

Starday/King Signs 4 Names For Emerging Adult Market

HOLLYWOOD — Reaffirming its belief in catalog-oriented artists, Starday/King Records has signed, or is in the process of signing, Roberta Sherwood, Billy Daniels, Georgia Gibbs and Jose Melis. "The adult buyer is back in the marketplace," said Starday/King president Hal Neely, "and he's looking for some familiar names. Our policy is, and has been for some time, to provide those names for him."

"Through our various tape and record club licensing deals, we're assured of success with artists of this caliber. We're dealing with a pre-sold market. Additionally, working with professionals means minimum time in the studio, thereby cutting down one of the major cost factors."

Although both the Starday and King operations (which merged in 1968) were catalog oriented, it has only been in recent months that the label complex began its extensive recruiting drive. Other artists signed in the last few months include Arthur Prysock, Redd Foxx, Wayne Cochran & the C.C. Riders and Bill Doggett. "These artists are constantly working, constantly being exposed. There's always a good demand for their product."

Although the firm is interested in breaking into the contemporary market, Neely is wary of the current scene because "groups just aren't staying together long enough to develop a following." Starday's Look label recently issued its first rock album by Heart.

Miss Sherwood was brought to the label by Dexter Shaffer, who heads Starday/King's west coast offices. Henry Glover, the firm's A&R vp., who also heads the east coast office, will be handling sessions for Miss Sherwood's forthcoming album, to be cut in L.A. or Nashville. "We're trying to move Roberta into some new areas," said Neely, "and we'll probably cut an album of old country blues tunes."

The current wave of signings is meant to diversify the company out of country and blues, its two major interests. The Starday group of companies now includes Nashville (bud-

get country), Look (rock) and Deluxe (soul). The King group, which in most cases is handled by a different distrib lineup, includes Federal (blues) and Bethlehem (jazz and jazz/rock).

Even the label's top selling artist, James Brown, is diversifying, having just completed a jazz LP with Oliver Nelson. In addition, new Brown product is being packaged and merchandised with an eye on the mass market.

In addition to its newly-opened offices in New York and Los Angeles, the firm has facilities in Nashville (main office), Cincinnati and London. Starday/King's existing studio operations in Nashville and Cincinnati are being augmented by a studio under construction in Macon, Georgia, the installation of equipment at Redd Foxx's L.A. club and a working agreement with John Wagner, who operates a recording studio and production company in Albuquerque, N.M.

Friars' Nod To Jones

NEW YORK — International recording star of Parrot Records and ABC-TV star Tom Jones is to be named "Entertainer of the Year," by the Friars Club. The awards will be presented at a testimonial dinner to be held Friday, Apr. 15 at the New York Hilton Hotel.

The \$100 a plate banquet will be for the benefit of the Friars Relief Fund and assorted other charities in addition to Tom Jones' own favorite charity, the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

Jones, who pulled down six gold albums during the past year, will be accorded the salute by what is expected to be one of the heaviest-attended Friars testimonial dinners in recent years. Toast-master of the event, to be attended by a host of showbusiness greats, will be Milton Berle.

The executive committee for the affair consists of Jones' personal manager and partner, Gordon Mills; Lloyd Greenfield, his American representative, Norman Weiss, vice president of Creative Management Associates, Jones' agency; and Herb Goldfarb and Walt Maguire, executive of London Records Inc. which distributes Jones' recordings on the Parrot label.

Mixed-Media Show Opens

NEW YORK — A total environment show entitled Time Changes, from Pisces Productions, a newly-formed New York based company premieres at the New England Life Hall in Boston this week (21).

ABC Records group Ford Theatre stars in the show, based on its first two albums, "Trilogy For The Masses" and "Time Changes," which features simultaneous light show, film show, special effects, live actors and the group on stage.

The show, conceived as a pre-off-Broadway trial, will run two performances nightly, January 21-24. New material by author, composer, group leader Harry Palmer has been added to the album songs.

Roger Thomas will direct Time Changes while the film light show and special effects aspects are being prepared by C² Productions, Boston. Sound is by Dave Hadler.

Commercials featuring Brother John of WABC/FM have been running twelve times daily on WBCN/FM since January 9. Print ads have run in Boston After Dark, Boston Globe and Herald Traveler.

Actors appearing with Ford Theatre are Peter Stevens as Clifford Smothergill, Marrie Mumford as Mary Jane Baxter and Bob Motherford as Puck. Miss Mumford previously appeared in "A Flea In His Ear" at the Charles Theater in Boston. Stevens teaches drama at Bennington College and The Shadow Hill School in Boston. Motherford, a Brandeis graduate, has been directing and teaching throughout the Boston area.

Pisces Productions was organized last fall and is financing the whole production. All copyrights are held by D'Azure Music, Inc., ASCAP, an affiliate of MusicMusicMusicInc., New York.

Talent On Stage

TINY TIM

TROUBADOUR, L. A. — Before an enthusiastic full house, Tiny Tim made his L. A. club debut at Doug Weston's Troubadour last week and, to say the least, it was a major triumph. Although we missed the vocal backup of the Enchanted Forest, which appeared with Mr. Tim on a recent Sullivan outing, our loss was compensated for by a new aura of professionalism on Mr. Tim's part. Methinks he's getting hip.

Tiny opened the show with his familiar falsetto piercing away on "I Love Peter Pan," and after a quick love song to a can of pork and beans, switched into his lower range voices for a tribute to the crooners of yesterday. Hearing Mr. Tim sing "Just A Gigolo" was a treat well worth the price of admission.

The highlight of the show, at least to our table, was an all-out attack on the old rock songs that mean so much to us as do the songs of the twenties and thirties to Tiny. "Great Balls Of Fire," "Blue Suede Shoes" and "I'm

Walkin'" were among the tunes that Tiny brought back to life with new meaning (and an occasional tra-la).

No Tiny Tim show would be complete without "Tip Toe Thru The Tulips," and for this auspicious occasion, the song's original interpreter, Nick Lucas, joined Tiny on stage for a duet. Lucas wasn't the only star in the audience, however, as Tiny proceeded to introduce so many names that we thought we had wandered into the Friars club.

Love has brought new meaning into Tiny Tim's life, and into his songs as well. It was a great show (but we'd still like to see him with that all-girl rock group).

Opening the show was Camp Hilltop, a quartet of city-born folk with country-born music in their hearts. They had their faults, but they also had that special kind of sound that indicates that a little work could bring them a long way.

a.r.

MILES DAVIS

VILLAGE GATE, N. Y. C. — Whenever Miles Davis is playing, this is an occasion. He is, after all, the master of the trumpet. He has proved this over the course of countless gigs and a dozen or more recordings and he certainly doesn't have to prove it anymore. But Miles is not content at merely being the best, he continually seeks to improve, to reform, to re-assess, or, as he expresses it, to seek "new directions in music."

At the Village Gate he was accompanied by these musicians: Wayne Shorter, tenor sax; Jack deJohnette, drums; Chic Corea, electric piano; Dave Holland, bass. The sound was youthful; there was a plethora of amps; over all shone the presence of Miles. Slipping in and out of solos, and just making beautiful music with his horn, he was awe-inspiring. It would be difficult to say when, if ever, he

sounded better.

The set was made up of one extended and unnamed song which gave all the members of the group ample opportunity to display their musicianship to full advantage. The standout man was bassist Holland, a young fellow from London, England, who was recently discovered by Davis. His playing was inventive and assured, both on the bass guitar and the stand-up bass. He just seemed as if he felt that he belonged there in Miles' group and his playing certainly indicated that he did.

All too soon, the set was over and the "Prince Of Darkness" disappeared from view. But not before he had shown once again that he is among the genuine giants of jazz and continues to take giant sized steps as a musician.

e.k.

'Salvation' Cast With Bib Shady

NEW YORK — Every member of the cast of "Salvation," the sellout off-Broadway rock musical, has been signed to exclusive recording contracts with the show writing team's Big Shady Productions. The artists involved are Yolande Bavan, Joe Morton, Boni Enten, Annie Rachel and Marta Heflin. "Salvation's" composers-writers are Peter Link and C.C. Courtney.

Capitol Records cut the original cast LP with what will be known as "The Salvation Company." Following the release by Capitol of the "Salvation" original cast album shortly after the show's opening, the composers persuaded Sol Iannucci, the label's president, to give them a \$30,000 budget for their proposed album "Earl of Rustin." Additionally, they won Capitol's assent to complete artistic freedom in recording the LP, album cover approval, the right to pick their own producer and recording studio, and as much time as they felt they needed to produce the package.

"Earl of Rustin" has been completed and Capitol has set a March 1 release date. A country-folk opera with music composed solely by Link this time, the script is based on a

play by C.C. and his brother Reagan Courtney. The lyrics were also contributed by the Courtneys. Both composers perform on the album, along with the rest of "The Salvation Company" members. Nick Venet was co-producer with Courtney and Link of the album, recorded at The Record Plant in New York.

Courtney and Link have options on the recording services of members of "The Salvation Company" over a five-year period. Individual albums for each of the artists is next on the team's agenda. There is a possibility, too, that other singers may be added from time to time to the recording family, although they may not appear in the "Salvation" stage musical.

Also, study guides spotlighting the music and lyrics of "Salvation," whose main target is criticism of organized religion, are being distributed by the Lutheran Church of America to 250,000 clergymen and adults working in education with the church across the country. The move is part of a drive on the part of the Church's Cultural Information Service to revitalize study programs for teenagers in the church and make them more relevant to today's world.

Audio Fidelity Takes Theatrical Schapiro

NEW YORK — Audio Fidelity Records, a leading producer and manufacturer of records and other leisure-time products, has acquired a major production-management organization in the theatrical industry.

The acquired company is Phil Schapiro, Inc., an organization which specializes in the production of festivals and special shows throughout the world (Stony Brook Music Festival at Stony Brook, New York, "Explo '69" and others) and is also a leading artists representative and management firm. The company will continue to operate as a completely autonomous subsidiary of AFR under its present management.

In their expansion program, Audio Fidelity is currently examining possible acquisitions in the radio and TV field. According to Herman Gimbel, company president, "the acquisition of this diversified theatrical organization places us in a position to discover up-and-coming talent which could be developed into topselling recording artists on our label. At the same time, we can offer artists on our roster an opportunity to be booked for personal appearances."

Allison Joins Sunbury/Dunbar

NASHVILLE — Russ Allison has been named associate professional mgr. for Nashville by Sunbury Music Inc and Dunbar Music Inc effective immediately. He replaces Brad McCuen, who recently became president of RPM, Inc of Nashville. Sunbury and Dunbar are RCA Records' music publishing subsidiaries.