 multitrack, Alesis ADATs w/BRC, Sony 9850 3/4" video recorder. Other formats available as needed. Sony 32-inch TV monitor, TC Electronics M5000 Digital Effects processor, dbx 900 Series effects rack, Dolby Surround encoder and decoder, Drawmer limiters/gates, SSL Logic FX Series mic preamps, dbx 166 compressor/gate. Extensive collection of microphones including vintage tube collection. ISDN-Telos Zephyr and APT direct dial, Symetrix phone patch, Denon 9000 Carousel compact disc player. Extensive synthesizer/scoring setup.

Special Services: Digital Audio Post, Inc., located in the Emerald Entertainment complex on Nashville's Music Row, is an audio suite specializing in production and postproduction for film, television, music and multimedia. DAP offers a full-featured range of services, including Sound Design, ADR and Foley, sweetening, mix to picture w/Dolby Surround, show assembly with EDL autoconform, vocal pitch correction, music scoring/arranging and remote live recording and audio supervision. Our facility includes an extensive on-line SFX library/database for fast and creative

sound design as well as an extensive music setup for integrated music scoring. Laybacks are possible to any video or audio format. In addition, tie-line links within the Emerald complex allow 24, 32 & 48-track music recording/mixing to picture utilizing the Emerald studios with SSL 4064E-G series consoles. ISDN/3D2 direct dial and Telos Zephyr systems allow full-bandwith digital hookup worldwide for audio recording and transfers.

### DIGITAL EDITING & MASTERING— Mastering Facility

395 Barrywood Dr., 37211, 400-8987 • (FAX 333-8313)

Contact: Frank Green, Mastering

Engineer

Basic Rate: Call

### **DISC MASTERING—Mastering facility**

30 Music Sq. W., 37203, 254-8825 •

(FAX 254-8826)

Contact: Randy Kling, President/Jill Riley,

Manager

Basic Rate: \$175

### **DOGHOUSE**

356-5992 • (FAX 352-9889) *Contact:* Marshall Morgan

### EASTSIDE SOUND—24 track analog

P.O. Box 160004, 37216, 227-0057 • (FAX 227-0036)

Contact: Angel Pontier, Owner/Engineer

Basic Rate: \$55 w/engineer

# ECLECTIC PRODUCTIONS—24 track analog, 64 track digital

910 Woodmont Blvd., 37204, 383-5440 • (FAX 383-5440)

Contact: Nick Sparks, Owner

Basic Rate: \$45

# EMERALD SOUND STUDIO—Two 24, 32 & 48 track analog & digital

1033 16th Ave. S., 37212, 321-0511 •

(FAX 329-9417)

Contact: Milan Bogdan, Studio Manager

Basic Rate: Call

### FILIPIAK MUSIC—24 track digital

2 Music Cir. S, 37203, 255-1602 • (FAX 255-7130) • www.filipiak.com *Contact:* Bill Filipiak. Owner

Basic Rate: \$110

### FINAL STAGE MASTERING— Mastering facility

10 Music Cir. S., 37203, 256-2676 • (FAX 259-2942) •

Contact: Randy LeRoy

# FIRESIDE RECORDING STUDIO—24 track analog

813 18th Ave. S., 37203, 329-1487 • (FAX 329-0454)

Contact: Eugene Moles, Manager

Basic Rate: \$50

Equipment: MCI console, Otari 24 track 2", Alesis ADAT, DATs include Panasonic and Tascam; Neumann U47s, 87s, 84s; Sennheiser, EV, Shure and Accurate Sound Corp Mics. Outboard gear includes Valley, Yamaha, dbx, Teletronics, BBE, Aphex, Eventide, Alesis, Roland; Steinway Grand.

Special Services: Hourly, day and block rates-budgets to fit your need. We also offer artist deal prep packages. Large comfortable studio, well known for its sound, and without the sterile atmosphere. Within walking distance of anywhere on Music Row.

# FIRST RUN STUDIOS—24 tracks analog & digital

2807 Azalea Pl., 37204, 269-7656 • (FAX 269-7898)

Contact: Judi Marshall or Timothy Miller

Basic Rate: Call

# CREATIVE WORKSHOP 24 TRACK RECORDING

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VOCAL COACH

Vocal Technique For Singing An Associate of Seth Riggs

Kim's credits include artists with:

Arista, Capital, Virgin, London, Epic, Word, and Myrrh Records

(615) 327-2523





# FLATWOOD STUDIO—24 track analog, 32 track digital

P.O. Box 310, Gladeville 37071, 444-0171 • (FAX ) • flatwood@bellsouth.net

Contact: T.C./Gloria, Owners Basic Rate: \$50 or \$450/day

Equipment: Flying Faders Soundcraft DC 2000 console, MCI 24 track 2" JH16/24, ADATs, DATs, Pentium CD-R, Soundforge, 5 gig, Lexicon, TC, Neumann, AKG,

Drawmer, 4 iso.

Clients: Thanks again to: Hank Cochran, Clinton Gregory, Billy Don Burns, David Allan Coe, QuestX Webs, Robinson Entertainment, The Amazing Rhythm Aces, The Ranch, Downtown Larry Brown, Greenhouse 27, Andy May, Gypsy, Randy Blevins, Shyne, Bugle Music, Freddy Wall, Hassell Teekell, Greg Kane, Jennifer Kane. Special Services: Huge rooms, 5 holes of golf, great outdoors, bbq, etc. 30 minutes east in Cedars of Lebanon Forest. Visit http://questx.com/flatwood/ for a look-see.

# FOX FARM RECORDING— 16 track analog

2731 Saundersville Ferry Rd., Mt. Juliet 37122, 773-5080 • (FAX 758-3322) •

Contact: Kent Fox, Owner

Basic Rate: \$50





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Full Production Facility

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fax: 615-340-9009

1708 Grand Avenue • Nashville, Tennessee 37212



### GENE BREEDEN STUDIOS— 24 track analog

50 Music Sq. W., Suite 303, 37203, 327-1515 • (FAX 329-2741)

Contact: Gene Breeden
Basic Rate: \$55

# **GEORGETOWN MASTERS—**Mastering facility

33 Music Sq. W., # 108, 37203, 254-3233 • (FAX 254-3237)

**Contact:** Denny Purcell, Owner; Loring Cain, Manager; Cassandra Strahan, Studio Assistant

Equipment: Analog mastering room with custom analog console, digital mastering room with Muse digital console, two edit rooms with 3 Sonic Solutions editing systems. Equipment for rent: 6 Pacific Microsonics Model One HDCD encoders, 6 Sony PCM-9000 recorders, Genex GX 8000 recorders; various (you name 'em, we got 'em) AD/DA converters.

**Clients:** Every major label, many independent labels, encompassing all musical genres.

**Special Services:** 5.1 Mastering—already completed 10 projects. Golden ears, groovy personaes, guitar-o-rama, over the top java—what do you need?

# GERMANTOWN RECORDING—32 track digital, 96 track hard disk

1209 4th Ave. N., 37208, 244-8019

Contact: Mike Bridges Basic Rate: Call

GHL AUDIO—Digital editing & mastering 5216 Waddell Hollow Rd., Franklin 37064.

794-0550 • (FAX 790-1029) *Contact:* Gary Hedden, Owner

# GREAT CIRCLE SOUND—24 track analog, 32 track digital

365 Great Circle Rd., 37228, 742-6803 • (FAX 742-6848)

Contact: David Murphy, Chief Engineer

Basic Rate: \$85

### GREY HOUSE STUDIO—32 track digital

1009 17th Ave. S., 37212, 320-6071 • (FAX 320-7842)

Contact: Billy Herzig/Anderson Page

Basic Rate: \$40

Equipment: Tascam DA-88s, Mackie board, mics, keyboards, house drum kit, 6 isolation booths, outboard gear, CD burner, kitchen. Special Services: We cut demos for many songwriters and publishers. We can book players, do charts, book singers if necessary. We also cut guitar/vocal and piano/vocal demos and custom CD projects

with full production.

# HENNINGER ELITE POST—film and video editing service

1025 16th Ave. S., Suite 302, 37212, 327-8797 • (FAX 321-5051)

Contact: George Betts, Co-owner/VP Sales & Marketing

### HILLTOP RECORDING STUDIOS— Two 24 track analog & digital

902 Due West Ave., 37115, 865-5272 • (FAX 865-5553)

Contact: John Nicholson, Owner/Manager

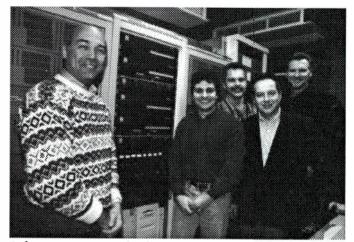
Basic Rate: \$55, \$40

Equipment: The A room features a Mitsubishi Westar with Uptown moving fader automation, Sony 3324 digital and Sony APR-24 analog machines, and a nine-foot Steinway grand piano. The B room features a Neotek Elan with Uptown moving fader automation and a Sony APR-24 machine. An abundance of outboard gear and ADAT XT is standard in both studios. Clients: All are appreciated and satisfied. Special Services: Hilltop offers a unique asset with its location; we're away from downtown situated on four quiet acres of space. A large deck is included for outside activities. A state-of-the-art facility at affordable rates.

# Sam's Music installs 100th ProTools at Starstruck

Starstruck Studios recently became Sam's Music's 100th customer for Digidesign's ProTools Digital Audio Workstation. The system integrates dedicated computer hardware and software to create a state of the art recording and editing environment. ProTools has the unique ability to record at 24-bit resolution, and maintain that quality throughout the edit and mix processes. Systems are customized to suit each studio's needs. This configuration includes two 32-track systems. According to Starstruck studio manager Robert DeLaGarza and technical director Jim Rogers, every recent project has used ProTools.

Sam's Music employs four qualified ProTools experts led by Ted Bahas, who joined the store in 1995 after 7 years with Digidesign. Assisting Ted on the project were storeowner Sam Tritico and the Sam's Music service staff, along with Digidesign regional manager Joey Jelf.



Robert DeLaGarza, Ted Bahas, Jim Rogers, Sam Tritico, Joey Jelf

# digidesign<sup>•</sup>

ProTools 24

Shown with Mackie HUI (Human User Interface)





Nashville (Music Row) 846-5000 Brentwood . . . . . . 371-5000 Nationwide . . . 1-800-391-5050



### HOT TRAX RECORDING-

24 track digital

611 Woodland St., 7206, 244-4008 •

(FAX 244-4008) •

Contact: Brenda and Cliff, Owners

Basic Rate: \$50

### HOUSE OF DAVID—24 track analog,

32 track digital

1205 16th Ave. S., 37212, 320-7323 •

(FAX 329-1304)

Contact: David Briggs, Owner; Nancy

Tuck, Manager Basic Rate: Call

## ISLAND BOUND STUDIO—32 & 64

track analog

1204 17th Ave. S., 37212, 320-5413 •

(FAX 320-0849)

Contact: Todd Otwell, Manager

Basic Rate: \$450/day M-F; \$300/day Sat.;

\$200/day Sun.

Equipment: 32/64 Otari 54 Series
Console w/Full Disk mix 3 automation
Otari MTR 90III 2", Lexicon 480L, Lexicon
PCM80 reverb, AKG C-12, Yamaha Grand
Piano, Tube Tech CL1B, Focusrite voice
box, Avalon M2 MK2, Tube Tech LCA2B
Clients: Gram Parsons Project, David
Paich, Steven Dale Jones, Gary Harrison,
Roger Cook, Carson Chamberlain, Harley



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Film it. Stage it. Master it. Make it.

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**Special Services:** Control Room, Tracking Area with 4 isolation booths, lounge and kitchen area. ProTools Available.

JACK'S TRACKS—24 track analog 1308 16th Ave. S., 37212, 385-2555 • (FAX 385-2611)

**Contact:** Mark Miller, Chief Engineer and Manager

# JAMSYNC—24 track analog, 32 track digital

1232 17th Ave. S. 37212; Mail: Box 2379 Hendersonville, 37077 • 320-5050 • (FAX 340-9559) • www.jamsync.com *Contact:* Joel Silverman/Marketing & Communications

Equipment: 5.1 surround mix room with THX specified monitoring system.
Cascaded O2Rs with 32 track Pro
Tools/24. DA-88, Fostex RD8, Otari MTR
90 III, Yamaha CDR 100, Lighthouse
Digital 96 point switcher, Lexicon DC-1
DTS Dolby Digital Surround Decoder.

**Special Services:** Specializing in multichannel audio and digital audio editing.

# JAVELINA RECORDING STUDIOS—24, 32 & 48 track analog & digital

30 Music Sq. W., #100, 37212, 242-3493 • (FAX 777-3496)

Contact: Warren Peterson, Owner

Basic Rate: \$200

Equipment: A.P.I. Legacy console with Uptown Automation, Studer A827, Studer D827, 12 channel private queue system, 9' Yamaha Grand piano with MIDI, Neve VR rack, Gates tube limiter.

Clients: Everybody.

**Special Services:** Very large recording space, excellent for large orchestras, tracking dates and vocal overdubs; fabulous console, vintage mics, EMT plates.

### JAY'S PLACE—24 track digital

1508 17th Ave. S., 37212, 269-5826

Contact: Jay Vernali Basic Rate: \$40

# JORDAN CHASSAN SOUND—8 track 1" analog &film/tv location sound

262-0607

Basic Rate: per project

# JUKEBOX RECORDING—24 track analog, 32 track digital

646 West Iris Dr., 37204, 297-9100 • (FAX 297-9156)

Contact: Rich Cavanaugh, Manager

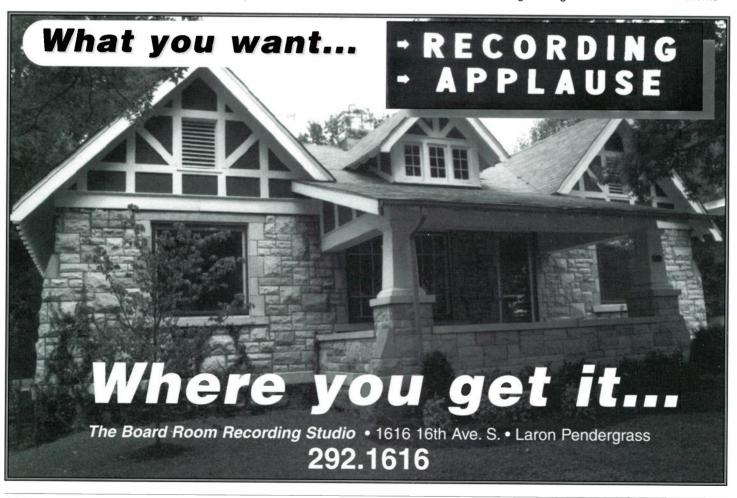
Basic Rate: \$60

Equipment: Raindirk 40x32 Console w/Optifile automation; Studer A-827 24 track; Mitsubishi X-880 32 track; Tascam DA-30, DA-20 & Sony APR-5000 1/4" two tracks. Lexicon 480L & MPX-1, EMT Plate, Yamaha Rev 5 & SPX-90 II, dbx 160, 162, 165, Valley Rack, 2 Distressors. Mics: Neumann, Lawson, AKG, Sennheiser, EV, Shure. Baldwin 7; Grand Piano, Pearl Masters Studio Series Drums. And More! Large Room (15' Ceiling), 3 isos; kitchen; lounge.

# LAKESIDE PRODUCTIONS—16 track analog, 8 track digital

329-1119

Contact: Steve Thomas, Owner Special Services: Lakeside Productions has been serving some of Nashville's top songwriters and publishers for over 10 years. We specialize in demos and custom projects and can accommodate both live tracking sessions and programmed drums. We also have a service for transferring song catalogs to CD. Some recent clients





include Almo/Irving Music, Balmur Music, BMG Songs, EMI/Famous, New Clarion Music, Chrysalis Music, Polygram, Warner/Chappell, Richard Leigh, Layng Martine, Jr., Kenny Beard, Torn Kimmel, Chris Crawford, Fred Knoblock, Bucky Jones, Freddy Weller, and John Jarrard. The atmosphere is comfortable and we can assist in putting all the necessary pieces together for your project..

# LOUD RECORDING—Two 32 track digital, 48 track digital

50 Music Sq. W. #100, 37203, 321-5683 • (FAX 327-0568)

Contact: Joli Hummel, Manager

### LOVE SHACK RECORDING STUDIOS— 24 track analog, 32 track digital; 48 digital

909 18th Ave. S., 37212, 327-2711 • (FAX 327-0750)

Contact: Grant Fowler, Manager Basic Rate: A: \$75/\$85, 48 track

\$1250/day; B: \$40

Equipment: Trident 80C with Uptown moving faders; Otari DTR-900II 32 track digital with AES options, Otari MTR-100 24 track analog, Otari MX-80 24 track analog (B Room), 3 ADAT XT-20 w/BRC, 48 track digital available. Outboard: Focusrite,

GML, Telefunken, Lexicon, Summit, Tube-Tech, UREI, etc. Mics: Neumann, AKG, Sennheiser, Audio Technica, EV, etc. Monitors: Steven Durr Custom Mastering monitors.

Clients: Barry Beckett, BlackHawk, Mark Bright, Clyde Brooks, Suzy Bogguss, Confederate Railroad, Doug Crider, Csaba, Steve Diamond, Diamond Rio, Emory Gordy, Jr., Chris Farren, Steve Fishell, Kenny Greenberg, Dann Huff, George Jones, Josh Leo, Lonestar, Patty Loveless, David Malloy, Michael McDonald, Allison Moorer, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Rick Orozco, Lee Roy Parnell, David Pack, Collin Raye, Thrasher Shiver, Paul Worley

**Special Services:** Spacious, tri-level control room; tracking area has 3 isolation booths including piano booth with Yamaha C7 Grand; private producer's lounge; two fully-equipped lounges.

# MAGIC TRACKS—Two 24 track analog 2712 Larmon Dr., 37204, 292-5950 •

(FAX 292-9148)

Contact: Alan Jones, President

Basic Rate: \$65, \$45

Equipment: Trident 80C automated con-

sole in "A" Room.

### MAKIN' MUSIC STUDIO— 32 track digital

1230 17th Ave. S., 37212, 269-6770 • (FAX 385-9310)

Contact: Bart Busch/Jeff Hawkins,

Managers

Basic Rate: \$50

### MASTER MIX—Mastering studio

1921 Division St., Nashville 37203, 321-5970 • (FAX 321-0764) • mastermx@telalink.net

Contact: Barb Commare, Ronnie Thomas Equipment: Handbuilt Class-A analog consoles by Gordon Electronics. Analog signal processing by Avalon, Sontec, API, Manley, and Pacific Microsonics. Digital consoles by Daniel Weiss Engineering. 88 2/96 k conversions by db Technologies and Pacific Microsonics (HDCD). Digital editing and restorations by Sonic Solutions.

Special Services: Multichannel mastering and encoding for Dolby Digital 5.1 or Dolby Prologic Surround. MPEG-2 video encoding and authoring for DVD. Nashville's first DVD authoring service provider.

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Garth Brooks Michael Omartian Joe Chicco

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Peter Collins Byron Gallimore

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Joe Chiccarelli Stephen Curtis Chapman Roger Nichols Kyle Lehning

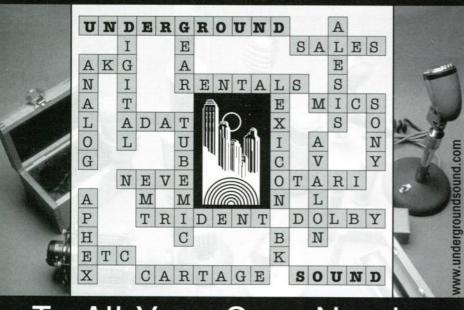
Chuck Ainlay James Taylor Csaba Petocz Jim Ed Norman

Special thanks to SONY for building such an incredible console...so well complimented by our new 24-Bit SONY 3348 HR.

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### MASTERFONICS MASTERING mastering facility

28 Music Sq. E., 37203, 259-4452 • (FAX 242-0101)

Contact: Mastering Engineers: Glenn Meadows (President), Benny Quinn, Tommy Dorsey; Scott Phillips, Studio Manager

# MASTERFONICS STUDIOS—24 track analog, 32 & 48 track digital

28 Music Sq. E., 37203, 259-4452 • (FAX 242-0101)

Contact: Glenn Meadows, President;

Scott Phillips, Manager

### MASTERFONICS TRACKING ROOM— 24 track analog, 32, 48 & 64 track digital

2 Music Cir. E., Nashville 37203, 244-8866

• (FAX 255-5144)

Contact: Scott Phillips, Manager

### MASTERLINK STUDIO-48 track analog

114 17th Ave. S., 37203, 244-5656 • (FAX 242-2472)

Contact: Chad Hailey
Basic Rate: \$1000/day

**Equipment:** Console: Neve V3-60 with flying faders and Legend 2 Mix; Recorders: 2 Otari MTR-100 with synchronization, Otari

MTR-15TM with synchronization; Headphones: Formula Que 8 Active System; Microphones: AKG, Altec, Audio-Technica, Beyer, Calrec, Countryman, EV, Neumann, Sennheiser, Shure, Sony; outboard gear: AMS, Aphex, API, dbx, EMT, Eventide, Gatex, Lexicon, Neve, Sontec, Summit, Teletronics, UREI, Valley, Yamaha; video gear: Brainstorm SR 15+

Distripalyzer, Horita BSG 50 NTSC & PAL Blackburst, Otari EC 201 SMPTE readers, Panasonic SVHS, Sony 3/4" Umatic.

### MIDI MAGIC—24 track digital

7553 Old Harding Rd., 37221, 646-7440 *Contact:* Gerry Peters, Owner

Basic Rate: \$35

### MIDTOWN-80 track digital

49 Music Sq. W., 37203, 329-0555 • (FAX 329-9799)

Basic Rate: \$1,000/day

# MONEY PIT—24 track analog, 32 & 48 track digital

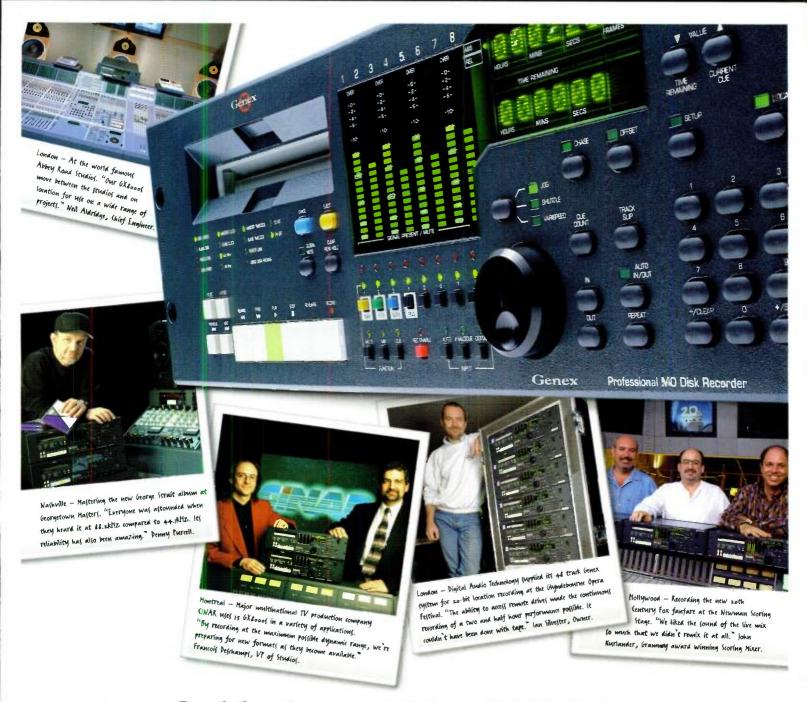
622 Hamilton Ave., 37203, 256-0311 •

(FAX 259-4541)

Contact: Jim Burnett, Manager Basic Rate: \$650-\$750 per day plus

nachine

Equipment: Sony 3348 48 track, Mitsubishi X-850 32 track, Otari MTR-90II 24 track recorders, Trident Series 80



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console, 40 I/O with Disc-Mix moving fader automation, Baldwin SD-10 concert grand piano, EMT 250 & plate reverbs, Apogee 20 bit A/D converters, lots o' good mics, ProTools 4, Micro-Lynx syncronizer, Otari universal format converters.

Clients: Sony, RCA, BMG Canada, Arista, Warner Bros., etc.

Special Services: 32 to 48 track digital transfers and safeties made. Digital editing, vocal enhancements, CD mastering & one-offs. Digital & analog tape machine rentals, including Sony PCM 800.

### MOON DOG MUSIC—24 track analog, 8 track digital

231 Oceola Ave., 37209, 356-6400

Contact: Tim Coats Basic Rate: \$45

### **MUSIC CITY SONGCRAFTERS—8 track** analog/hard disk digital mix

200 23rd Ave. N., 37203, 327-0721

Contact: Kathleen Ward, Owner/Manager;

Curtis Westbrook, Engineer

Basic Rate: \$35

### MUSIC MILL—48 track analog, 64 track digital

1710 Roy Acuff Pl., 37203, 254-5925 •

(FAX 244-5928)

Contact: Steve Hennig Basic Rate: \$1,300/day

### MUSIC WORKS PRODUCTIONS— 32 track digital

1010 16th Ave. S., 37212, 259-3103 • (FAX 256-5440) • riddem@earthlink.net Contact: Warren B. White, Owner Basic Rate: \$35; block rates available Equipment: 32 track Hard Disc

Recording, 24 Track ADAT, Yamaha 02R

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Special Services: Pre-production, arranging, chart writing; turnkey production available on request.

### NED'S PLACE—Unlimited Mac-based, Tascam DA-88 digital 8 tracks

3843 Priest Lake Dr., 37217, 361-7229 •

(FAX 361-7229)

Contact: Tim Hayden, Owner

Basic Rate: \$30

### **NIGHTINGALE STUDIO—24 track** analog, 32 track digital

1815 Division St., Suite 115, 37203, 329-4009 • (FAX 321-0247)

Contact: Joe Bogan, Owner; Genevieve

Bogan, Manager

### NRP MASTERING—Mastering facility

469 Chestnut St., 37203, 259-4200 • (FAX 726-3284) •

Contact: John Eberle, Studio Manager/George Ingram, President Equipment: Our two CD mastering suites each feature a Sonic Solutions CD mastering workstation, and lots of digital and analog gear. For digital processing we have the Valley 730 "Dynamap" dynamics processor, the Weis 7-band digital parametric equalizer, Lexicon 300 digital effects processor, Sony 1630, Mytek A/D and D/A converters (including 20 bit), Sony 2500 and 2700 R-DAT recorders and Z systems sampling rate converters. Analog: the classic Sontec MES-430 Parametric Equalizer, Sphere graphic EQ and more. Monitors are KRK powered by Bryston amps.

Clients: Labels: Step One Records, CMH Records, Pinecastle/Webco, Popular Records, Rebel Records, Zion, Jericho, Daywind and more. Artists: Tim Graves & Cherokee, the Osborne Bros., Eddie Adcock and the Masters, the New Coon Creek Girls, Gene Watson, Bryan Smith, Samantha Fox, Alexia, Koko and Red 5. Special Services: We care about your music! Our approach to mastering is to maximize the sonic potential of music to enhance its success in the marketolace. We also provide mastering for vinyl and offer complete CD, cassette and vinyl manufacturing services.



### OAK VALLEY SOUND-32 & 24 track digital

105 Oak Valley Dr., 37207, 262-2600 • (FAX 226-4070)

Contact: Kevin McManus, President

Basic Rate: \$85, \$55

### OCEAN WAY NASHVILLE-

Three rooms; 24 track analog, 32 & 48 track digital

1200 17th Ave. S., 37201, 320-3900 •

(FAX 320-3910)

Contact: Brett Blanden Basic Rate: Call

### OMNISOUND-Two 24 track, two 32 track, analog and digital

1806 Division St., 37203, 321-5526 •

(FAX 321-5527)

Contact: Steve Tveit, Manager

Basic Rate: \$110/50

### ORCHARD/STILL MUSIC GROUP-32 track digital

1649 Pinkerton Rd., Brentwood 37027, 776-5762 • (FAX 776-3277)

Contact: Rob Still, Owner Basic Rate: \$600/day, \$200/day

### PALMER PLACE—24 track analog

1229 Battlefield Dr., 37215, 297-1721 • (FAX 297-1721)

Contact: Ray Methbin, Owner

### POPPI STUDIO-16 track analog, 16 track digital

PO Box 23965, 37202, 251-6814 •

(FAX 251-6814)

Contact: Linnae Reeves, Manager

Basic Rate: \$45

Equipment: Just off Music Row. 1600 sq. ft. tracking room, Soundworkshop 34C console (automated), MCI JH-16 2" 16 track tape machine (Quior). ProTools 16 Track, Steinway piano, Hammond C3, Fender Rhodes; Mics include AKG, Neumann, Audio Technica, Sennheiser, Shure, EV; Outboard includes Teletronix, UREI, Drawmer, Empirical Labs, dbx, Alesis; Effects include Lexicon, Yamaha, Ibanez, Roland, Alesis.

### DAN BOWEN MUSIC, INC. the songs of Roger Alan Wade



9346 Charbar Circle Chattanooga, TN 37421 423-893-9912

### QUAD STUDIOS—Four rooms, 24, 32 & 48 track analog & digital

1802 Grand Ave., 37212, 321-4067 •

(FAX 321-0046) Contact: Kelly Pribble, GM

Basic Rate: \$65, \$75, \$90

### RECORDING ARTS-24 track analog, 32 & 48 track digital

Mail: P.O. Box 121702; Street: 307 29th Ave. N., 37212, 321-5479 • (FAX 321-0756)

Contact: Lou Johnson

Equipment: SSL 4000G Plus with Ultimation; Mitsubishi X850 digital 32 track w/Apogee filters; Otari MTR90 24 track analog; Sony 3348 digital 48 track; Fostex D-10 DAT; Denon DTR-2000 DAT; Panasonic SV-3700 DAT; Aiwa AD-F1000 cassette recorder; full Sony Color Monitoring System throughout entire studio; Lexicon 480L, (2) PCM 70, Prime Time, PCM 42; Eventide H3000SEV; Klark

### Steve Lehner

Precision Piano Tuning 292-2950





Technic DN780; Roland SRV 2000, DEP 5, Dimension D; Yamaha REV 7, SPX90 II, Teletronics LA-2A; (3) URIE 1176, (2) URIE LA-4; (3) dbx 160x; Drawmer DL241; Valley People 440; (2) Focusrite 110; Adam-Smith Zeta Three; Alesis D4, JL Cooper PPS; Neumann U87 mod.; AKG 414EB, 451; Sennheiser 421 (4), 441 (2); Shure SM57 (3); all Bryston amplification; Studio City Sound Vocal Splicer; Denon DCD 2560 CD player; Judenus headphone boxes; Dynaudio M3 active large monitors, NS10 Studio monitors, Loftech TS-1; Alphatron PC-100 Phase Checker.

Clients: Shania Twain, Trisha Yearwood, Dolly Parton, Confederate Railroad, Faith Hill, John Michael Montgomery, Dusty Springfield, Jeff Foxworthy, Hugh Padgham Special Services: The studio features one of the only two new SSL 4000 G PLUS consoles in Nashville. These consoles are a dramatic sonic improvement over older E

and G series designs. Weekly bookings include full-body massages by our internationally licensed proprietary massage staff. Gourmet meals can be prepared in house by our four star French chef. Extraordinarily comfortable studio with superb monitoring. Chosen as one of the top ten studios in Nashville by *Mix* magazine.

# REDWOOD RECORDING—16 track analog, 16 track digital

628 Elaine Dr, 37211, 331-0533 *Contact:* Rich Henry

### REFLECTIONS RECORDING STUDIOS— Two 24 track analog

2741 Larmon Dr., 37204, 269-0828 • (FAX 269-5542)

Contact: Gene Lawson, Owner

Basic Rate: \$60, \$50

### RISING SON RECORDING STUDIO— 24 track digital

9 Music Sq. S., # 175, 37203, 860-0723 • (FAX 860-0723) • GoodsonMG@aol.com *Contact:* Kent Goodson, Owner

Basic Rate: \$35

Equipment: Tascam 24 track DA-88, DA-30 DAT, Mackie 24x8 console, Lexicon LXP-15(s), dbx 166A compressors, Behringer enhancer, D-4, set of Rogers drums, Roland A-90 keyboard, Roland and Yamaha keyboard modules, AKG 414s, 451, D112, various EV, Sennheiser & Shure mics, Tannoy and Audix monitors. Clients: Sony Tree, Sunrise Productions, songwriters and publishers from London, KY to London, England.

**Special Services:** Demos, jingles, production projects, independent masters. Rising Son Studio is also the home of Digitracks Demo Service, an established international mail order songwriter demo service.

# SALT MINE—32 track digital, 24 track analog

2020 Sunnyside Dr., Brentwood 37027, 373-3580

Contact: Richard Headen, Manager

Basic Rate: \$750/day



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SCENE THREE AUDIO—32 track digital

1813 8th Ave. S., 37203, 385-2820 • (FAX 345-3100)

Contact: Nick Palladino, President

Basic Rate: Call

Equipment: The audio post-production suite includes both analog and digital multitrack mixing with synchronization to any videotape format. Equipment includes: AMS Audiofile Digital Audio Workstation with six-hour storage, Logic 3 32-channel digital console w/full dynamic recall, Adam Smith 2600 A/V audio editing system with six machine control, Studer analog multitrack recorders, two R-DAT digital 2-track recorders with timecode Ensoniq ASR sampler and a variety of high-tech outboard gear, noise reduction and mics; Dolby Pro Logic, 5:1 mixing.

Clients: Sony Records, Pecos Films, Think Pictures, NBC, Saatchi & Saatchi/DFS, Campbell-Mithun & Esty, Emshell, Notch Bradley, Filmhouse, Ericson Comm., Gaylord Syndicom, Kragen & Co., Atlantic Records, Cinema Concepts.

**Special Services:** Pre and post music scoring, audio tape prep for music videos, radio and TV spots.

# SCRUGGS SOUND STUDIO—32 track digital, 24 track analog

2828 Azalea Pl., 37204, 383-7994 • (FAX 297-8369)

Contact: Randy Scruggs, President

# SECRET SOUND—24 track analog, 32 track digital

P.O. Box 160, Franklin 37065, 791-0292 •

(FAX 791-8241)

Contact: Chas Sandford Basic Rate: \$1,750/day

### SEISMIC SOUND-48 track digital

1024 17th Ave. S., 37212, 329-8005 • (FAX 329-9006)

Contact: Tom Davis, President

Basic Rate: Call

# SEVENTEEN GRAND—24, 32 & 48 track analog & digital

1001 17th Ave. S., 37212, 327-9040 •

(FAX 321-9666)

Contact: Jake Niceley, Co-owner

# SIXTEENTH AVENUE SOUND—32/64 track digital, 24 track analog, 48 track digital & analog

1217 16th Ave. S., 37212, 327-8787 •

(FAX 321-0928)

Contact: Preston Sullivan, Studio

Manager; John Trevethan, Technical Director

# SKYLAB STUDIOS—24 track analog & digital

50 Music Sq. W., 37203, 742-6800 • (FAX 321-0276)

Contact: Denny Jiosa, Manager/Chief

Engineer

Basic Rate: \$55, \$60



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# SONG CELLAR PRODUCTIONS/STUDIO BLUE—24 track analog

PO Box 121234, 37212, 383-7222 *Contact:* Jackie Cook, Owner

Basic Rate: \$45/Call

Equipment: Otari MX-80 24 track 2", Mackie 32 input console, PCM 70 and PCM 80 Lexicon effects, 2 DAT machines, 4 large isolation rooms, Hammond B-3, two Leslies, new mics including Audio Technica-4033.

Clients: John Scott Sherrill, Karen Staley, Wendell Mobley, Lindy Gravelle, Chuck Neese, J. Aaron Brown & Associates, Buddy Killen Music, Gary Harrison, Jim Robinson.

Special Services: 6 piece rhythm section—\$225 per song. R-8 drums and bass, acoustic and electric guitars—\$200 per song. Comfortable, natural atmosphere. Rustic and roomy, ample parking. Large control room, easy load in.

### SONGCRAFTERS/SOUND SURGERY— 8 track analog

P.O. Box 120145, 37203, 327-0721 • (FAX 327-0713)

Contact: Kathleen Ward/Curtis Westbrook Basic Rate: \$35

# SOUND CONTROL—24 track analog, 32 track digital

2814 Azalea Pl., 37204, 292-2047 • (FAX 269-5638)

Contact: Mark Moseley/Andy Moseley Basic Rate: \$60 w/engineer, \$40 w/o engineer

# SOUND EMPORIUM—24 track analog, 32 track digital

3100 Belmont Blvd., 37212, 383-1982 • (FAX 383-1919)

Contact: Melissa Brannan, Manager Basic Rate: A: \$150 analog, \$200 digital;

B: \$70 analog, \$120 digital

Equipment: A: Neve 8128 console with

flying faders, Otari DTR 900II 32 track, Otari MTR 90 III 24 track recorders; B: Trident 80 B console, Otari MTR 90 II 24 track, Mitsubishi X850 32 track recorders, Formula cue 8 system, both rooms. *Clients:* Vince Gill, Pam Tillis, BR5-49, Gillian Welch, Sam Bush, Don Williams, Point of Grace, Twila Paris.

**Special Services:** Full kitchen, conference room.

# SOUND KITCHEN—24, 32 & 48 track digital, radar systems

112 Seaboard Ln., Franklin 37067, 370-5773 • (FAX 370-1712)

Contact: Jennifer Rose, Manager

Basic Rate: Call

Equipment: Neve VR72 Legend w/flying faders, Neve VR60 Legend w/flying faders, SSL G+ 64 Input with ultimation, SSL G 64 Input w/total recall, Neve V3, Neve 8108 w/flying faders. Vast selection of outboard gear and mics; private lounge & kitchen for all six rooms.

Clients: Julio Iglesias, Wynonna, Amy Grant, Peter Cetera, Lee Ann Womack, Michael McDonald, Pam Tillis, Donna Summer.

Special Services: The Sound Kitchen has been named one of the top ten studios in the world. The full service, six-room, state-of-the-art recording facility can meet the recording and budget needs of any possible client. From home cooked Italian meals to an 80-piece string session, we can handle it all.

# SOUND STAGE STUDIO—Three rooms, 24 & 48 track analog & digital

10 Music Cir. S., 37203, 256-2676 • (FAX 259-2942)

Contact: Michael Koreiba, Manager Basic Rate: \$125, \$175, \$225 Equipment: Sound Stage Studio is a three room state-of-the-art recording facility. With service being the key to our repu-

tation, we offer a full time staff and 24 hour tech support. Each studio enhances the comfort zone by having a private lounge for those interested in a little R&R. Frontstage, (The A Room), features the 80 input SSL 9000 J-Series. Backstage, (The B Room), features the 72 input SSL 4000 E with G computer. 2nd Stage, (The C Room), features the 56 input SSL 4000 E with G computer. Sound Stage offers every professional recording format and can make any type of safety or tape transfer. Three rooms, three budgets, and three SSL consoles to fit the need of every artist, producer, and engineer in the business.

# **SOUNDSHOP INC.—Two 48 track digital** 1307 Division St., 37203, 244-4149 • FAX 242-8759)

Contact: Rose Johnson, Studio

Coordinator

Basic Rate: \$1,500/day, \$1,000/day Equipment: Studio A: Large room with five isolation rooms, 16 channel cue system and great mic selection. Studio B: The best bargain in town! Small main room with four isolation rooms, 8 channel cue system, great mic selection, good outboard selection. 48 track digital, all for \$1000/day...

# SPOTLAND PRODUCTIONS—32 track digital

2000 21st Ave., 37212, 385-2957 • (FAX 386-3638) •

spotland@mindspring.com

Contact: Deborah Trimble, Ben Holland

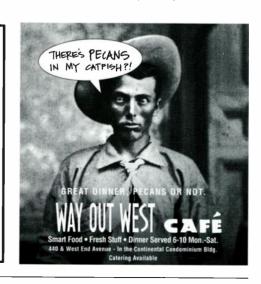
Basic Rate: Call

Equipment: Three digital ProTools studios including two 32 track 24-bit systems and a total of five isolation booths. Gear includes Neumann, AKG, GML, API, UREI, Tannoy and Otari. Post production facilities include 3/4" video, TC DAT, TC two track and Lynx synchronizer. ISDN systems include 3D2 (APT-X), Telos



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# STARSTRUCK STUDIOS—16, 24, 32 & 48 tracks, analog & digital

40 Music Sq. W., 37203, 259-5200 • (FAX 259-5202)

Contact: Robert De La Garza, VP

Basic Rate: Call

Equipment: Starstruck Studios is a two-room, world class, state-of-the-art recording facility. The Gallery and The Pond are fully complemented, each with their own Sony 3348 digital multi-tracks, as well as Studer 24 tracks, and Sony 9000 Magneto Optical recorders. Both rooms have a full array of outboard gear and are further accessorized with a complement of 135 microphones. New for 1998 are 32 tracks of 24-bit ProTools per room.

Special Services: The studio complex also houses Starstruck Broadcast, a fully equipped facility specializing in Media Satellite Tours.

# STUDIO 19—24 track analog, 32 track digital

821 19th Ave. S., 37203, 327-4927 • (FAX 327-4928)

Contact: Larry Rogers, Owner

Basic Rate: \$75

### STUDIO 20-24 track analog

823 19th Ave. S., 37203, 327-4927 •

(FAX 327-4928)

Contact: Larry Rogers, Owner

Basic Rate: \$55

### STUDIO 23-16 track digital

466 Sunliner Dr., 37209, 356-7916 •

(FAX)

Contact: Bryan Cumming, Owner

Basic Rate: \$30

# STUDIO AT MOLE END—24 track analog, 24 track digital

1143 Dora Whitley Rd., Franklin 37064, 794-7471

Basic Rate: \$900/day

# STUDIO C PRODUCTIONS—32 track digital, 16 track digital

30 Music Sq. W. #150, 37203, 259-2346 •

(FAX 259-7852)

Contact: Fred Bogert, Owner

Basic Rate: \$75, \$60

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Equipment: Studio C Productions features room-style recording of all styles of music. Platforms in both studios have always featured all-digital hard disk recording and mixing platforms. ADAT and DA-88 are also available for recording or import/export.

Clients: Clients include Jorma Kaukonen ("Land of Heroes," "Christmas"), Mike Utley ("Parakeets"), David Carradine ("American Reel"), Vassar Clements ("Little Big Band"), and Trout Fishing in America ("Reel Life," "My World," "Family Music Party").

Special Services: Please contact us about tracking, mixing, overdubbing, and digital editing. We have block rates so you can settle in and enjoy the vibes and the professional staff.

STUDIO X-24 track digital 383-9602

Contact: Bob Krusen

SUITE 16 RECORDING-24 track analog, 32 track digital

1011 16th Ave. S., 37212, 329-8130 • (FAX 329-8129)

Contact: Ben Speer, Manager

SUITE 2000—24 track analog

P.O. Box 210272, 37221, 646-4900 • (FAX 646-7402)

Contact: Richard Adler, Owner/Manager

Basic Rate: \$65

SUNDANCE RECORDING—24 track digital

9 Music Sq. S., #398, 37203, 868-1373 Contact: Beau Garrett, Owner

SWANEE RECORDING STUDIO-24 track analog

3950 N. Mt. Juliet Rd., Mt. Juliet 37122. 754-0417 • (FAX 754-0424)

Contact: Gene Kennedy, President

Basic Rate: \$75

THE REC ROOM—16 track digital

198 Bonnalee Dr., Hermitage 37076, 889-4592

Contact: Terry Ballard, Owner Basic Rate: \$20, w/engineer

TOMBSTONE—24 track analog

2813 Azalea Pl., 37204, 292-9028 •

(FAX 297-0055)

Contact: Tom Harding, Owner/Manager

TOP TRACKS—24 track analog

113 17th Ave. S., 37203, 742-1555 Contact: Tom Pallardy, Owner

Basic Rate: \$60

TRACKING STATION—24 track analog

50 Music Sq. W., #410, 37203, 327-2922

Contact: Danny Bailey, Manager Equipment: 24 track analog w/automation, grand piano, B-3, great outboard gear. Contact Danny Bailey, Lea Jane

Berinati or Michael Webb.

TRAVIS ALLEN PRODUCTIONS— 32 track digital

9 Music Sq. S. #260, 37210, 851-0420 •

(FAX 851-0420)

Contact: Travis Allen, Owner

Basic Rate: Call

TREASURE ISLE RECORDERS, INC.— 24 track analog

2808 Azalea Pl., 37204, 297-0700 • (FAX 297-1024)

Contact: Tori Molle, General Manager

Basic Rate: \$100

TREE STUDIOS—24 track analog. 24 track digital, 48 track digital

8 Music Sq. W., 37203, 726-8300 • (FAX 244-6387)

Contact: Pat McMakin, Manager; Debbie Tenpenny, Studio Coordinator

Basic Rate: A: \$1,000/day; B: \$45/hr.

### UNIVERSAL DIGITAL PRODUCTIONS— Digitizing & encoding for interactive media

44 Music Sq. E., # 114, 37203, 252-8753 • (FAX 252-8754)

Contact: Marc Harris, Studio Manager

Basic Rate: Call

**VENUS MASTERING—Mastering facility** 209 10th Ave. S., #499, 37203, 248-4024 • (FAX 256-7905)

Contact: Marina Falzone, Marketing

Manager

Basic Rate: \$65

WESTWOOD SOUND STUDIOS-24 & 48 track analog & digital

2714 Westwood Dr., 37204, 298-5256 •

(FAX 298-5273)

Contact: Tony Castle, Manager

Basic Rate: Call

WHISTLER'S MUSIC STUDIOS-32 track analog & digital, 24 track digital

1701 Church St., 37203, 320-1444 •

(FAX 320-0750) Contact: Chris Parker

Basic Rate: \$300-\$650/day

Equipment: Whistler's Music, Inc. and its affiliate i.v. records, operate a three-studio complex two blocks from Music Row. Our studios can accommodate 24 track analog, ADAT, Tascam D-88 and ProTools. We have a wide assortment of outboard gear including Neve preamps, Joe Meek compressors, Telefunken V-72, NTI EQ, Distressors, SSL compressor, UREI 1178 and AMEK 9098s. Also included for additional charge are MIDI programming and demo productions services.

WILDWOOD RECORDING-24 track analog

6318 Panorama Dr., Brentwood 37027,

Contact: Brendan Harkin, Owner



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Clients: Many Nashville record companies, publishers, songwriters and producers. Special Services: Production and production packages, contracting, original music, sequencing.

WINDWALKER RECORDING-16 track analog, digital mastering

827 Wren Rd., Goodlettsville 37072, 859-5487 • (FAX 859-5549)

Contact: Jim Sandefur, President/Owner Basic Rate: \$40; \$55 mastering

WOLF MASTERING—Mastering facility

1024 16th Ave. S., 37212, 251-9653 •

(FAX 742-9653) Contact: Erik Wolf, Owner

Basic Rate: \$75

Equipment: Custom mastering studio offering the finest in digital and analog sonic treatment, SADIE Mastering System with GML 9500 and Focusrite Blue 315 isomorphic mastering equalizers, NTI EQ3 sound enhancement system, Spatializer Retro 3-D audio processor, Giltronics custom vacuum tube line amplifier, Apogee D/A & A/D converters, Apogee UV22 Super CD, Meyer Sound HD-1 audio monitors, balanced power and Mogami cable throughout.

Clients: Numerous major label and independent album projects, including the Grammy-winning dc Talk "Welcome to the Freak Show" album.

Special Services: 20 years mastering experience—all types of music. Lots of magazines and a really comfortable couch.

WOLF MUSIC-32 & 24 track digital 209 10th Ave. S. #434, 37203, 254-4828 • (FAX 254-4884)

Contact: Brian Kelly, Manager

Basic Rate: \$100

Equipment: (1) ProTools 24, Apogee AD-8000, Waves Gold, Auto Tune, 27+ Gigabytes Hard Drives, DataDAT Backup, three 16-bit ProTools/Digital Performer

workstations, iso booth, Hammond B-3, Kimball grand, numerous synths, samplers, two DA-88s, video lock, Time Code DAT. Sound Effects, 3/4" video, S-VHS. Clients: CMT, HGTV, Garth, Tractor Supply, O'Charley's, BAMA (Welch's). GE,

V-Chip.

Special Services: We specialize in awardwinning (4 Emmys, etc.) audio and music for all film and media applications and we have in-house composers, sound designers and engineering available. Most creative projects are bid per project.

### WOODLAND STUDIOS—24 track analog, 32 & 48 track digital

1011 Woodland St., 37206, 262-2222 • (FAX 262-5800)

Contact: Missy Smith, Office Manager

## Basic Rate: \$1,100/day

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by ROBERT K. OERMANN

# Wills, Austin & Lonestar Lead

OK, let's be fair. We have to discount the Brian Wilson single. It is in a class all its own and is so far head and shoulders above the rest of this stuff that it's ridiculous. Besides, although it features plenty of Nashville participation it was cut in Illinois not Music City.

What does that leave us with for **Single of the Day?** Well, I'm resorting to an old gimmick of mine, dividing the honor into Male, Female and Group. That way, **Mark Wills'** deeply moving performance, the nifty **Sherrié Austin** single and the sterling **Lonestar** disc can all wear the crowns they deserve.

My favorite label of the listening session was **Sugar Hill Records**, which presents us with superb new albums by Chris Hillman and Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver. The former includes guests such as Jerry Douglas, David Crosby, David Lindley and Jennifer Warnes and is essential listening. The latter is a return to old-fashioned gospel quartet singing and will warm your heart. To the North Carolina indie, a salute as our **Label of the Day**.

This is cheating a little bit, since she's been making records for more than 25 years. But **Suzanne Thomas** has made her first solo record. The mountain-music diva thus technically qualifies for a **DISCovery Award** and an extra thump from my hillbilly heart. I hope she sings for 25 more years and becomes the hillbilly idol she deserves to be.

Geez it's hot. So are some of these sounds.

### COUNTRY

### CHARLES ALAN ROWE "Big Enough"

Writer: Charles Alan Rowe; Producer: Paul Pollard; Publisher: American Torch, no performance rights listed; Torch 055453 (track)

Thuddingly boring '70s rock dressed up in a cowboy hat.

### EDDY RAVEN "Somebody's Tearin' The Flag"

Writer: Eddy Raven; Producer: Barry Beckett; Publisher: Milene, ASCAP; Capitol CDX.

Oh shut up. Wrapping yourself in God and Patriotism is the cheapest entertainment stunt in the book. This simply reeks of sleazy opportunism.

### **BROOKS & DUNN "How Long Gone"**

Writer: Shawn Camp/John Scott Sherrill; Producer: Don Cook/Kix Brooks/Ronnie Dunn; Publisher: Shawn Camp/Foreshadow Songs/ Little Big Town/Nothing But the Wolf, BMI; Arista 3128.

As if Ronnie's voice wasn't soul-gripping enough, this has an absolutely killer little guitar riff, a thumpin' rhythm track and an absolutely insistent hook.

### STEVE LAMAR "Always Something Broken"

Writer: J.T. Huss/Steve Lamar; Producer: Steve Lamar; Publisher: Wetab Tunes, ASCAP; Wetab (track) His personable vocal is somewhat reminiscent of Clint Black. The writing is quite clever and the band is cookin.' This boy sounds like a "comer" to me.... and his presentation packet graphics are terrific.

### ANDI ZACK "Hate Lovin' You"

Writer: Andi Zack; Producer: Andi Zack; Publisher: Andi Zack, SOCAN; Andi Zack Poor thing. She simply can't sing.

### MARK WILLS "Don't Laugh At Me"

Writer: Allen Shamblin/Steve Seskin; Producer: Carson Chamberlain; Publisher: Built On Rock/David Aaron/Love This Town, ASCAP; Mercury 205.

My heart stopped. My eyes welled up. I was moved to my core. This is what great country music is all about, folks. A deep bow to Mark for singing it and a Song of the Year nomination to the boys who wrote it.

### LONESTAR "Everything's Changed"

Writer: Richie McDonald/Paul Nelson/Larry Boone; Producer: Don Cook/Wally Wilson; Publisher: Five Cowboys/Sony ATV/Terilee, BMI/ASCAP; BNA 65513.

Big, beefy harmonies. Picturesque lyrics. Lustrous production. A big smash, I hope.

### SHERRIE AUSTIN "Innocent Man"

Writer: Kent Agee/Will Rambeaux; Producer: Ed Seay/Will Rambeaux; Publisher: These Mortals/Reynsong/Bayou Boy, ASCAP/BMI; Arista 3117.

I totally love this song. And this girl has so much personality and vocal talent that I don't see how you can deny her any longer.

### GARY ALLAN "No Man In His Wrong Heart"

Writer: Ronnie Rogers/Trey Bruce; Producer: Mark Wright/Byron Hill; Publisher: Maypop/Route Six/WB/Big Tractor, BMI/ASCAP; Decca 72059.

He continues to impress. Gary has the vocal aim of a championship archer who hits the bullseye every time. What's even better are his flawless taste in songs and his commitment to solid country. By the way, Decca has also shipped Gary's stark, solo message song "No Judgement Day" as a bonus.

### CHRISTIAN

### THE McKAMEYS "A Wall Of Prayer"

Writer: Kyla Rowland; Producer: none listed; Publisher: My Abby/McKameys, BMI; Horizon

There is something so delightfully hillbilly about Peg McKamey. Her belt-it-out sincerity and the family's downhome harmony blend might not be pitch perfect, but there's something inescapably charming about 'em. This waltz-time ode doesn't fit the act's style as well as the uptempo, handclapping stuff does, but I still dig it.

# FERNANDO ORTEGA "Children Of The Living God"

Writer: Fernando Ortega; Producer: none listed; Publisher: Izzy Sol, BMI; Myrrh/Covenant. Nice voice. Nursery-rhyme song.

### THE FAIRFIELD FOUR "Hallelujah"

Writer: public domain; Producer: Jerry Zolten; Publisher: public domain; Dead Reckoning 0009 (track)

They need nothing but their voices and handclaps to go *Wreckin' the House*. And that is the title of their new live CD. You need this music in your life.

### MICHAEL CARD "The Song Of The Lamb"

Writer: Michael Card; Producer: none listed; Publisher: Mole End, ASCAP; Myrrh/Convenant. Bland, boring.

### THE ISAACS "He Lifts Me"

Writer: Eileen Carson; Producer: none listed; Publisher: MLS, BMI; Horizon.

Now would be the right time to pick up copies of Isaacs albums and get familiar with these fine voices. Mountain soprano Sonya Isaacs is about to become news. Signed as a country act to Lyric Street, she has enlisted Vince Gill as her producer. This bluesy, acoustic track gives you some idea of why.

# DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER "I'm Riding High On Wings Of Love"

Writer: none listed; Producer: Doyle Lawson; Publisher: Top O'Holston/Southern Melody, BMI; Sugar Hill 3879 (track)

The latest by this durable bluegrass outfit is a "throwback" record of old-time gospel tunes recorded with just a single guitar and the quartet gathered around one microphone. Titled *Gospel Radio Gems*, this CD is guaranteed to set you free.

### POINT OF GRACE "Steady On"

Writer: Grant Cunningbam/Matt Huesmann; Producer: none listed; Publisher: River Oaks/ Field of Themes, BMI; Word

A shot of rhythm and an infusion of production glitz give these gals the punch they've needed, not to mention a big, big hit record.

### POP/ROCK

### CEILI RAIN "That's All The Lumber You Sent"

Writer: Bob Halligan Jr/Linda Halligan/Rick Cua; Producer: Bill Halverson; Publisher: WBOB/Bencap/Pension Plan/Mima, ASCAP/ BMI; Power Entertainment Group 006 (track)

In a word, thrilling. Celtic instrumentation (fiddle/squeezebox/pipes), earnest singing, rocking rhythm. An A-plus for innovation, musicality and talent. Things like this refresh me immensely.

### WILLIAM TOPLEY "Wake Up"

Writer: none listed; Producer: William

Topley/Dominic Miller; Publisher: none listed; Mercury211 (track)

The growling/singing has plenty of rock 'n' roll attitude and the beats are slammin.' But I think there are better choices for a single on this new collection by gifted Brit Topley.

### **BRIAN WILSON "Your Imagination"**

Writer: Brian Wilson/Joe Thomas/S.R. Dabl; Producer: Brian Wilson/Joe Thomas; Publisher: New Executive/On the Fox, BMI; Giant 24703-2 (track)

This sparkles like a handful of diamonds. Brian's layered harmonies and melodic sensibilities are as splendid as ever. That's our own Eddie Bayers, Brent Rowan and Michael Rhodes backing him and River North man Joe Thomas behind the board. Celestial sounding.

### AMERICANA

### CHRIS HILLMAN "Like A Hurricane"

Writer: Chris Hillman/Steve Hill; Producer: Ritchie Podolor; Publisher: Bar None/Me and My House, BMI; Sugar Hill 3878 (track)

The legendary Hillman sounds like an evergreen folkie on the title track to his stunning new album. A veteran of The Byrds, The Flying Burrito Brothers, Manassas, The Desert Rose Band and a dozen smaller combos, he sounds like a pup playing with his first toy on this rippling, pulsing gem of a tune. No. 1 on my heart's hit parade.

### JOHN BOHLINGER "What Good Is Love"

Writer: John Bohlinger; Producer: Gary Paczosa;

Publisher: Maypop, BMI; X 15: 2 (track)

This is extremely close to Lyle Loyett in both style and content. Listenable, but he should develop some individuality.

### MIKE RAYBURN "Hold Everything"

Writer: Tom Kimmel/Mike Rayburn; Producer: none listed; Publisher: none listed; Rayburn (615-898-5869)

It says here that this guy is a big campus star who has sold over 10,000 CDs on his own during the past year. The sound is folk rock with a slight vocal rasp and some rather overpowering electric instrumentation. Try a simpler approach if you really want to showcase as a songwriter.

### AASHID HIMONS "Mr. Bailey"

Writer: Aashid/Steve Karol; Producer: Aashid; Publisher: Gandibu/Karol, BMI; SOPTEK 888

Aashid's first blues album includes a lilting hillbilly track in homage to vintage black Opry star DeFord Bailey, which would fit splendidly on any Americana playlist. If you wanna go hard core, there's always his treatment of the reliable Muddy Waters classic "Got My Mojo Working" or the churchy "You've Got To Move."

### BLUEGRASS

### DON WAYNE RENO "Remington Ride"

Writer: Herb Remington/Hank Penny; Producer: Don Wayne Reno/Dale Reno; Publisher: Fort Knox/Trio, BMI; Pinecastle 1081 (track)

The youngest of the Reno brothers sure can make that banjo ring. This breakneck-tempo instrumental (with an assist from Dale Reno on mandolin) is simply mind-warping.

### **SUZANNE THOMAS** "From The Point Of View Of Ruby Jayne"

Writer: Suzanne Thomas; Producer: Bill Evans/Suzanne Thomas: Publisher: Brantford-PolyGram, BMI; Rounder 0423 (track)

I have been secretly in love with this woman for years, first as the silver-dew vocalist in The Hotmud Family, then in The Dry Branch Fire Squad. I'm beside myself with excitement that she finally has a solo album to showcase one of the finest voices in country-music history, plus, as demonstrated on this track, a songwriting talent to be reckoned with.

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Keith Harling/Coming Back For You/MCA Duane Staley/Holding On To Nothing/Ricca Bryan White/Tree of Hearts/Asylum Bob Bennett/Jesus In Our Time/Myrrh-Covenant Ricochet/Honky Tonk Baby/Columbia Brad Lee/What More/Wild George Strait/True/MCA Bill Mize/Coastin'/Moon Pie Crawford-West/The Healing End/Warner Bros. Tom Rozum/Jubilee/Dog Boy S. Wariner & G. Brooks/Burnin' The Roadhouse/Capitol Tecia McKenna/Sweet Perfume/Art Music Group Daryle Singletary/My Baby's Lovin'/Giant

Becky Hobbs/Country Girls/Intersound

ROW FILE

# **David Malloy**

VP. A&R and Production. Starstruck Entertainment 40 Music Sq. W. Nashville, TN 37212 615-259-0001 Fax: 259-5298 E-Mail/Web: cam@starstruck.com



Well before he assumed the and/or producing 38 No. 1 singles. Starstruck post in 1996, David Malloy was moving and shaking within the sanctum of Music Row. He carved his first of several niches by writing songs, picking up a BMI Award in 1972 with his first cut, "Then You Walk In," by Sammi Smith, Since then, Malloy has co-written two Eddie Rabbitt No. 1 hits, "Drivin' My Life Away" and "I Love A Rainy Night;" Kenny Rogers' chart-topper "Love Will Turn You Around," and literally hundreds more. All told, he's had a hand in co-writing

Now at Starstruck Entertainment, the company owned by Reba McEntire and husband Narvel Blackstock, Malloy produced Reba's latest album, If You See Him, and her tribute to the Salvation Army, "What If." Malloy also has a co-publishing deal with Starstruck Writers Group, co-produces Mindy McCready and produces new RCA act Andy Griggs. But these days, he spends more of his time making executive decisions. "We are developing talent with the purpose of getting major label deals," he explains. "I'm also involved in anything that has to do with Reba and her music."

It's somewhat of a shift in gears, but he's raving about the ride. "The difference with this is, we're not a record label. In fact, we're everything but," Malloy says. "Narvel and Reba have put together a team that likes to try new and challenging things. They're very cutting edge, very first class in everything they do. The only limit is your own imagination."

"I love working with new acts," Malloy says. "It's a great thrill to take someone like Daryle Singletary or Mindy McCready and help them develop a sound."

"When I'm working with young acts especially, I like to hang with them, and ask them how they feel about certain things," he says. "Sometimes, you start to feel like a chameleon, because you almost become them in your mind. But it's a way of getting inside their heads and finding out about them. I like

artists who have a clear vision of who he or she is."

One artist that he won't soon forget is the late Eddie Rabbitt, who recently died after a long bout with lung cancer. With Malloy's production and Rabbitt's unique sound, the tandem effectively made "country/pop" a byword of the late 1970s and early 1980s. "He was a big part of my life for more than 13 years," Malloy recounts wistfully. "It's sort of like a chapter in a book. You can happily revisit it, but you won't be able to add to it. I'll miss him greatly."

More Rabbitt-style originals are sorely needed, he believes. "We have to get in the trenches a little more, and make music that demands to be heard," he says. "We are a viable art form, but right now, people don't want to buy, because we're not striking a chord with them. A few years ago, we dua deeper and tried harder, and had the guts to be different. That's what gets people excited."

-Bob Paxman

### **ALBUM REVIEWS**



### THE WILKINSONS/Nothing But Love

(Giant 2-24699) Producers: Tony Haselden, Russ Zavitson, Doug Johnson

**Prime Cuts:** "26¢," "Boy Oh Boy," "The Yodelin' Blues," "Fly," "The Word," "Williamstown"

Critique: The Wilkinsons made a big splash at CRS this year, and now I know why. Nothing But Love, probably six-deep in radio hits, is aptly titled, both for the album's subject matter and for the pure heart and joy in each and every performance. Most of the material features 16-year old Amanda, but don't let her age fool you—her expressive alto is astonishingly mature. Such command of the pipes comes only from the love of singing and the self confidence to let



'er rip. Her personality comes through, too-that is to say, she's not a knock-off singer; this is Amanda Wilkinson. (Check out Skip Ewing's "The Yodeling Blues.") The pleasant surprise came on "Don't I Have A Heart," featuring younger brother Tyler, whose voice, while still in transition, comes from intrinsic and fully formed talent. Is it possible these voices came to them perfectly matured? An even better song and vocal performance by Tyler comes on the bluesy Dobro-wound "The Word," about falling in love the first time. It's perfect for the youth set, but laughingly recognizable by those of us who've been burned by "The Word." And dad Steve is not just a chaperone, either. You learn where their talent comes from on "One Faithful Heart." Plus, the elder Wilkinson's song sense here is simply unerring—he co-wrote seven of the eleven cuts with the likes of Gary Burr, Rory Bourke and John Scott Sherrill. Add to this bevy of thrilling talent absolutely pluperfect production-check out "Back On My Feet Again," a rocker, with banjo!and you have, my friends, the future of country music.

-Charlene Blevins

### PAM TILLIS/Every Time

(Arista 18861) *Producers: Billy Joe Walker, Jr., Pam Tillis* **Prime Cuts:** "Every Time," "Hurt Myself," "Lay The Heartache Down,"
"I Said A Prayer"

Critique: It's always a pleasure to listen to a new album from Pam Tillis, not only because she's my favorite female country singer, but because each one is a many-faceted gem. It's been nearly three years since her self-produced *All Of This Love*, and a year since the Grammynominated "All The Good Ones Are Gone" from her *Greatest Hits* package. In that period, Pam's been through a lot, including a divorce. Perhaps that is why *Every Time* 



offers a kaleidoscopic view of love. The first single, "I Said A Prayer," is a percolating fiddle and steel-fueled upbeat take on faith in true love-the flipside of the title track, itself a pleading tale of unrequited love that features Eagles member Timothy B. Schmidt on harmonies. The song, as well as Pam's luminous vocal, has the timeless feel of Dionne Warwick's best work with Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Pam has again found an album's worth of nuggets from some of Music Row's finest tunesmiths, but this is the first time she's ever recorded three songs by any one writer. Pam's pairing with Leslie Satcher is a match made in hillbilly heaven. Her material includes the buoyant lead single as well as the fiesty "You Put The Lonely On Me" and the raw country "Whiskey On The Wound." Mark my words, Ms. Satcher will be at least a nominee for Breakthrough Writer of 1999. Other songs here that have the feel of new Tillis standards include the irony-laced "Hurt Myself" and the bluesy guitar-spiked shuffle "Lay The Heartache Down." Again, Pam Tillis gets me Every Time.

-Ron Young

### **VARIOUS ARTISTS/Hope Floats Soundtrack**

(Capitol 7243 4 93402 2 0) Executive Producers: Don Was, Forest Whitaker

**Prime Cuts:** "To Make You Feel My Love" (two versions), "Chances Are," "Wither, I'm A Flower," "Paper Wings," "What Makes You Stay"

Critique: Only a quirky movie about heavy domestic traumas starring a real life jazz crooner (Harry Connick, Jr.) and a former movie rocker (Michael Pare from *Eddie and The Cruisers*) directed by a sensitive black actor shot in Texas could have produced a soundtrack this offbeat. A dash of Americana (The Mavericks, Gillian Welch, Whiskeytown, Lyle Lovett), a little pop (Bryan Adams, Sheryl Crow), a dollop of country (Deana Carter, Trisha Yearwood, Garth Brooks), some balladic rock (Bob Seger) and ladies and gentlemen, The Rolling Stones, all share billing here. Interesting enough, some actual songs from the film didn't make it on here, most notably Jack Ingram and The Beat Up Ford Band, who appear as the house band at a barn dance. Depsite the eclectic mix of artists, the overall sound is lush and lovelorn, full of acoustic ballads and a gorgeous array of female singing voices. Adding to the oddness are two versions of



Bob Dylan's "To Make You Feel My Love," originally intended as a duet for singing titans Brooks and Yearwood, but ending up as separate recordings bookending the album. Soundtrack king Bryan Adams reprises a former hit "When You Love Someone" in a gentle acoustic version; Bob Seger's "Chances Are," though nine years old, has never been released and is given a nice contrast of vocal rasp (Seger) versus rapture (Martina McBride). Seger wrote the song for his then girlfriend—it obvious-

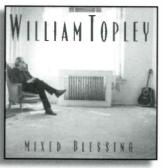
ly worked its night moves charm as Seger, and his wife, added some romantic starpower to the Nashville film premiere in May.

-Sandra Schulman

### WILLIAM TOPLEY/Mixed Blessing

(Mercury 314-558 452-2) Producers: William Topley, Dominic Miller, Colin Vearncombe, Barry Beckett, Jimmy Miller, The Blessing, Neil Dorfsman Prime Cuts: "Wake Up," "Sycamore Street," "Song Of A Seabird," "Sophia"

Critique: Like most in this business, I keep a mental list of under-appreciated artists whose work cuts me to the core. Though I realize many will never strike that elusive mass-appeal chord, a frustrating few have me convinced they are multi-Platinum superstars in waiting. Topping that list? William Topley. His solo debut on Mercury Nashville persuaded me that Music City could not just compete with the coasts, but kick some serious rock'n'roll booty. Failing that in all but a few markets with Black River, the folks at Mercury (all hail) commissioned a second release. The last five songs of Mixed Blessing are a journey through Topley's artistic evolution with U.K. band The Blessing—from the Simple Minds-reminiscent pop of "Highway 5" to the muscular crunch of "Soul Love." Two songs from Black River are also included, but the album's strength lies in four new songs that open the set. "Wake Up" pulses and drifts—one part James Brown and two parts Pink Floyd. "Sycamore



Street" is organ-drenched, heroin addict blues powered by Topley's one-in-a-billion voice. The album's pinnacle—and perhaps Topley's best work to date—is "Song Of A Seabird" with its reggae-infused chorus and beautifully interwoven vocal melodies. For the former Jamaican resident the lyrics may be a literal tribute to island life, but they are also a metaphor for the triumph of simple living over the enslavement of materialism. I understand Mercury's strategy, and am mind-

ful of my own blessing at being intimately acquainted with Topley's art. Still, I would part with a bodily extremity for an entire album of new material from this grossly overlooked talent.

—Chuck Aly

### **EDGE OF THE ROW**

OF E

by RUSTY RUSSELL

### "...fairground food and megadoses of a certain pink liquid."

Just in case some of you aren't familiar with the phenomenon that is Fan Fair, here's the quick take: It's this big annual blow-out we have in TuneTown where, over the course of a carefully-chosen week when the sun will be at its closest point to the earth since the Big Bang, most every major-label country artist plays a short set for fans who travel from-literally-all over the world to sit on folding chairs or (if they're lucky) wooden grandstand seats and bask in the country firmament. It's held at our State Fairgrounds, which are, um, "quaint," such that they would seem extremely modern and luxurious to twenties-era Russian death-camp survivors. The really unique thing about the festival is that fans can actually get up-close and personal with their favorite stars, who set up booths in the big metal buildings designed to house livestock, gigantic vegetables and chainsaw-wielding wood-carvers during an actual State Fair. Having played the event three or four times and (anointed with a backstage pass) schmoozed my way through the label-sponsored beer tents at several others, I thought I was a veteran. I sheepishly admit, though, that until this year I'd never actually wandered into the fairgrounds proper, the booth areas where all the autograph signing and hand shaking and star-touching happens. What an eye-opener!

I saw Terri Clark sign a prosthetic leg. Really. Didn't bat an eye, either, just hunkered down and scribbled away. (One can only imagine what other body parts were signed during the week.) I saw a perfectly grandmotherly little woman haul off and punch the meaty arm of a man in a cowboy hat who'd inadvertently snaked her place in line. And what lines! Oh, the humanity!

Packed like clumps of asparagus, these people stood in 100-degree heat for two hours or more just to get a few seconds with the artists they adore. Where you from? Sign the tee-shirt, grab a photo, move along, please. I took a quick exit poll; was it worth it? Absolutely, according to everyone I asked.

Two lasting impressions from my week in the trenches...One involves fairground food and subsequent megadoses of a certain pink liquid. The other is that the music we send out of Nashville, what we think of as "product," millions of people out there embrace as a big, meaningful part of their lives. Big enough to drive from Godknowswhere in the ol' RV, meaningful enough to stand for hours among hoards of sweating, granny-slugging strangers. And-and here's the kicker-big enough to plunk down hard-earned dollars for. To their credit, nearly every artist I saw showed genuine respect and gratitude toward the fans. Most even seemed truly sorry that time with each one was so limited. My question is, does that spirit exist in the corner offices and conference rooms of Music Row? In an era that's pretty much one big corporate party, where the bottom line is more sacred than anything, do we all remember how much music means to people? The artists are reminded every night on tour. Tucked away in our offices, how do we keep from forgetting? You make widgets, you have customers. You make music, you have fans. There's a big, big difference.

Nearly recovered thanks to air conditioning, I fielded a phone call from erstwhile publicist Susan Collier yesterday. Would I please come down to a club and hear **Judy Wright**? Pu-leeese? No lines, no autographs, no prosthetics, she promised. Glad I went.

Wright's voice (which you can hear on *Kiss Me Alot*, on Starbaby Records, P.O. Box 23224, Nashville, TN, 37202) is smoky, sultry and communicative, her lyrics (the best of them) probing and universal. My favorite from the CD is "Old Soul," a dreamy, spooky mid-tempo number that showcases Judy's torchy side. Good stuff.

I've also been liking Patti Griffin's Flaming Red a lot (A&M). You want raw energy? This baby has plenty of trash & bash, in-your-face rock & roll, plus a good measure of that ultramod, waify vibe that, from lesser talents, can sound unformed and void of substance. Yeah, you can hear the ProTools kick in here and there, but Griffin pulls off many of the vocal winners herself ("One Big Love"). Check out the production on "Carry Me." Cool, huh? Likewise "Go Now." So ugly, it's cute, and really, really interesting vocal treatment—I love her voice on this one.

As the dog days drag on, I am doing my best to stay out of the sun. Every time I get out in the sweltering heat, though, I remember this poignant phrase uttered by a security guard last week at the fairgrounds: "People, we need this aisle *open!* You can't stand here...keep moving, please. Mr. Cyrus will *only* sign autographs if you're in the line."









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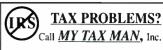
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[continued from page 13]

### **BUSINESS NEWS**

Ken Levitan has re-opened Vector Management, the firm he closed to take the presidency of Rising Tide Records. Clients will include Lyle Lovett, Jack Ingram and the Warren Brothers.



KEN LEVITAN

Levitan's staff will KEN LEVITAN include Kathi Whitley and Michelle Goldsworthy. PO Box 120479, Nashville, 37212, 615-269-6600...

Digital Editing and Mastering has moved to a new location as a result of the damage sustained to their old location at Woodland Studios, which has temporarily shut down for repairs. The new address is 39 Barrywood Dr. 400-8987...

Schmidt Relations has moved to 209 10th Ave., South, #229, 37203. **Jessie Schmidt**'s new phone number is 615-846-3878, fax 846-4878...

Green Hill Productions has inked a deal with Walt Disney Records to provide expanded gift market distribution for select Disney Recordings...

**Schatzi Hagaman**'s Hot Shatz Productions has moved to 1024 16th Ave. S., 2nd Floor, Nashville, 37212...

Country Club Enterprises Sr. Director of Operations **Sean Brennan** has been promoted to VP of Operations...

**Robert Bryan Butler**, house engineer for Brooks & Dunn for the last six years, died of a heart attack on June 23 at his home in Orlando, FL. The 48-year old industry veteran worked with artists such as Waylon Jennings, Randy Travis and K.T. Oslin...

Royce Kendall, half of the father-daughter duo the Kendalls, passed away May 22 after collapsing at a show in Marquette, IA. The duo won a Grammy for Best Country Performance in 1977 for "Heaven's Just A Sin Away," which also won the CMA's 1978 Song of the Year. Kendall, 61, is survived by his wife, Melba, and daughter, Jeannie...

Tunes.com has teamed with Microsoft Corp. to provide music content for the Deluxe CD Player included with Microsoft Plus! 98. Microsoft Plus! 98 extends the functionality of the Microsoft Windows 98 operating system by adding utilities, themes and games. The CD player included in Plus! 98 can take advantage of the Internet to automatically deliver information about the title, artist and playlist of a CD as users listen. Plus! 98 also provides links to Web pages containing information on artists, additional albums, related music genres and titles, radio play lists, new releases and more...

ARIS Technologies has signed a deal with BRg Music Works, a division of Premiere Radio Networks, Inc., for use of ARIS' MusiCode Watermarking System to encode BRg's production music and jingle libraries. ARIS is in the process of deploying its broadcast monitoring system nationwide, and it is expected to be operational in December, 1998...

N2K's Music Boulevard Internet retail site

# Predicting new single success

SPI		MONDAY • JULY 6, 1998 • #087		
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ARTIST/TITLE/LABEL (# of reports)	ADD FACTOR	PASSION
8.90	•	TIM McGRAW/Where The Green Grass Grows/Curb (20)	4.45	4.45
7.80	•	MARK WILLS/Don't Laugh At Me/Mercury (29)	3.90	3.90
6.85	6.71	THE KINLEYS/You Make It Seem So Easy/Epic (28)	3.46	3.39
6.43	5.79	KEVIN SHARP/If She Only Knew/Asylum (30)	3.50	2.93
6.26	6.12	JEFF CARSON/Shine On/MCG/Curb (27)	3.11	3.15
5.66	•	SHERRIÉ AUSTIN/Innocent Man/Arista (27)	2.81	2.85
5.46	•	CRAWFORD/WEST/The Healing End/Warner Bros. (24)	2.79	2.67
5.33	5.19	GIL GRAND/Spilled Perfume/Monument (27)	2.59	2.74
5.24	5.49	THE LYNNS/What Am I Doing Loving You/Reprise (29)	2.72	2.52
5.00	•	THE GREAT DIVIDE/Pour Me A Vacation/Atlantic (26)	2.46	2.54
4.00	3.83	SEMINOLE/What Am I Gonna Do/Curb/Universal (24)	1.92	2.08
3.36	3.24	EDDIE RABBITT/Love May Never/Intersound Country (25)	1.44	1.92
3.28	3.00	EDDY RAVEN/Somebody's Tearin' The Flag/Capitol (22)	.55	1.73

SPI = Add Factor + Passion. Songs are ranked by SPI points. Ties are ranked according to highest Add Factor Average.

### METHODOLOGY/RESEARCHS P I

The SPI number shows a new single's strength, as perceived by radio programmers, on a 2 to 10 scale. Our panelists rate each song up to five points for Add Factor (5=add), and up to five points for passion. Those scores are combined and averaged to compute the SPI score. The correlation between peak SPI number and ultimate chart success is detailed in the 2/8 issue of *Music Row.* 

## SIGNINGS

### RECORDING

Aaron Tippin • Lyric Street

Clark Family Experience • Curb/Halsey
Katy Moffatt • Hightone
Linda Davis • DreamWorks
Ralph Stanley II • Rebel
The Normals • ForeFront
T. Graham Brown • Intersound Country

Tiny Town • Pioneer Music Group

### **PUBLISHING**

Ben Byler • API Sherrié Austin • Wrensona

Kent Blazy/co-pub/admn. • Wrensong
Wayland Patton • Randy Scruggs Music

### BOOKING

Billy Ray Cyrus • APA

Wynonna • William Morris Five Bucks • Bobby Roberts

### RIAA CERTIFICATIONS

JUN

### **PLATINUM**

Shania Twain/Come On Over/Mercury (4M)
Jeff Foxworthy/Games Rednecks Play/Warner Bros. (3M)
George Strait/One Step At A Time/MCA
Andy Griffith/I Love To Tell The Story/Sparrow
Various/Hope Floats Soundtrack/Capitol
Faith Hill/Faith/Warner Bros.

### GOLD

Kenny Chesney/I Will Stand/BNA
Patty Loveless/Long Stretch Of Lonesome/Epic
Dixie Chicks/Wide Open Spaces/Monument
Mindy McCready/If I Don't Stay The Night/BNA

### **GOLD SINGLE**

Faith Hill/"This Kiss"/Warner Bros.

The same of the last
The second second
THE RESERVE
AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN
The second second
The second second

ARTIST	SGROSS	TIX SOLD	%FULL	VENUE	CITY/ST	DATE			
George Strait, Tim McGraw, John Michael Montgomery, Faith Hill,	\$1,743,335	45,278	100~	Turner Field	Atlanta, GA	5/31			
Lee Ann Womack, Lila McCann, Asleep at the Wheel									
George Strait, Tim McGraw, John Michael Montgomery, Faith Hill,	\$1,525,705	53,410	100	Mile High Stadium	Denver, CO	5/24			
Lee Ann Womack, Lila McCann, Asleep at the Wheel									
George Strait, Tim McGraw, John Michael Montgomery, Faith Hill,	\$1,507,720	45,536	100	Carter-Finley Stadium/NCSU	Raleigh, NC	5/30			
Lee Ann Womack, Lila McCann, Asleep at the Wheel									
Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood	\$1,456,240	73,592	100*	Freedom Hall Coliseum	Louisville, KY	5/20-23			
George Strait, Tim McGraw, John Michael Montgomery, Faith Hill,	\$1,200,630	39,608	100	Cougar Stadium	Provo, UT	5/23			
Lee Ann Womack, Lila McCann, Asleep at the Wheel									
LeAnn Rimes, Bryan White	\$237,909	8,822	85	The Mark/Quad Cities	Moline, IL	5/17			
Mel Tillis & Pam Tillis	\$123,309	4,930	94**	Mel Tillis Theatre	Branson, MO	5/19			
source: amusement business *Four sellouts ~Venue record **two shows, one sellout									

reportedly sold nearly 5% of the first-week sales of Brooks & Dunn's and Reba's Have You Seen Her/Him releases. The first 5,000 eshoppers purchasing both titles got a special four track collector's CD featuring unreleased songs from both acts, MCA and Arista also promoted the e-special on TNN and CMT...

As part of a restructuring, four salaried personnel were dismissed from the Country Music Foundation on June 26. Lauren Medley and Nancy Gullette from the art department, Brian Hedges from accounting, and Research Associate Kent Henderson were dismissed. Hourly library assistant Laura Blankenship was also let go. Gary Michael Smith, Studio B Manager, was let go in May...

Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge celebrated 10 years of operation June 25. She has since added two of the "dinner theatre" locations in Myrtle Beach and

Joe Diffie's Greatest Hits topped Tower Record's Top Ten Fan Fair best seller list. Dixie Chicks' Wide Open Spaces came in second and Reba and Brooks & Dunn's If You See Him/Her landed at three and four, respectively. Rounding out the top ten: Jo Dee Messina, I'm Alright—No. 5; Tracy Byrd, I'm From The Country-No. 6; LeAnn Rimes, Sittin' On Top Of The World-No. 7; Steve Wariner, Burnin' The Roadhouse Down—8; Gary Allan, It Would Be You—No. 9 and Michael Peterson, Michael Peterson— No. 10...

Sunhawk Corporation is working with Nashville-based EMI Christian Music and Warner Bros. Publishing to bring country music sheet music titles to music buyers on the Internet. The technology known as SOLEROTM allows music buyers to download, preview and purchase sheet music in the comfort of their own homes. The digital sheet music allows PC users to watch colorful notes light up, "turn off" their part and play or sing along with the performance and or print out engraving-quality sheet music for performance. Details and a free demo of the technology are available at <www.sun-

Songmania, the SGA's popular comedybased monthly writers night, kicked off its second season July 14 at its new venue, 3rd & Lindsley Bar & Grill. The event, which begins at 6pm the second Tuesday of each month, features "songs of rare entertainment value" by 16 songwriters who compete for Best Song and Best Excuse honors. There is no cover charge for the event...

Total E, the online home entertainment superstore from Columbia House, has teamed with Sony's SW Networks to provide music news and celebrity audio clips on the Total E Web site. Total E is a new Columbia House business based in New York: SW Networks is a leading provider of news from all sectors of the entertainment industry with bureaus in New York, Los Angeles and Nashville...

### **LABEL NEWS**

Larry Willoughby has been promoted to VP of A&R at MCA Nashville. He was formerly A&R Senior Director for the label, and previously served as ASCAP's Nashville Direcof Membership Relations, as tour man-



ager for Rodney Crowell and Rosanne Cash, and as professional manager at Criterion

> Music. He was a solo artist in the early '80s and has written songs recorded by Waylon Jennings and Crowell, among others...



DALE TURNER

Dale Turner has been upped to VP of Promotion and Kevin Herring has been promoted to Senior Director/

National Promotion at Lyric Street. Carson Schreiber remains as Senior VP...

Buffy Rockhill has become Regional Country Promo Manager/Central for Columbia. She was previously with Curb/Universal...

Decca Records promotion coordinator Laura Flagler left the label on June 30 to accept a position with management firm Jake & Co. Denise Melton, former sales rep at WGAR Cleveland, replaces Flagler...

Jeri Detweiler has been appointed Director of Regional Promotion at Arista Nashville. She was manager of Regional Promotion at Columbia Nashville...

Three Capitol Nashville staffers exited the label on June 30-Jason Krupek-Sr. Coordinator A&R and AV Services; Randi Israelow-Sr. A&R Coordinator and Regina Stephens-Executive Assistant to President & CEO. The label had no official comment at press time...

Scott Cosby has been appointed tour marketing administrator at Arista/Nashville...

### **PUBLISHING NEWS**

Balmur Publishing has promoted Cyndi Forman to Creative Manager...

Shirley Hutchins has been named Director of Administration at Randy Scruggs Music, a division of McLachlan-Scruggs International...

Hamstein Publishing has named Sara Twargowski Operations Assistant. She was formerly Publicity Assistant at White Bridge Communications...

"Santa Got Stuck In The Chimney," written by Fred Rose and Hy Heath was the subject of a recent federal court case involving a child singer and a Pittsburgh area woman. Four-year-old Jewel Restaneo recorded the song to raise money for Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Kathy Mollica claimed her song by the same name was infringed and sued the little girl. The case was noted on the front page of The Wall Street Journal and prompted Milene Music (Opryland Music Group) to step forward with proof that the song belonged to them and not Kathy Mollica. The judge ruled against Mollica, and Opryland granted a license to the little girl, who continues to raise money for charity...

Atwood-Tiger Music has added the Desert Rose Music catalog to its roster...

New Nashville native Richard Addrisi was recently honored by BMI for reaching the 7 million performance plateau as cowriter of "Never My Love..."

### **ARTIST NEWS**

LeAnn Rimes was hospitalized briefly on June 25 in Grand Junction, Colorado after

# TOP OF THE CHARTS

### **CHRISTIAN HIT RADIO**

"Deeper" . Delirious . Sparrow

### INSPIRATIONAL

"Adonai" • Avalon • Sparrow

### ADULT CONTEMPORARY

"God So Loved" • Jaci Velasquez • Myrrh

### ROCK

"Hey You, I Love Your Soul" . Skillet . ForeFront

### GOSPEL

"Well, Alright" • CeCe Winans • Pioneer

### MAINSTREAM ALBUM SALES

You Light Up My Life: Inspirational Songs • LeAnn Rimes • Curb

### CHRISTIAN ALBUM SALES

Jaci Velasquez • Jaci Velasquez • Myrrh

Source: 6/15/98 issue of CCM Update. Reprinted by permission.

# ALBUM RELEASES

### BLUE PLATE

Louisiana Two-Live From Mountain Stage-August 11

### DECCA

Dolly Parton—Hungry Again—August 25

### **EPIC**

Shana Petrone—Something Real—August 25

### INTERSOUND COUNTRY

Billy Joe Royal—Stay Close To Home—August 25
T. Graham Brown—Wine Into Water—August 25

### **LUCKY DOG**

Charlie Robison—Life Of The Party—August 11

### MCA

Vince Gill—The Key—August 11

### MCG/CURB

Junior Brown-Long Walk Back From San Antone-August 18

### PINECASTLE

Jim & Jesse—Songs From The Homeplace—August 11
Don Wayne Reno—Heroes—August 11

### RCA

Alabama—For The Record—August 25

### **RED PAJAMAS**

Steve Goodman—Words We Can Dance To—August 11

### REPRISE

Bill Anderson—Fine Wine—August 25

### ROUNDER

The Freight Hoppers—Waiting On The Gravy Train—August 18
Johnny Adams—Man Of My Word—August 11
Beau Jocque & the Zydeco Hi-Rollers—Check It Out, Lock It In,
Crank It Up!—August 11

Heather Myles—Highways and Honky Tonks—August 11
Jimmy Sturr—Dance With Me—August 18

Wylie & the Wild West—Total Yodel!—August 18

Various Artists—Ain't No Funk Like N.O. Funk—August 11 Roomful of Blues—There Goes The Neighborhood—August 11

Rod Piazza—Vintage Live-1975—August 11 Juliana Hatfield—Bed—August 11

### WARNER BROS.

Brady Seals—Brady Seals—August 25

performing a concert in the summer heat in nearby Greely. Rimes, 15, suffered from "weakness" and was listed in good condition at St. Mary's Hospital, but cancelled her performance that evening in Grand Junction...

**David Lee Murphy** and MCA have amicably parted ways. Murphy plans to spend some time writing before looking for a new deal...

**Kevin Sharp** is in a Sacramento hospital for evaluation. Doctors are trying to determine if surgery is necessary to repair rods in his hip which gave way and caused a recent collapse. The rods were implanted to help strengthen bones that were weakened by chemotherapy treatments during Sharp's battle with cancer...

**Doug Stone** and his wife **Beth** welcomed their first child **Bailey Rebecca Stone** on June 17...

Alan Jackson's bi-yearly free concert on Center Hill Lake was cancelled on June 20 due to a thunderstorm with strong winds that hit the area just hours before the 5pm show. No one was seriously injured, but seven boats were overturned and the stage and power supply were damaged. Jackson will reschedule the show...

Hal Ketchum has been diagnosed with transverse myelitis, an enlargement of the spinal column's base. Ketchum underwent a series of tests last month when he was hospitalized after experiencing numbness in his arm. He is fulfilling a busy tour schedule, and discussed his illness and recovery in the June 29 issue of *People...* 

Decca's **Chris Knight** was dubbed "Alt Country Comer" in *Entertainment Weekly's* annual "It List," published in their July 3 issue...

**John Berry** fans from Toledo, Ohio decided to mix the title of John's new album *Better Than A Biscuit* with with his favorite sport, and brought 100 biscuits to his Fan Fair fan club meeting for a game of Biscuitball. Berry provided prizes for the game...

### **BOOKING/TOURING NEWS**

Rod Essig of CAA has been named Agent of the Year by the Nashville Association of Talent Directors. The late Buddy Lee was honored with the Hubert Long Award for outstanding achievement in artist development. The organization also bestowed their first industry scholarships through the newly established NATD Billy Deaton Scholarship Foundation. Alison Beck and Renee Meredith each received \$1,000 grants. Both students will be seniors at Belmont University in the Fall...

Clint Black, Tim McGraw, Steve Wariner, The Kinleys, The Mavericks, Delbert McClinton and Restless Heart are among the country artists to perform at Copper Fest '98, at Colorado's Copper Mountain. The three-day arts and music festival is designed to celebrate the spirit and culture of the region, and will include children's activities, celebrity trail rides, evening dances,

poetry gatherings and songwriting workshops. 800-458-8386, ext. 2 or <denver.side-walk.com/copperfest>...

### INDEPENDENT NEWS

Pinecastle Records is celebrating their seventh anniversary, and will give a free CD titled "On The Charts" with the purchase of any new release through December. Those purchasers will also automatically be entered into a grand prize drawing for an all expense paid trip to the 1999 International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) convention in Louisville, KY, 407-856-0245...

### OTHER FORMATS

The US Postal Service has issued four new postage stamps in honor of legendary folk musicians Woody Guthrie, Sonny Terry, Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter and Josh White. The stamps, introduced at a special ceremony and concert at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington DC on June 26, are now available at the nation's post offices. The postal service also issued new stamps of four gospel singers including Roberta Martin, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Clara Ward and Mahalia Jackson. That issuance took place at the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship's Conference '98 in New Orleans on July 15...

Nashville rock act the **EvinRudes** are slated to be the first act on **David Sonnenberg**'s joint venture deal with Mercury Records. Their as-yet-untitled debut will bow on Das/Mercury in August...

Billy Block's Western Beat Roots Revival Tuesday night shows have moved to the Exit/In as of July 7. The show will start at 7pm with the live taping to begin at 8pm, to be broadcast Sunday nights at 7pm on Power Country 102.9. The shows are co-sponsored by Mercury Nashville and Sony Music...

Rockin At The Ryman, a "musical journey featuring hits of the 1960s from the artists that made them famous," will feature Nashvillian **Dobie Gray** ("Drift Away," "The In Crowd") on Sunday, July 26, 8pm at the Ryman Auditorium. Tickets are \$16 and \$9.63, and are available at Ticketmaster and the Ryman Box Office...

### **RADIO NEWS**

WSIX-Nashville's nighttime disc diva Dallas Turner has been chosen as host of the upcoming Jones Radio Network and Capstar Broadcasting Partners' new syndicated show Nashville Nights. The show will be broadcast live from the WSIX studios Monday-Friday, 7-Midnight, and will feature celebrity co-hosts including Faith Hill, Terri Clark, Travis Tritt and Sammy Kershaw. It bows nationwide on July 20...

### **BENEFIT NEWS**

NFL players, country and R&B artists are teaming up to create the first NFL anthem

called "We're All In This Together," written by Steve Wariner. The song (and video), celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NFL's relationship with the United Way. The track was recorded in Nashville on June 22 and in New York on June 25th, with country artists participating including Tanya Tucker, Bryan White, Mindy McCready, Kenny Chesney and Lee Roy Parnell...

The Judd Family and Friends Celebrity Auction held at the Wildhorse Saloon in mid-June raised over \$75,000 to benefit the Naomi Judd Research Fund. The highest bid came from Carol Black who bid \$7,500 to spend "A Day On The Road," with Wynonna...

The 11th Annual Music Row Ladies Golf Tournament and Tupperware Party, held June 29 at Old Natchez Trace Country Club, raised more than \$40,000, contributing to the approximately \$250,000 donated to United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee over the last 10 years. Specially designed Tupperware awards for dubious achievements were given at the dinner, and some recipients included Katie Gillon for the Longest Divot, Karen Conrad for the Whiner Award, Heather Middleton for the Day at the Beach Award and Renee White for the Worm Burner Award. Winners in the theme dressing category included first place to The Golfing Lewinskys-Allison Brown, Rebecca Scarpati, Shannon Eagon, D'ette Brosius, Tammy Luker, Melissa Laney, Laurel Kilbourn and Abbe Nameche of DreamWorks; second place to MCA Music's Fried Green Cicadas, third place to Sony/ATV's Biker Babes, fourth place to Capitol's Homewreckers and fifth place to Sony Music's Gor-Tree-Tas. Best Dressed Caddy was awarded to Craig Wiseman (Bubba Spice) and Daryl Worley (Slick Willy)...

### TV/FILM NEWS

CBS will air a two-hour prime time special shot during the seven-hour Fruit of the Loom CountryFest held in Nashville on June 20. Hosted by Reba McEntire and featuring Clint Black, Neal McCoy, Wynonna, Steve Wariner, the Kinleys, Alabama, Brooks & Dunn, Leon Russell and Kenny Wayne Shepherd. The CBS special will air August 5...

**Sally G. Allen** has joined the Nashville Filmworker's Club as Facility Production Associate...

The AV Squad director John Lloyd Miller and producer Selby Miller recently won a Cine Golden Eagle, three Telly Awards and four awards from the Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival. The Golden Eagle, Cine's top honor, was awarded to the Millers' for Reba McEntire's "What If" music video. As the Golden Eagle winner, "What If" will be the United States' representative in international film festivals and competitions. Other awards included Tellys for a United Way PSA entitled "Crack Baby," a long form video for Bob Carlisle's "Butterfly Kisses—the Home Video," and for a television commercial for

WRITER'S NOTES

# **Brett Jones**

BIRTHPLACE: Macon, GA YEARS IN NASHVILLE: 7 PUBLISHER: Famous Music

HITS/CUTS/CHART ACTION: "When And Where," Confederate Railroad, "You Gotta Love That," (Neal McCoy), "Better Man Better Off," "The Coast Is Clear,"

Tracy Lawrence; "Cover You In Kisses," John Michael Montgomery

FAVORITE SONG YOU WROTE: "Heart Hush," Reba McEntire
FAVORITE SONG YOU DIDN'T WRITE: "For The Good Times," Kris Kristofferson
ON WHAT INSTRUMENT DO YOU WRITE? Funky old guitars

**INFLUENCES:** Troy Seals, Jerry Reed, Johnny Cash, Waylon, CCR, Muddy Waters **ADVICE TO WRITERS:** Believe in the uniqueness of yourself and explore what you love to do, not necessarily what's on the radio. Listen less & create more.

**LITTLE KNOWN BIOGRAPHICAL FACT:** Quit my high school basketball team my senior year so I could spend my afternoons hauling pulpwood to make some extra money. Formerly a commodities trader in Chicago.

**ISSUES FACING SONGWRITERS TODAY:** Songbuilding! I think that the pressure to write a radio hit has caused a lot of writers to build a lot of songs they are probably not really that proud of. As a group, we have to fight this temptation and strive to be creative and write more from the heart, our souls, and our experiences. I have not lost the faith that if we do, someday it will be rewarded.

MR wondered what Brett needed that money for in high school... I had a '36 Ford I was trying to get fixed up. I put about \$1,500 in it then I wrecked it right away—almost got killed. The car sat in a barn for 20 years, then I traded it for the guitar that I wrote "Better Man, Better Off" on. I finally got my money out of that car, in a round about way. What kind of guitar did you trade it for? A '71 Telecaster. I really believe there are songs in some guitars... And how do we guard against "songbuilding?" I try to write like I don't have a job, like I'm writing because I want to...the pressure's there....but you just have to ignore it. The great songs just seem to spill out of an emotion...and one of the ways you get back to writing from emotion is to dig a little deeper and write by yourself...explore a little more, and not write from a hook. It's more fun and it's easier to co-write, but it has made me a better writer to sit down and write a song every week or two by myself.

Baptist Hospital. "Crack Baby," "What If," and "Butterfly Kisses" won Gold Awards, and **The Cox Family**'s "Runaway" music video won a Silver Award from the Houston Film Festival...

### **CHRISTIAN NEWS**

Page International, Inc., a wholesale distributor of children's books, watches, umbrellas and CDs and tapes, has created a new music division to focus on the distribution of primarily Christian and gospel music. Rick Pritikin, former VP and GM of Word Entertainment's Unison Music Distribution, will head Page Music, to be based in Franklin, TN...

KMG Records and Audience Records have inked a distribution deal with Pamplin Distribution. Portland, Oregon-based Pamplin also distributes Infiniti, Discovery House Music and Rustproof Records, as well as its own labels. Provident Music Distribution will also distribute several KMG titles under previous agreements, including

The Insyderz' new release and the multi-artist *Surfonic Water Revival...* 

Christian music industry veteran Stan Moser has opened Ministry Music, a new label devoted to promote veteran and lesserselling artists whose mission is church ministry and evangelism. Ministry Music, distributed by Diamante Music Group, will release new projects from Dick and Mel Tunney, Don Francisco, Dallas Holm, Chris and Carol Beatty and Acapella as well as Steve Camp—via his Reformation Ministries label and Scott Wesley Brown and Steve Fry-via Three Fold. Moser's label joins Dan Cutrona's Kle-Toi Records and Dan Collins' NewPort Records as music entities who consider themselves less a record label than a service organization dedicated to ministry...

Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing has named **Jon Conley** Publishing Programmer/Analyst, **Todd Moore** Creative Director and **Angel Bowles** Administrative Assistant to the President.

### **FINAL WORD**



### The Studio Squeeze

As past president of NAPRS I've been in a unique position over the past two years of being both a private and open sounding board for many of my friends and NAPRS members who also own or run recording facilities. This, combined with my own observations, has shaped several strong opinions that may or may not be believed or liked by all.

Competition between the studios in Nashville has been increasing dramatically over the past few years and more studios are struggling to maintain their bottom line. There are many factors contributing to this problem, including the classic theory of supply and demand economics. In other words, Nashville is over-



built with recording studios which puts downward pressure on pricing.

Since the mid-eighties, building and operating a recording studio has become less and less logical, especially if you want to consider it a business for profit. In the mid-seventies it was possible to operate a studio without acquiring debt. You could build a professional studio for about \$300,000 and ask an average hourly rate of about \$150. In the mid-nineties, the same endeavor will cost you approximately \$3,000,000 and your average hourly rate is actually less than \$150. Now, calculate inflation during that 20-year period and you arrive at about one third of the rate for about ten times the investment. Additionally, good engineers are becoming more expensive and it is costlier to run a studio. Labels and producers, however, are not going to pay higher rates. What does this foretell, then, for the industry?

I believe all studios will increasingly struggle to break even. The well-equipped budget studios will not feel the squeeze as severely as the mid-level studios will. Those facilities are competing with the low rates of budget studios, the falling rates of high-end studios and many other rival studios fighting for the same market share. High-end studios will always attract a certain clientele. However, the ever increasing investment necessary for a quality facility combined with ever decreasing return from falling rates spells trouble, especially for those with high debt service. There are a few other important contributing factors such as the quality improvements in consumer gear which gives rise to an expanding higher class of home studios.

Other factors are at work compounding the problem as more record executives, A&R personnel and successful producers have built or are currently building their own studio facilities. This limits the distribution of bookings.

The country music industry has been in a moderate decline in the past threeand-a-half years and is unable to fill all the new rooms. However, there will continue to be a steady increase in out of town clients. They will continue to trickle in as more people become aware of what Nashville has to offer. Out of town business growth will have to accelerate substantially in order for some facilities to survive.

Finally, everyone is trying to get bookings whichever way possible. In the effort to procure each other's business, studio owners and managers are forced more than ever to lower rates and give other incentives, hence expanding the vicious circle.

In my opinion, building a studio as a profit center would be a mistake. Building one as a tool for your related industry endeavors would be the more sensible route.

Josef Nuyens Castle Music Group





### **AUGUST**

3-4—The Vinny Pro-Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament, Golf Club of Tennessee, Kingston Springs, TN 615-790-7755

**28-29—CRS-Great Lakes**, Cleveland, OH, 615-327-4487

### SEPTEMBER

**5-7—Copper Fest '98**, Copper Mountain, Colorado, 800-458-8386, ext. 2 or <denver.sidewalk.com/copperfest>

14—Canadian Country Music Awards, Jubliee Auditorium, Calgary, Alberta, 905-850-1144

19—Music Row Celebrity Tennis Tournament to benefit the TJ Martell Foundation, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 615-320-0055

20—Sprint Music Row Celebrity Golf Tournament to benefit the TJ Martell Foundation, Hermitage Golf Course, Nashville, TN 615-320-0055

21—Bowling Bash and Billiards Tournament to benefit TJ Martell Foundation, Hermitage Lanes, Nashville, TN 615-320-0055

23—The 32nd Annual CMA Awards, Grand Ole Opry House, Nashville, TN

### **OCTOBER**

1-3—Oklahoma's International Bluegrass Festival, Guthrie, OK, 405-282-4446

3-4—1998 MS 150 Bike Tour to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Franklin TN 615-269-9055

9-18—Georgia Mountain Fall Festival, Hiawassee, GA, 706-896-4191

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