

BIOS OF 1963's LEADING ARTISTS

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Kingston Trio—Capitol

When San Francisco publicist Frank Werber heard three collegians singing at The Cracked Pot in town he knew he had a good thing. Immediately he signed Nick Reynolds, Bob Shane and Dave Guard to a personal mgmt. pact. Because calypso music was in vogue at that time, '57, they chose the name Kingston Trio. They were brought to vocal coach Judy Davis and practiced in a loft above Frisco's "discovery club"—The Purple Onion. They were booked there for a week and were so successful that their try-out was extended to a month-long. Later on, while playing at the Hungry I, they recorded an LP for Capitol. A single, "Tom Dooley," was culled from the successful LP and the meteoric rise followed. Their hit singles now include "Tijuana Jail," "M.T.A.," etc. and in the LP dept. it's "Close Up" and "Something Special" among others.

The trio is made up of Bob Shane, born in Milo, Hawaii, Nick Reynolds, from Coronado, Calif. and John Stewart (formerly of the Cumberland Trio), who replaced Dave Guard—when he went on to form the Whiskeyhill Singers. John was born in San Diego.

The trio had several top ten LP's this year among which were "Kingston Trio #16" and "Sunnyside."

Major Lance—Okeh

Major Lance, who clicked heavily in the top-r&b markets with "The Monkey Time" and "Hey Little Girl," on Epic's Okeh label, was born twenty-two years ago in Chicago.

Rearing by a deeply religious family, Major (that's his real name), like so many others before him, began his career as a spiritual singer. Eventually, the artist gave in to the lure of show biz when a gospel group he was with broke up.

In 1959 Jim Lounsbury took Major under his wing and succeeded in getting him a contract with Mercury Records. In a short time the chanter created some excitement with "I Got A Girl" and "Delilah." Major's current Okeh deck is his first big national hit.

When he is not on the road playing p.a.'s and hops, Major relaxes by playing baseball with some of his friends. The artist still lives with his parents, four brothers and seven sisters in the Windy City.

Steve Lawrence—Columbia

One of the most successful nite club acts in the country is the very talented husband & wife team Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme. However, prior to their '57 marriage, the artists were already individual standouts in the recording and entertainment fields.

Steve's first appearance in the public eye was back in January of '52 when he won an Arthur Godfrey Talent Scout show and was invited to appear with the Godfrey cast on radio & TV for a full week. He was heard by the folks at King Records, signed, and shortly afterwards clicked with "Poinciana." A year later, he won out against a host of newcomers and name artists competing for a permanent spot on the nite Steve Allen TV'er. In '54 he was signed to a Coral wax pact, stepping out with "Party Doll," among others. In '59 he switched over to ABC-Paramount and smashed through the top 10 hit barrier with "Pretty Blue Eyes" and "Footsteps." His "Portrait Of My Love" followed later on the United Artists banner. Steve, now with Columbia, has clicked with "Go Away Little Girl," "I Want To Stay Here" (with Eydie) and "Walkin' Proud."

His truly showbiz romance, which started when Eydie was also a regular on the Steve Allen show, led to a Las Vegas wedding and the birth of a son, David. Following the marriage the artists headlined their own hour-long TV'ers. In '58 Steve was inducted into the Army and was assigned as official vocalist of the Army Band-ork at Ft. Myer, Va., and was used extensively in Army recruiting and U.S. Bonds programs. Since his discharge, Steve & Eydie have become the darlings of the nite club circuit, winning rave reviews everywhere they appear.

Brenda Lee—Decca

Little "Miss Dynamite" started on the road to stardom with her first network TV appearance in 1956, has been overwhelming audiences with her spirited vocalizing ever since.

The explosive bundle of charm, who was born on Dec. 11, 1944 at Atlanta's Emory University Hospital (the second oldest of 4 children), was signed to a long-term Decca pact, almost immediately after her TV bow. From '56 to '60 the chirp ran up a consistent string of best-sellers but it wasn't until her waxing of "Sweet Nothin'" did she attain star disk status. Then she followed with a double-header, "I'm Sorry" and "That's All I Gotta Do," that earned her the first of many gold records. Her smash chain, after that, included "Emotions," "Dum Dum," "Eventually," "I Want To Be Wanted," "Fool No. 1" and "How About Me," "Heart In Hand," "Save All Your Lovin' For Me," and her most recent, "All Alone Am I," "Losing You," "Your Used To Be," "The Grass Is Greener" and "As Usual."

Brenda has now enjoyed appearances on the Perry Como, Steve Allen, Ed Sullivan and Danny Thomas network outings, among others, and has started her acting career with a role in the flick, "The Two Little Bears."

In the past few years, the talented youngster has captured the imagination and hearts of people all over the world. Accompanied by her mgr. Dub Allbritten, Brenda was greeted by an enthusiastic mob scene on her '59, '60 and '61 European and South American jaunts. The President of Brazil tagged her 'the best goodwill ambassador that America ever had' while Paris newspapers hailed her as the 'most dynamic American artist since Judy Garland.'

This year the lark became Mrs. Ronnie Shacklett.

Barbara Lewis—Atlantic

Barbara Lewis, who scored with "Hello Stranger" and "Straighten Up Your Heart" among others, on Atlantic, was born nineteen years ago in Detroit. She grew up and attended high school in the suburban Detroit area. The lark began writing and singing at an extremely early age, having come from a family of musicians.

Barbara reluctantly brought some of her tunes to Ollie McLaughlin one day hoping that he might be able to use them. He immediately saw great possibilities in her voice as well as her songs and decided to record her.

The songstress has written over thirty songs, including her present chart rider. She will have an album out soon which will also include songs written by her.

When she is not on the road or at a recording session the artist spends her free time drawing and painting.

Little Eva—Dimension

When the hit songwriting hubby-wife team of Carole King and Jerry Goffin were looking for a baby sitter, the Cookies suggested their new school chum Eva Boyd. The youngster so impressed the duo that she was hired immediately. Eventually, the team began to notice that Eva was a music lover and sang along with them when they worked on their songs. She was tried out on a few demos, the results were fine, and a Dimension contract followed. Her very first session, "Loco-Motion," hit the top spot on the charts and was followed in hit style by "Keep Your Hands Off My Baby," "The Turkey Trot" and "Old Smokey Loco-Motion."

Eva calls Belhaven, N.C. her home town.

Trini Lopez—Reprise

Trini Lopez, who first exploded on the national scene with his best-selling Reprise single of "If I Had A Hammer" and is currently riding the LP charts with two albums cut live at P.J.'s in Hollywood, was born twenty-six years ago in Dallas, Texas.

Trini began playing guitar and singing Latin songs in Dallas night clubs when he was only fifteen. Stimulated by excellent audience response, the artist formed his own five-piece combo and toured the southwest. After finishing high school, he and the combo played clubs across the country for four years.

With the group polished to a fine edge, Trini took a breath and plunged into the deep professional waters of Hollywood. His first two-week engagement lengthened into a full year, then he played a number of clubs, including the world-famous Ciro's.

One night while the group was performing at P.J.'s, vet music man Don Costa came into the club. Costa was so impressed with Trini that he im-

mediately signed him to an exclusive recording contract for Reprise Records. The rest is history. The artist's current click single is "Kansas City." He also has a new album, "More Trini Lopez At P.J.'s" that is rapidly zooming up the LP chart.

Lonnie Mack—Fraternity

Lonnie Mack, who broke thru with "Memphis" and followed with "Wham!" on Fraternity, was born twenty-two years ago in Harrison, Indiana. The instrumentalist's real name is Lonnie McIntosh and he had his first guitar a \$9.95 Lone Ranger model, at the age of four.

When he was six Lonnie was playing country music and singing with his brother and sisters. At twelve Lonnie was getting paid for performing at a local hotel. While still a teenager he got his first electric guitar and started working clubs with his brother, Alvin. And at fourteen he had his own rock 'n' roll band.

In 1959 the artist married his childhood sweetheart, Ruth Browning, and continued to make his living as a guitarist. As with most surprise successes, Lonnie came from a lucky break. Two months ago Lonnie came to the attention of Harry Carlson, topper of the Fraternity label. Carlson was impressed with the youngster and immediately recorded him. The rest is music biz history.

Rose Maddox—Capitol

After a difficult youth that included panning for gold and picking fruit for farmers on the west coast, Rose Maddox and her brothers learned to play guitar. Fred finally went into a Modesto radio station and got a job for the family band. When the station wanted a female vocalist, Rose got the call. The combo won a hillbilly band contest at the Centennial celebration in Sacramento (\$40 first prize) but the victory led to a network spot. The group was gaining when World War II almost broke it up. They won a disk pact in '46 when they reorganized and in 1959 Rose Maddox was signed by Capitol with as many brothers as were left in the act. Rose, her folks and a few of her brothers now reside at their Oregon ranch, playing fairs, rodeos, etc., on weekends.

Little Peggy March—RCA Victor

Little Peggy March, who hit the top "I Will Follow Him (Chariot)" on RCA Victor, was born just fifteen years ago. She began taking an interest in singing at the age of two. Her first break came at five when, competing against fifteen children, she won a talent contest.

When she was six years old she auditioned for Rex Trailer's TV show and became a regular member of his cast. She traveled with local shows with a western band for four years and appeared and worked with such names as Sally Starr and the Three Stooges. Peggy's career went into high gear a few years ago when she took first place on a Children's Hour new faces contest (Sunday morning children's TV show).

Recently, the hard-working young performer has appeared at Atlantic City's Steel Pier, Tony Grant's Stars of Tomorrow and competed in two PAL contests sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of Philadelphia Athletic League.

The lark recently scored with "I Wish I Were A Princess" and "Hello Heartache, Goodbye Love."

Henry Mancini—RCA Victor

Henry Mancini, composer-arranger-conductor has played a major role in bringing jazz to TV with his musical backgrounds for the "Peter Gunn" and "Mr. Lucky" series and is currently the hottest writer of feature flick scores. Mancini was born April 16, 1924, in Cleveland, the son of a steel worker who used to play flute in his spare time. His father sent Hank to Carnegie Tech Music School, and the Juilliard Institute. He has been a staff composer and arranger at Universal Pictures since 1952 and among the films to his credit is "The Glenn Miller Story." He wrote the score for the Bing Crosby film "High Time," and his score to "Breakfast At Tiffany's" which he wrote as well as recorded for RCA Victor, was a fabulous soundtrack seller. "Moon River" is the film's most famous selection, won an Academy Award as the top film song of 1961. In '62 he won the Award with "Days Of Wine And Roses" and has a current contender in "Charade." He also composed music for club acts including those of such stars as Dinah Shore, Polly Bernen, Billy Eckstine and Betty Hutton. Hank lives in Northridge, California with his wife and three children.

Leon McAuliffe—Capitol

The end of World War II marked not only the finish to a global conflict, it also brought down the curtain on another era—that of the big bands. With few exceptions, most of the big bands started a steady decline after the war but some, like Leon McAuliffe and his Cimarron Boys were able to hang on and prosper.

When Leon returned to civilian life after the war, he organized a modern dance band in Tulsa. That switch was probably one of the most prosperous any band leader has ever made. Since that time, Leon and the Cimarron Boys have become one of the busiest aggregations in the country. For over 400 consecutive weeks they played to capacity crowds (twice each week) at Leon's Cimarron Ballroom in Tulsa.

Born in Houston, Texas, Leon took three guitar lessons and then landed his first job with a Houston radio station. Two years later, he took a job with another Houston radio station and shortly thereafter received an offer from W. Lee O'Daniels and his Light Crust Doughboys, to join their band. At 18, he joined Bob Willis and his Texas Playboys and stayed with them until he entered the service in 1942.

Aside from being a top bandleader, Leon is also noted for his compositions—he was co-writer of the million-seller "San Antonio Rose" and has written such western standards as "Steel Guitar Rag," "Panhandle Rag," etc.

Vaughn Meader—MGM

Vaughn Meader jumped into the national spotlight a year ago with his album, "The First Family," which became the fastest selling album in the history of the record business. The comic's ability to almost perfectly mimic the late President John F. Kennedy made him an overnight success.

The luffman was born in Boston and was graduated from the Brookline High School. He worked for WCOP-Boston prior to going into the Army for a four-year hitch. Vaughn started his show biz career as a pianist in the country field and switched to comedy while playing nite clubs around New York. He landed an engagement at the Phase 2 in Greenwich Village and got his first big break on Talent Scouts a few seasons ago.

Since then Meader has appeared on many television shows and at many supper clubs including the Blue Angel in New York. He was recently signed to a wax pact with MGM Records, and prior to the death of the President he had decided to direct his career into other channels.

Melba Montgomery—United Artists

One of this year's most promising new country female vocalists is Melba Montgomery. The artist is a gal who has made good both as a soloist and in several chart-riding duets with George Jones.

Lark, whose hometown is "Music City, U.S.A.," is managed by Shot Jackson and booked through the Bob Neal Agency.

Melba received her first break in 1958 when she entered the first Pet Milk Grand Ole Opry contest and won. As luck would have it, vet country orkster Roy Acuff was in the audience. Acuff was so impressed with the lark that he immediately signed her as the featured girl vocalist with his band. Melba spent four years with the orchestra before going it alone as a solo performer.

Since becoming a professional, the artist has toured all over the world playing p.a.'s in North Africa, Australia and Canada.

New Christy Minstrels—Columbia

The New Christy Minstrels, who are currently riding the LP charts with "Rambalin" were organized by their leader Randy Sparks, who at 30 is the oldest member of the fourteen member group.

Sparks was born July 29, 1933 in Leavenworth, Kansas and conceived the idea and name for his singer-instrumentalists from Edwin P. Christy, who, in 1842, formed the famous Christy Minstrels, hailed as the nation's foremost interpreters of Stephen Foster songs.

Sparks got his start in show business while in college. He was seeking a part-time job and made his first appearance at the Purple Onion in San Francisco. Since then he has been booked at the Blue Angel in New York, the entire Playboy circuit and numerous TV appearances. The group are currently regulars on the Andy Williams weekly NBC-TV stanza.

The new Christies all sing and play folk instruments (guitars, banjos, bass violin and a variety of assorted secondary instruments: harmonica, fife, etc.).

Besides LP success, the group got singles recognition in 1963.

Buck Owens—Capitol

Buck Owens in a very short space of time has become one of the outstanding new artists in the Country Music field. Buck started in country music as a lead guitar player and was the featured instrumentalist on many recordings. He was doing very well for himself as a guitar player when he decided to give singing a try. His efforts in this new venture for Pop records, a small California label, were brought to the attention of Capitol Records. Since joining the roster he has turned out a host of hits that include "Under Your Spell Again" (his first big success), "Excuse Me," "Above And Beyond," "Second Fiddle," "Under The Influence Of Love" and a pair with Rose Maddox, "Mental Cruelty" and "Loose Talk." He's an outstanding song-writer as well, clogging many of his own chart outings.

His most recent successes include "Yesterday's Memories," "Act Naturally" and "Love's Gonna Live Here."

Born in Sherman, Texas, on Aug. 12, 1929, Buck was plinking on his mother's piano at the Pentecostal Church as soon as he could reach the keyboard. By the time he was 13 his musical ability was so apparent that his parents bought him a mandolin.

By the time he was 21 Buck played sufficient guitar to get a job with a band in a Bakersfield (Calif.) club. Later Owens joined Bill Woods' band in Bakersfield, played on the "Chuck Wagon" TV show there, became a part-time disk jockey. He even owned his own station, KAYE, in Tacoma, Wash., for a time.

He lives in Bakersfield with his wife, Phyliss, and 3 children.

Paul & Paula—Philips

Paul and Paula, who had a debut million-seller with "Hey Paula" on Philips, are students at Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Texas. The two-some teamed up after singing for a Cancer drive radio program on KEAW. Paul, a talented song-writer, penned the hit tune, and the youngsters decided to head for Fort Worth in November, 1962, for an audition with Major Bill Smith, well-known star-maker, who launched such stars as Bruce Channel to recording fame.

The young hopefuls drove 130 miles to Smith's studios only to learn he was scheduled to record an artist and could not audition them. Paul and Paula, determined to make Smith listen to them, sat in the reception room, hoping to get at least a word with Major Smith. Luck was with them, for the artist scheduled to record did not show up. As Smith walked out of the studios, the duo began singing "Hey Paula" and within minutes the impresario knew that they had the spark of real talent and he cut a dub of the tune the same day. The rest is history.

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Season's Greetings
To ALL
And a Special 'Aloha' to
NINO TEMPO & APRIL STEVENS
for their Big Hit Atco Recording
of
"DEEP PURPLE"



**Mele Kalikimaka —
Hauoli Makahiki Hou
May Singhi Breen De Rose**