



ANOTHER 'SOUND' TRIUMPH: The RCA Victor soundtrack of "Sound Of Music" has become the first disk to win an award in South Africa for sales in excess of \$1 million. Gerry McGrath (second from left), of Real Records, which handles Victor product in So. Africa, was recently presented with a gold record to mark this historic achievement. Shown (left to right): Dario Soria, Victor's vp of international liaison; Dick Broderick, int'l merchandising manager, McGrath and Norman Racusin, vp and operations manager of RCA Victor Records.

Summing Up Grand Gala: Great Show

AMSTERDAM — During the odd twenty years in which the European record-business has recovered so gloriously from the total economic break-down of World War II, the Kingdom of the Netherlands—13,000,000 inhabitants at this moment—has been playing a most important role in this field as well. In 1960, the country had the representation of practically all the companies plus its own large exporting record-industries like Philips, Bovema, Artone and Rood; there were over a thousand dealers with prosperous affairs, strongly supported by the Dutch record manufacturers. It was in the summer of that year 1960, that a "Collective Committee for Gramophone-record Campaigns" (CCGC) was set up in order to increase the standing and quality of the already so successful industry. Both dealers and manufacturers were contributing to the Fund by paying a small percentage (a half percent) from every sold record. From these financial proceeds collective advertisement-campaigns were paid in the large daily papers, many small special attractions, and the two "Grand Gala du Disque" Shows in the month of October, one Popular, one Classical. At these Gala-concerts, artists of great importance in the recording-field from all over the world were handed so-called "Edison"-statues by a high placed Dutch governmental official.

The Grand Gala du Disque Show Popular 1966, the Seventh in succession, was held this year in the magnificent new RAI-building in Amsterdam. This year's organization and supervision was in the capable hands of the well-known Piet Beishuizen, former press and PR Officer of Philips' Phonographic Industries, a man with a tremendous know-how. He was assisted by such excellent show-producers like Dick van Gelder, Wim Schipper and Frans Muriloff. The entire Show was broadcast on first program TV, from 8 p.m. until midnight. A special attraction was added by means of a French Fashion Show (9 top-models) by Yves Saint-Laurent's latest creations in ladies' fashion, the first time ever that the great King of Fashion showed his collection on TV. There was also a special intermezzo-ballet, the German Ruth & Rudi Hildebrand Group who did a fine show-dancing job between every performance.

The small army of top-stars came from the following countries: Holland, France, England, Japan, South America and The United States. The solo-performers were accompanied by Dolf van der Linden's large orchestra, while Astrud Gilberto was accompanied by a Dutch jazz-quartet and American singer Tony Bennett had taken his musical director, pianist Tommy Flanagan, with him.

After a cheerful opening by the Dutch Police Band, playing medleys of pop-tunes, the brilliant comedian Paul van Vliet came on stage via a long ladder as the first of the solo-performers. Paul van Vliet, a former lawyer, held a pun-ful speech and ended with a song ("Ready For The Hit-Parade") that was answered with hand-clapping and community-singing from the audience. The Dutch beat-group Les Baroques did a good job as pleaders for beat-music in a many-sided show like this. The first musical high-lights came with French singer Leo Ferré and the Dutch chanteuse Liesbeth List who both met with a storm of applause; the excellent Georgie Fame with his Blue Flames from England and of course the Japanese Twin-sisters The Peanuts could easily find a warm response. A very heart-warming intermezzo happened when Piet Beishuizen called Robert Stolz on the stage, the 85-year-old composer from Vienna who has contributed so much to outstanding light music. Beishuizen handed Prof. Stolz a beautiful silver plate with inscription, upon which Stolz handed his baton to orchestra-leader Dolf van der Linden who conducted a medley of Stolz-melodies.

The Show continued with a lively performance by the young French star Richard Anthony, who has many fans in Holland. Also The Spencer Davis Group from England was at its very best, with featured singer Steve Winwood (18) performing a spine-chilling rendition of "Georgia," accompanying himself on organ. This success was surpassed, however, by trumpeter-showman Al Hirt from New Orleans, and although Hirt was not at his best musically speaking, his tongue-in-cheek humor and jazzy clown-work with his side-men were hot fuel for the public's happy mood. A drastic switch in atmosphere was brought about then by two lovely ladies from America: Astrud Gilberto and Dionne Warwick, now living in Paris. Astrud was accompanied by a quartet including Pim Jacobs, piano and Piet Noordijk, alto-sax (probably the best alto-sax jazzman in Europe), the breath-taking beautiful Dionne Warwick by Dolf van der Linden's large orchestra. With the performances of her bluesy ballads, Miss Warwick made an enormous impression. There were one Dutch and one American vocal star left, both men doing a magnificent piece of showbusiness each in their own particular field: Ramses Shaffy and Tony Bennett. Ramses, actor, musician and cabaret-leader, started to sing as a soloist some months ago. His captivating personality, his modern devil-may-care style and his humor give a special accent to his (romantic) love-songs that holds the listener spellbound. Tony Bennett, in a radiat-

T.E. Cross Resignation Reshuffles EMI Exec Line-Up For Affiliates

LONDON—T. E. Cross has resigned his position as managing director of EMI's French record company, Pathe Marconi. Francois Minchin, who has been managing director of Voce del Padrone, EMI's Italian outlet, for the past five years, has replaced him. Minchin was for many years deputy

managing director of Pathe Marconi before joining the EMI affiliate in Italy in 1962. George Alexander, at present in charge of EMI's Spanish company, Odeon, will take over the management of the Italian firm. He will be succeeded in Spain by R. Maget.

Spain Wins Mediterranean Fest

BARCELONA—Spain was the victorious winner at the Mediterranean Song Festival held in Barcelona recently. The number "Como Ayer" penned by Duo Dinamico was sung with terrific verve by EMI artist Bruno Lomas whose performance

largely contributed to the overwhelming victory. Success is made even sweeter by the realization that this is the first time any song in the Spanish language has won this international contest.

EMI Launches New 'Soul' Series

LONDON—Because of the growing interest in R&B music in Britain, EMI has launched a new series to be known as Soul Supply. All disks will be issued on existing labels, with five records comprising the first release: "A Lot Of Love" by Homer Banks,

"Baby I Love You" Jimmy Holiday, "Think" Jimmy McCracklin (all on Liberty) and "Fannie Mae" by Mighty Same and "Pouring Water On A Drowning Man" by James Carr (both on Stateside). New issues will be made monthly.

Global Folk Music On Philips Tag

LONDON—A new album series entitled "Song And Sound The World Around" has been launched by Philips Records. Designed to showcase folk songs and country styled music peculiar to the title country most of the material has been recorded 'live' in market squares and mountain village

halls. First release comprises music from Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Yugoslavia and India. Further releases are planned including an album of Japanese music and a selection of numbers taken from the complete series.

Mexico's Best Sellers

- 1 El Baile Del Hanky Panky—Los Hitters (Orfeon); Tommy James (Gamma); Miguel Angel (Musart); Los Hanky Pankys (Cisne); The Venturers (Liberty)
- 2 Mi Razon—Sonora Santanera (CBS) (PHAM)
- 3 El Ultimo Beso (Last Kiss)—Polo (Peerless)
- 4 Siempre Te Amare—Los Reno (Peerless) (Mundo Musical)
- 5 Sin Final (Senza Fine)—The Brass Ring (RCA); Los Aragón (Musart); Los Dominic (Polydor)
- 6 Extraños En La Noche (Strangers In The Night)—Frank Sinatra (Reprise); Marco Antonio Muñoz (RCA); Alberto Vázquez (Musart); Los Dominic (Polydor); Perry Salinas (Capitol); Irma Dorantes (Orfeon); Los Aragón (Musart); Hnas. Aguila (Orfeon)
- 7 Brazilia—Tony Mottola (Gamma); Herb Alpert (Tizoc); Los Aragón (Musart)
- 8 Gorda—Javier Solís (CBS); Mike Laure (Musart); Dueto Miseria (RCA) (Emroth)
- 9 Napoleon XIV (They're Coming To Take Me Away)—Vivi y Los Crazy Birds (Orfeon); Napoleon XIV (Warner Bros.)
- 10 Fuiste A Acapulco—Los Apson Boys (Peerless); Mike Laure (Musart); Pablo Beltrán Ruiz (RCA) (Brambila)

ing mood, saw to an excellent final climax.

This very successful Grand Gala du Disque Show was visited, as usual, by many important persons from the recording-industry in Holland and abroad, artists, producers, managers

and record-dealers. After the Show there was a lively social gathering and a ball in various of the halls (beat, Viennese waltz, swing). It was not until five in the morning, before the last guests left the RAI-building.



WELL RECEIVED: Pye Records recently hosted a reception to honor Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass, distributed in England by Pye. Shown (left to right): Mace Newfelt, manager of the group; Alpert, Louis Benjamin, managing director of Pye, and Gil Friesen, vp and general manager of A&M Records, the group's U.S. outlet.