

NY Meet For Grammy Entries

NEW YORK—Grammy entry categories will be determined this coming Wed. (10) when industry representatives from all five NARAS chapters gather for a full-day session in New York's Essex House.

Hosted by the Record Academy's New York chapter, members of five different committees, representing various fields of music, will examine entries submitted by NARAS members and by record companies for correct classification, titles, plus release date eligibility. Each committee will first focus on entries in its own division; later in the day all members will meet as a single committee to determine the ultimate fate of all questionable entries.

Close to 40 well-informed members and guests are being gathered together by NARAS for the occasion. The 15-man committee devoted to pop, rock and folk will consist to Atlanta's Bill Lowery and Mary Tallent, Chicago's Bill Traut, Los Angeles' Mike Melvoin and Paul Williams, Nashville's Don Light and John Sturdivant, and, from New York, Buddah's Neil Bogart, Michael Cuscuna, Atlantic's Shel Kagan, Columbia's Murray Krugman, Cash Box's Irv Lichtman, Metromedia's Rod McBrien, producer Johnny Pate and Record World's Mike Sigman.

Perusing the rhythm and blues entries will be Hob's Johnny Bowden, Chicago's Sam Brown, Chess-Cadet's Esmond Edwards, Columbia's Billy Jackson, Billboard's Ed Ochs, Motown's Ralph Thompson, Chess-Cadet's Mancel Warwick and RCA's Buzzy Willis.

Jazz entries will be scrutinized by arranger Manny Albam, Voice of

America's Willis Conover, Down Beat's Dan Morgenstern, Father Norman J. O'Connor, trumpeter Jimmy Owens and New York Times jazz critic John S. Wilson.

Ray Kennedy, Barry Kornfeld and Henrietta Yurchenko will examine all ethnic and traditional record entries, while those submitted in the various classical categories will be reviewed by David Hall of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Record Library, veteran producer Is Horowitz, American Record Guide's Jim Lyons and Nonesuch Records' Tracy Sterne.

Further technical information will then be supplied by the staffs of the five NARAS chapters before the final eligibility list is submitted to the National Trustees for their approval. Members should be receiving these lists, along with the first round ballots, sometime during the middle of next month. A second round of voting, scheduled for early next year, will determine the eventual Grammy Winners, to be announced on the Academy's annual television special on Tues., March 16.

Concert Assoc. Acquires Aquarius

HOLLYWOOD—The Aquarius Theater, which housed the West Coast production of "Hair" and, more recently, an unofficial "Jesus Christ Superstar" company, has been leased for a two-year term by Concert Associates of Beverly Hills, a Filmways, Inc., subsidiary.

CA heads Steve Wolf and Jim Rissmiller announced they will make the 1,200-seat theatre available for any kind of legit event—concerts, plays, musicals, trade shows, closed-circuit screenings, even boxing. They will make 2-to-3-week bookings or "shows that could run up to six months." Their aim is to make the Aquarius a "Carnegie Hall prestige theatre of the West."

The fully staffed facility will have a full-time manager on the premises and will be run separately from Concert Associates' Beverly Hills offices.

The Aquarius offers two revolving stages and three floors of office space. It also has a restaurant and a liquor license and is zoned for billboards. A 270-car parking lot adjoins the building.

The theatre opened originally as the Earl Carroll, then became the Moulin Rouge, the Hullabaloo and subsequently the home of "Queen For a Day" and "Hair," for which it was remodeled.

Though Wolf and Rissmiller will continue to use Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for their own rock concerts, the two promoters said that the Aquarius deal was prompted by the fact that that beach hall is not always available. They will therefore stage certain pop shows at the Aquarius depending on the act and the availability of other halls.

Coasters Back On King Label

NASHVILLE—Starday-King president Hal Neely has signed an exclusive long term contract with the original Coasters. Pact reunites the group of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, the writing/producing team that gave them their biggest hits.

"Love Potion 9" b/w "D. W. Washburn" is the first release on the King label under the company's new management and the first production for it by Leiber and Stoller, who head A&R operations. The Starday-King complex recently was acquired from Lin Broadcasting by Neely, Leiber, Stoller and Freddy Bienstock.

The Coasters were formed as a group in California by Leiber and Stoller in the late 50's. Following their first Atco record, "Down in Mexico," the group had a string of hits extending over the next several years.

Among the titles from that era written for them and produced by the Leiber-Stoller team were: "Searchin'", "Young Blood", "Yakety Yak", "Charlie Brown", "Along Came Jones", "Poison Ivy" and "Little Egypt."

Their new release, "Love Potion #9" was first tested in 1959 when it became a hit for The Clovers. A subsequent version in 1963 by the English group, The Searchers, also became a hit.

Puerto Rican Fest Over Thanksgiving

NEW YORK—The Vega Baja Music & Art Fair has been scheduled for the Thanksgiving holiday on Tortugero Beach, Puerto Rico. Signed to perform are Ten Years After, Procol Harum, Jose Feliciano, "Jesus Christ Superstar," Richie Havens, Poco and the Chambers Bros.

In addition to music, the Nov. 20-27 festival will feature a variety of island and US craft exhibits and workshops. Vega Baja coordinators Chris Cowing and Gary Buckner have located the affair in a 430-acre palm grove on Tortugero Beach, 45 minutes west of San Juan. Also available to participants are 200 acres of campgrounds, fresh water lagoons and organic food sources.

Tickets cost \$15 apiece and can be purchased from Fiesta del Sol, 621 Church St., Ann Arbor, Mich., 48104. Special student charter flights can also be arranged from most major cities, ranging from \$129-\$199 (depending on point of departure), which will include admission price.

Stage and sound will be handled by Bill Hanley, lighting by Chip Monck. Further information can be had by calling 800-631-1971 at no cost to the caller.

Infinity Goes On, And On...

NEW YORK—Infinity Records' productions is highly active.

The company, headed by Vinny Testa, is represented with new product by BullAngus (an LP on Mercury), a new Frijid Pink (Parrot) single, "Lost Son," and, due in Jan. from Elektra, an LP by J F Murphy & Salt, produced by Elektra's Ed Kramer. Murphy's compositions form a folio through Charles Hansen Publications. His previous material is published by Infinity's Engagement Music, while all his new compositions go through Infinity's Scrolie of the North Music, in which Murphy has ownership interest.

Michael Earle, Infinity exec producer, is currently working on a concept album, "Captain of the Stars," with guest appearances by several rock artists. No label has been assigned the project as yet.

BullAngus will be on Rod Stewart's 10-concert tour, including the sell-out Madison Square Garden performance on Nov. 26.

Songwriters Hall Member Nominees

NEW YORK—The Songwriters Hall of Fame has announced major changes in the procedures leading to nominations of songwriters for election to the Hall, according to Johnny Mercer, president, who has advised the membership of the changes by letter.

The new approach incorporates an invitation to the entire membership to submit suggestions for possible songwriter nominees and their songs. From the total list of names submitted by the general membership, Mercer said, those men elected last year for enshrinement in the Hall of Fame, will join with the board of directors of the organization, in making the final selection of names to be honored this year.

In this way, Mercer noted, the collective knowledge of the 10 men added to the rolls of the Hall of Fame last year and the 17 members of the board would be applied to the task of electing those names most deserving of this honor. Those finally selected would be announced at the organization's second annual awards banquet and show next spring. A date for the event is expected to be disclosed shortly.

Mercer stressed that the new approach is not necessarily a final formula, but rather an attempt to establish a procedure that is more democratic and responsive to the feelings of the total membership of more than 1400.

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sings it.
"WE GO BACK"
is a
Columbia Records
hit!



A THORN ON THEIR SIDE—Jerry Greenberg, Atlantic Records vice president, gives his enthusiastic approval to Cactus' new album "Restrictions", which shipped this week. (L to R) Rusty Day, Jerry Greenberg, Carmine Appice and Tim Bogert.