

Norio Ohga Is Exec Managing Director Of CBS/Sony

NEW YORK—Norio Ohga has been appointed executive managing Director of CBS/SONY Records, according to Harvey Schein, president of CBS International, and Akio Morita, executive vice President of the SONY Corp. The recently formed Japanese label expects to release its first product in Sept.

Ohga is a graduate of the Tokyo University of Art and the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin, Germany, where he studied voice. He joined the SONY Corp. in 1959 as a consultant and advisor. He subsequently held the post of general manager for the professional tape recorder division and then for the industrial design division. In 1963, he became the youngest person in SONY's history to hold the title of director when he was named advertising director of SONY Shoji Co., Ltd. Prior to his new appointment, Ohga was general manager of the products planning division for all of SONY's consumer products.



Norio Ohga

Ella Accepts Chairmanship Of Martin Luther King Fdn

NEW YORK — Ella Fitzgerald has accepted the honorary chairmanship of the newly formed Martin Luther King Foundation that was organized to accomplish educational projects in the field of race relations. The Foundation is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

In memoriam of the death of Dr. King, Ella Fitzgerald has just recorded a self written dedication on Capitol Records. All proceeds from publishing and recording royalties will be turned over to the Foundation for use in its humanitarian projects.

Bell Strikes Loudest Sales Notes To Date

NEW YORK — Bell Records shattered all previous sales marks when it shipped over 400,000 singles from Monday to Friday, May 6-10.

In addition to The Box Tops' new deck, "Choo Choo Train," which accounted for 150,000 of the total, action was also hot on the Merrilee Rush charter "Angel Of The Morning," reports Larry Uttal, Bell president. Also strong are James & Bobby Purify with "I Can Remember" and The Delfonics with "I'm Sorry," plus The O'Jays' "Look Over Your Shoulder" and The Gentrys' "Can't Go Back To Denver."

The Box Tops' RIAA-certified gold disk, "Cry Like A Baby," has also sparked action on the LP tagged after the million-seller. Out seven weeks, the album has already sold in excess of 100,000 units.

Uttal noted that last week's sales topped the previous mark of 300,000 singles shipped the first week of August, 1967. During this period, the Box Tops made their first appearance with "The Letter," one of the best-selling records of the year. The comparison with the 400,000 singles shipped last week, Uttal commented, "indicates our growth in establishing a solid base of reliable artists, discovering new ones, and persevering in the promotion of our product. The Merrilee Rush "Angel Of The Morning" has been out three months but we never let go of it because we believed in the record. The chart action we're getting now confirms our belief."

Looking ahead, Uttal forecast chart breakthroughs for Cilla Black's "Step Inside Love" and "La La La," Eurovision Song Contest prizewinner sung by Spanish lark Massiel, plus Mitch Ryder with "Ruby Baby."

Uttal called the 400,000 singles sales mark "a tribute to the creative talents associated with the label and the drive of our staff. It is further proof of the basic operating theory of Bell Records — carefully chosen outside product coupled with aggressive and continual promotion."

S&G: One & One Are Two

NEW YORK—Columbia Records' Simon and Garfunkel have captured the top positions on Cash Box' best-selling single and album charts with "Mrs. Robinson" and the LP "Bookends."

"Bookends," the No. 1 best-selling album, has already been awarded an RIAA-certified Gold Record for sales in excess of \$1,000,000.

Simon and Garfunkel have also captured the No. 2 best-selling album position with their Sound track recording of "The Graduate." Two additional S&G LP's, "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme" and "Sounds of Silence," are also maintaining high chart listings throughout the country.

James Brown To Sing At Stadium

NEW YORK — Soul singer James Brown and his Revue will appear in concert at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, June 22 at 8:30 P.M., according to an announcement by the National Soul Festival. A portion of the net proceeds from the show will be given to these youth organizations: Mobilization For Youth, Youth In Action, Har-You Act, Police Athletic League, Master Economic Neighborhood Development, Inc., and Community Development for the Jamaica Community Corp.

Ticket prices are \$3, \$5, with VIP and Players Choice seats selling at \$100. Children under 12 years of age will be admitted for 99 cents.

James Brown Enterprises, Brown's

business firm, by the low admission price for children, is providing an opportunity for the youngsters to see the artist which they would not ordinarily have. High-priced tickets and long lines generally keep Brown's young followers from seeing their favorite in person.

After the Stadium concert, a "soul train" will distribute food and supplies to the poor in various poverty areas in New York City.

James Brown, who has broken box office records in many cities, has cancelled over \$100,000 in bookings to take his entire revue to Vietnam from June 3 to June 20. He was recently honored by being invited to the White House for dinner with the President and First Lady in honor of the Premier of Thailand. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey has cited Brown for his "Don't Be a Drop-out" campaign, by which the singer has urged students to stay in school.

Atlantic Has Biggest Singles Sales Week

NEW YORK — During the business week May 6-10, Atlantic Records sold over 1,250,000 singles, more than have been sold during any other week in the label's history.

It was the third week during 1968 that Atlantic had sold more than one million singles in a single week's period. Sales last week at Atlantic were sparked by Aretha Franklin's new single "Think," Sam & Dave's "You Don't Know What You Mean To Me," "Tighten Up" by Archie Bell & The Drells, "A Beautiful Morning" by the Rascals, Wilson Pickett's "She's Lookin' Good," Percy Sledge's "Take Time To Know Her," "Sweet Inspirations" by the Sweet Inspirations, Arthur Conley's "Funky Street," Otis Redding's "Happy Song" on Volt, William Bell's "Tribute To A King" on Stax, and Joe Tex's "I'll Never Do You Wrong" on Dial.

Heneberry To Become RCA Record Club Mgr.

NEW YORK — Dave Heneberry has been named to fill the manager's position for RCA's Record Club when the current head Don Kunsman retires June 1. Kunsman is also presently the Record Club division vice president.

The appointment, which will become effective on the first of June, was disclosed last week by Norm Racusin, general manager and record division vp. Heneberry is currently marketing manager for the Record Club, whose staff he joined in 1967.

Heneberry, with experience in response advertising in all media, was vice president of marketing with the LaSalle Extension University, the home study division of Crowell Collier and MacMillan Publishing prior to joining RCA. Before that, he was vice president of Marshall John Associates advertising agency, in Chicago, and previously had been assistant advertising director of Bankers Life & Casualty in Chicago.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in advertising, and resides with his wife and five children in New Canaan, Conn.



Dave Heneberry

The Return Of The Quick-Spinning Single

HOLLYWOOD—The "quick-spinning single," namely the 78-rpm disk, has returned—at least as a promotional vehicle for new Reprise performer, Randy Wood.

Reprise is claiming that the single, "The Beehive State" and "I Think It's Gonna Rain Today," culled from his LP, is a "breakthrough as the dawn of a new era in sound quality and production excellence."

Here's how Reprise puts it:

"The 78-rpm Speed Series has been developed by Reprise Records with an ear to heightening the quality of sound found on recordings. The new series "has been developed after intensive engineering research. We rank this breakthrough along with the development of the long-playing record album, stereophonic sound, and the much-discussed compatible stereo recording techniques, all of which have revolutionized the recording industry.

"The engineering research and development branch of Reprise Records stated that, 'in technical terms, the faster a record goes, the better it sounds. If our figures are correct, the Reprise 78 rpm Speed Series will sound 57.7% better than any 45 rpm record on the market.'

Reprise is urging other record companies to "join hands in this bold step into the future."

Newman penned both songs, with Lenny Waronker and Van Dyke Parks producing with arrangement by Newman.



NEW DIMENSION FOR BELL

Lenny Dell reunites with Henry Jerome (left) as he signs an exclusive pact with UA Records. The singer debuts with the label as a solo chanter on "I'll Come Home," a song of topical interest dealing with the Vietnam war. Formerly lead singer with the Dimensions, Dell was originally signed to Decca several seasons back with the group, by Jerome, and clicked with "Over the Rainbow." Jerome, UA's executive producer, has also made plans for an album from Dell.

WE CALL ON HIM ELVIS PRESLEY	RCA Gladys Music, Inc.
STAY AWAY ELVIS PRESLEY	RCA Gladys Music, Inc.
SUMMERTIME BLUES BLUE CHEER	Philips Rumbalero Music, Inc. Presely Music, Inc.
WONDER BOY KINKS	REPRISE Noma Music, Inc. Mondvies Music
LOVE IS FINE SEEKERS	CAPITOL Noma Music, Inc. Jamito Music
PLEASE STAY DAVE CLARK FIVE	EPIC U. S. Songs Eleventh Floor Walden Blue Seas Jac
THINK ABOUT IT YARDBYRDS	EPIC Noma Music, Inc. Enquiry Music
TWEEDLE DEE DEE WILLIE BOBO	VERVE Progressive Music Pub. Co., Inc.
OH WHAT IT SEEMED TO BE JIMMY ROSELLI	U.A. Ann Rachael Music
DO I LOVE YOU MAGIC RING	MUSIC FACTORY Hill & Range Music, Inc. Mother Bertha
ANYTHING ERIC BURDON & ANIMALS	MGM Slamina Music, Inc.
IT'S ALL MEAT ERIC BURDON & ANIMALS	MGM Slamina Music, Inc.
SPANISH HARLEM FREDDIE SCOTT	SHOUT Progressive Music Pub. Co., Inc. Trio Music Co.
LOVEY DOVEY OTIS & CARLA	STAX Progressive Music Pub. Co., Inc.
WITHOUT LOVE OSCAR TONEY, JR.	BELL Progressive Music Pub. Co., Inc. Suffolk Music, Inc.
I'M BLUE SWEET INSPIRATIONS	ATLANTIC Progressive Music Pub. Co. Inc. Placid Music, Inc.
I DON'T WANT TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE FRANKIE LAINE	ABC Bennie Benjamin Music
STOP HOWARD TATE	VERVE Rumbalero Music, Inc. Ragmar Music, Inc.
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET MY LOVIN' ENCHANTED FOREST	AMY Pumbalero Music, Inc. Kenny Lynch Music, Inc.

THE ABERBACH GROUP
241 West 72 Street, New York, N. Y.