Woodland Studio Opening Highlights Nashboro's 'Total Music' Emergence

NASHVILLE—Opening of the newest studio facilities in Nashville last week highlighted a series of moves by the Nashboro label to expand into a "total music" picture.

Staff growth and expansion of activities by the Nashboro, Excello, A-Bet and Crescent companies and the newly designed Gold City Records led to the project of creating the Woodland Sound Studio which was officially inaugurated early this month.

Grand Opening Affair

Nashboro staged a national sales meeting for distributors to visit Nashville at the time of the studio inspection, and a series of special activities were also prepared to launch the new studio. WCAL transmitted the show which had a bill headlined by many of Nashboros leading artists—Sonny Bono, Delia Evans, Kip Anderson, Stacey Lane. Brother Joe May as well as Freddie Fender and the Los Bravos performed on the show.

The studio itself is built on the site of the old Woodland Theatre, and was designed for performers with "the Woodland sound," the new studio base home for r&b performers in Nashville.

The studio has approximately 28,800 cubic feet of space planned with sound isolation and construction in mind.

FRONT COVER:

Word

The walls are so designed that no parallel surfaces exist. The control room wall is curved and built on the same plane as the stage of the old Woodland Theatre.

Among the electronic features are a control studio for the recording of Atlanta, under the supervision of Victor Records, which is the first of its kind. The studio is equipped with a simultaneous four track, three track, two track and mono feeds, with ready expandability to meet future installation. Echo chambers manufactured in West Germany by IEM, a Danish firm, designed for Woodland's specific installation.

All new tape equipment consists of four track, two track, and monaural recorders.

Since the studio became operational last fall, a number of seasonal spiritual, r&b, pop and country have been recorded. Much of the new product has been designed specifically by Nashboro, has been recorded in this studio and the feeling of label execs is that Woodland is very capable of bringing a "true great" R&B sound to Nashville.

Dedication and official opening of the studio highlighted the emergence of Nashboro’s new R&B interests. The national meeting and celebration pointed out a steady growth in Nashboro's product in artist and executive growth at the company.

Nashboro Records was incorporated in 1951. Recognized as a leader in spirituals, Nashboro has released a number of rock and roll, R&B, pop and country. Nashboro has a current distribution in almost all areas of the world.

Nu-Mail, who had been 65 on April 27th, remained active in the administration of his business till the end, despite the fact that he had been in failing health continually for the past eight years. Funeral services were completed on May 2, 1966 in Cincinnati.

Nashboro Records, founded King Records in the early forties and most of his original artists came to him through Nashboro. In addition, the shows emanating from Cincinnati and Philadelphia were known as such. Among the 619 records and artists in the early days of King were the Three Keys, "The Blues From Moet," Moon Mullican ("I’ll Kill My Ship Away Than A Flower," "New Jole Bobble"), Wayne Raney ("Why Don’t You Hair In This Country," "Rainbow At Midnight"), Jimmy Osborne ("Death of Little Kathy Fritter," "Plato’s White Eyes"), Homer and Jethro, Clyde Moody ("Shenanadoah Waltz") and many others. With this information in mind, it is clear that Nashboro was known as quality. Nashboro made an announcement that Feb. sales were very encouraging and in order to end our fiscal year April 30, 1966 in a very strong position.

Nashboro common stock now traded on the New York Stock Exchange was split 2-for-1 effective Feb. 21, 1966. There are now 1,152,136 shares of common stock outstanding.

Otis Redding: Smash Product Molds A Living Memorial

NEW YORK—Otis Redding, the late soul singer who made his recording of the Record’s Volta label, was one of the most popular R&B artists in the industry, but after more than two months after the tragic plane crash took his life, his popularity has climbed to new heights.

Big Disks

The last single from the Redding recorded, "Dock of The Bay," is currently #3 on the Top 100, and the Volta label of which the title of the single has just hit the Top 20. Album Blue Suede has been on the market for two years, is selling with fresh vitality.

Hendelman dedicates Redding and studies and assessments of his works appear in newspapers and magazines across the country, and the general consensus is still the same, that Redding was an artist of the utmost importance.

LP

Volta Records has in its possession a new composition which Redding made before his death, and although it has not been reached, the label feels there are probably enough quality cuts to make an album of material which has never been heard before.

Robert Mellin Puts Companies On Block

NEW YORK — Robert Mellin last week indicated that he has put his publishing firms on the block by reporting an offer of $1,600,000 for "a major music and entertainment complex." Mellin, who was an executive at BMI before forming his own firm, in 1947, has built one of the largest independent publishing operations in the country.

For the past several years Mellin has built his music and sound track rights to foreign films in English speaking countries, and sold the exclusive rights to all films coming out of Rome, Spain, and France. The most recent and current movie product handled by Mellin’s firms include the recent "Mozart" (Czechoslovakia), "We Still Kill In The Virtual Italy," "We Must Be Sitting Down," "I'll Have a Baked A Cake" and "We'll Build A Galactic Home." On the publishing side, the firms have been successful with such contemporary songs as "Twist and Shout," "Little Bit Of Soul," "Hang On Sloopy," "Black Is Just A Matter Of Hue," "Cry Baby," "Don't Let The Girls Get You Down," "Leader Of The Pack," "Remember" and "Sweet Talking Guy."

Fillmore East Opened By Bill Graham In NY

NEW YORK—Bill Graham, owner of the Fillmore Auditorium and Winterland in San Francisco, opened his latest venture on the site of the old Village Theatre 2nd Ave. and 6th St. It's called the Fillmore East.

The opening night (Fri., Mar. 8th) bill at the new entertainment mecca included Tom Buckley, Big Brother & the Holding Company, and Albert King. Graham plans to use new talent as well as "names" in the house.

Graham has built Van Nesswyk with the Jefferson Airplane; "The Dutchman," by Leroy Vonnegut and Count Basie Orchestra with the Chad Mitchell Trio. He has been instrumental in the design of a revial or poster art, wide spread use of "names" and a great deal of business man for the Jefferson Airplane.

Chet Atkins

Named RCA VP

See

Country Music Report

EMI Sales Up

RCA Latin Meet

See Int'l News Report

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Cash Box—March 16, 1968