

# Spindizzy Is Creatively On Its Own

HOLLYWOOD — Spindizzy Records, a Columbia Custom Label headed by Art Linson, is far from being dizzy about its purpose in the industry. Linson sees his label, now 24 months old, as a "meaningful alternative to Columbia's tastes." He further stated that if the acts his label merely duplicated the talents on the Columbia roster his label would be unnecessary.

## 'Roster'

Featuring artists Grin, Jerry Williams, Kathy McDonald, and Simon Stokes and the Black Whip Thrill Band, Spindizzy was formed by Linson and record producer David Briggs primarily to develop new talent. Art, who once managed Spirit with Lou Adler, now manages Jo Jo Gunne, the successful act that evolved from Spirit. He also manages Mark Almond and has placed both acts on labels other than his own. The reason he placed Jo Jo on Asylum was simply because "David Geffen was willing to pay a fortune for the group." Linson would probably agree that he is not competing with Asylum or Columbia in so much as what his own label at an artistic level has to offer. He maintains, "We're not in a hurry, and for now we're a small tasty label."

## 'Artistic Autonomy'

New Spindizzy product is generally never prescreened or listened to by Columbia until it has been finished and is ready to be merchandised. This provides the custom label with artistic autonomy. Linson regards Columbia's role as a "finance and distribution" corporation.

Art Linson is also producing the John Kay screenplay "Cherry Terry, the Rockin' Robin," to star Elliot Gould. The soundtrack, with music nostalgic of the 50s will be on Spindizzy.

Linson originally started in films, co-producing "Brewster McCloud" with Lou Adler. He got into the record business because he feels it's more immediate. "A film can take as long as three years to finish, and by the time you see it on the screen, you deserve an award just for that."

The latest Spindizzy LP is by Grin. Forthcoming will be an album by Simon Stokes and another by Kathy McDonald.

# Hampton, Brantley Start Label

ATLANTA, GA. — Lionel Hampton and John Brantley have jointly announced the formation of Gates Records, with main office located in Atlanta. The company recently acquired an entire building which will house both the exec. offices of Gates Records as well as the new recording studios recently opened by Maple Recording Studio. Both companies are located at 1499 Gordon Street, S.W. in Atlanta.

The initial two releases by the company will be singles featuring Lee Moses and Tony Baxter. Four albums featuring Lionel Hampton, Harrison Jones, Lee Moses, and Gloria Barnes will be released in early Feb., Brantley said. The company is presently setting up its national distribution network and is also actively pursuing international affiliations.

In commenting on the company's direction, Brantley stated: "We are gearing our product for the contemporary rhythm & blues market, and we firmly believe that a major source of this talent can be found in the Atlanta area. Our close working relationship with Maple Recording Studios will enable us to realize their excellent facilities which are perhaps the finest in the Atlanta area."

The company maintains a New York office at 165 West 46th Street.

# GFR Donates \$40,000 To Phoenix House

NEW YORK — Grand Funk Railroad has donated \$40,000 to Phoenix House, a leading drug-free treatment program. The money represents the group's earnings from two recent New York concerts and a recently aired (Jan. 19) ABC-TV network special. It was presented to Dr. Mitchell S. Rosenthal, director of Phoenix House by Mark Farner, a member of Grand Funk. The donation was one of the ten largest contributions ever received by Phoenix House and the largest ever donated by a rock group.

All three members of this group, who have taken public stands against hard drugs, decided to do something that would more emphatically demonstrate their feelings. The Phoenix House benefit concerts were held on Dec. 14, 1972, at the Nassau Coliseum and on Dec. 23 at Madison Square Garden. The latter was taped for the ABC-TV network "In Concert" series to help bring the message and purpose of Phoenix House to a national audience.

## Rosenthal Comments

Receiving the check on behalf of Phoenix House, Dr. Rosenthal commented, "No one can reach young Americans better than the talented musicians whom they admire and whose work forms an integral part of the matrix of their culture. Hopefully concerts and statements against hard drugs by groups such as Grand Funk Railroad, will have a positive effect in reversing the most serious social problem of our times." In addition, Dr. Rosenthal outlined a major study by Dr. Carl Chambers, director, Division of Addiction Science, School of Medicine, University of Miami. The major portion of the Grand Funk Railroad donation will go to support this study. Additional monies will go towards renovations of the 14 residential centers run by Phoenix House.

As one of the most successful groups in the rock field, Grand Funk Railroad has sold over a million copies of each of their eight Capitol albums, including their latest "Phoenix." Their recently completed million dollar tour has been described as the most successful in the group's history of public appearances.



Farner, Rosenthal

# Knight Suit Over GFR Concert B'cast

NEW YORK — Terry Knight and GFR Enterprises, Ltd., have filed suit in the United States Federal Court against the American Broadcasting Company, ABC-TV, ABC-Radio and Kirshner Entertainment Corporation charging trademark infringement and unfair competition. Suit seeks \$3 million dollars in damages from ABC and \$1,500,000 from Kirshner plus costs and interest and such other and further relief which to the court may appear just and proper. Knight and GFR Enterprises are represented by U.S. trademark lawfirm Gottlieb, Rackman and Reisman.

Suit surrounds the Jan. 19 telecast and FM broadcast of Dec. 23 Madison Square Garden concert of GFR.

# Polydor's Classical Sales In '72 Marked By 30% Lift

NEW YORK — Polydor Incorporated, classical sales for 1972 increased almost 30% over the previous year, reports Fred Dumont, director of the division.

"The year's end produced the highest classical sales volume ever achieved for the Deutsche Grammophon label in the better than 10 years since it has been imported and distributed in the United States," said Dumont. "Peak sales may be attributed to many factors, all resultant in the expansion of Deutsche Grammophon product distribution and sales on the U.S. market. The label has always been known for its fine quality, and in this era of planned obsolescence, it has managed to sustain this reputation by maintaining the highest manufacturing standards throughout the industry. While European processing is swinging more and more to assembly line techniques, it is still possible to achieve some of the old-world highly personalized quality control overseas, certainly more so than in this country."

"Also, whereas years ago, Deutsche Grammophon's artist roster consisted mostly of performers, who, with few exceptions, were little known outside of continental Europe, today's jet-age itineraries have extended their appearances to all parts of the globe, making many of them frequent visitors to these shores. Many of D.G.'s artists now perform here for extended seasons with such august institutions as the Metropolitan, Lyric and San

Francisco Operas, as well as with every important American symphony orchestra, in addition to giving annual solo recitals at prestigious concert halls in every major city throughout the country.

## Major Talents

"The search for newer and younger talent has brought such charismatic personalities to the label as Michael Tilson Thomas, Seiji Ozawa, Daniel Barenboim, Martha Argerich, Maurizio Pollini, Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli and Claudi Abbado. Recent recordings have been made with the Boston, Chicago and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras, as well as with the Metropolitan Opera, including both the 'Gala Honoring Sir Rudolf Bing' and last year's much-acclaimed production of 'Carmen' starring Marilyn Horne and James McCracken, conducted by Leonard Bernstein. Selecting repertoire that is truly representative of these artists, and works

(Cont'd on p. 26)

# Polydor/King Continue Ties On Global Basis

NEW YORK — The continuation of a six year world distribution agreement between King Records of Nashville and Polydor International of Hamburg, Germany has been announced.

Terms of the new contract were not disclosed but it was indicated to be for a long term. Deal includes world distribution by Polydor of the King group of labels to include King (R&B), Bethlehem (Jazz), Federal (Blues), Agape (pop), Good Medicine (Contemporary), Tri-Us (R&B), Bridges (Pop-country), A Polydor Int'l/King logo is used world-wide. King will continue its own distribution in the United States and Canada via indie distributors.

The new world wide marketing concepts and promotional plans were worked out between Hal Neely and Freddy Bienstock of Starday-King and Mike Von Winterfeld, Roland Kommerel, Gunter Flad, Horst Hohenboeken, Hans Bonneval, and Dr. Ecke Schnabel for Polydor International.

King, one of the forerunners of blues, rock and roll, rhythm and blues history has over 20,000 masters in its vaults dating back to the '30's and including most of the great of the 40's, 50's and early '60's plus over 3,000 uncatalogued old blues masters which are now being researched.

In speaking about the extension of the long relationship, Neely expressed the view that Polydor International had come up with some new marketing ideas for the use of the old King-Bethlehem blues and jazz catalogs which were proving successful in all world areas and which are being adopted by the parent King firm for the U.S. and Canadian Marketplace.

## New Releases

While in Europe to sign the new agreement Neely worked with the promotional, marketing and A&R staffs of Polydor International in Hamburg, London, the Hague, Paris and Tokyo to initiate an immediate new release program in 1973 of new King family artists to include Little Royal, Ruben Bell, Barbara Burton and the Messengers, White Cloud, Hummingbird, Charles Brown, Boot, Eddie James, Smiling Faces, Mike Wheeler, Gloria Edwards, Mickey Murray, Gloria Walker, Denny Lile, His Brothers Keeper, The Bluegrass Alliance and The Celts.

Carlene Wescott has been appointed international director for King and will coordinate product flow with the numerous Polydor International offices around the world.

# Chi's Granada Purchased By Jam Productions

CHICAGO — Jerry Mickelson and Army Granat of Jam Productions have purchased the Granada Theater, located at 6427 N. Sheridan Road, this city.

A longtime film showcase, the Granada, under its new management will now feature periodic live shows in addition to movies. It has a seating capacity of 3,422.

Mickelson stated that the entertainment policy will not be limited to rock programs but will also include straight dramatic presentations, "now" vaudeville plays and other progressive presentations.

Initial program will be kicked off on Feb. 14 with a bill headlined by Brewer & Shipley, Taj Mahal and Wilderness Road.

# POW Issue In Non-Profit VIVA Single

NEW YORK — Voices in Vital America (VIVA), involved in the past three years in the Vietnam POW and MIA situation, has released a recording, "How Do You Tell a Small Boy," which depicts a returned POW speaking to his small son. The disk, written and performed by Lance Lindsay, is a non-profit venture, from which all royalties will be used for scholarships for the children of those GI's who do not return as a result of the Vietnam cease-fire.

The disk is being sold primarily through direct-mail, and can be obtained for \$1 through the VIVA national office at 10966 LeConte Ave. in Los Angeles, Calif. or through branch offices throughout the country.

The other side of the disk, "Wake Up America," appeals to North Vietnam to identify all prisoners.

VIVA was formed in 1967 by five UCLA students to raise the ecology issue and that of the POW's and MIA's in Vietnam.