

Canopy Covers Wide Spectrum Of Music Success

Since inception, Canopy Productions has expanded and diversified in rapid succession within itself as a single unit while simultaneously finding its place in the L.A. music scene.

The two arms of the company are Canopy Productions, which concerns itself with the signing, production, promotion, distribution and merchandising of company product, and Canopy Music, which functions as a publishing clearing house for Canopy artists as well as a seeker of new writing talent — the life support of the industry.

The emphasis at Canopy is not on quantity or a quick return on investments, but on quality, entertainment and honesty in expression — both in the signing of acts and production. No restrictions or controls are imposed on the individual artists. The philosophy behind complete freedom is that the artist will respond with more creativity and consistency, if some omnipotent power is not standing in the shadows.

Roster Growing

The roster of Canopy Productions is still small, but growing; thus far the company has signed internationally acclaimed composer Jimmy Webb, singer Joey Scarbury (15-year-old veteran performer) and the Five Man Electrical Band, a new group from Canada. Initial releases are scheduled for April and May.

In the words of Canopy President Robert Webb, "The aim of Canopy Music is to give expression to the creative art of music from every source possible: through records, tapes, films, television and any other medium throughout the world, and to establish and maintain a reputation of quality and integrity within the industry."

Solid Line-Up

So far Canopy has a solid line-up of songs already numbering 62, most of which are Jim Webb compositions and those of a new young writer under exclusive contract to Canopy Music — Pat St. Clare.

More recently a new publishing company has been established — Sunshower Music (BMI) in which Gerald Moore, Dave Martins and Jo Ann Paul, winners of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Song Market Contest, have placed songs.

Both Canopy and Sunshower Music are represented around the world.

"Canopy sincerely welcomes the opportunity to submit material to the artists in our industry and to welcome young writers who have unpublished music," says Robert Webb.

Straight Re-locates

Straight Records and Bizarre Records entertainment complex headed by Herb Cohen and Frank Zappa has expanded to new offices in the Sunset Ca-huenga Building, Suite 1504, 6430 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood 90028, phone 213-461-3267.

Herb Cohen Management, representing such as Frank Zappa, Tim Buckley, Linda Ronstadt and Captain Beefheart, has also relocated at the same address, phone 213-461-3277.

José Endorses Merson

José Feliciano and Merson Musical Products Corp., a Gulf and Western subsidiary headquartered in Westbury, N. Y., have entered into an association agreement by which Feliciano will endorse Giannini classical guitars, announces the entertainer and Ernest J. Briefel, President of Merson, manufacturers of Giannini.

A Label for All People

People Records, six months old, has been built by its President, Mickey Stevenson, to mirror a brotherhood type of feeling.

Not only is its executive team an integrated operation, but the People logo symbolizes a home for music of all styles and popular backgrounds.

Kim Weston, People's best known vocalist, leads the artist roster with a single, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," that heralds a campaign launched by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to develop a unifying Black National Anthem. All the proceeds of the sale of the single are being donated to the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson and his SCLC-sponsored Operation Breadbasket.

The entire People staff is working on getting soul radio stations around the country to play the song every hour on the hour. That staff includes Hosea Wilson, George Chavous, Fred Rector, Alan Mink, Lewis Schapiro and Stevenson.

"People's artist roster will reflect the modern, exciting times in which we live," comments Stevenson, a former Motown executive before moving to California several years ago.

As such, People's initial product release offers the rock sound of the Orange Colored Sky; Truth; the female trio of Hodges, James & Smith and Miss Weston.

People also is buying finished masters from outside producers. The company distributes the product of Pride Records, headed by Clarence Paul and run by several black producers. In fact, the Pride name is emerging in relationship to the Kim Weston vocal of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." The song was placed on that label — rather than on People — to "give people a taste of pride," Stevenson says.

But the People identity will emerge on its own, its president asserts. The groundwork has already begun.

Big Famous Product Release

NEW YORK—Famous Music Corp. has released five new LPs during the month of April including four on the Dot label and one on Paramount.

The Paramount LP "Music from the Soundtrack of the Adventure" features 10 compositions by Antonio Carlos Jobim, two tunes composed by Eumir Deodato and the Johnny Mercer-Harold Arlen classic, "That Old Black Magic." The Jobim tunes are published by the Ensign Music Corp. (BMI) affiliate of Famous Music Corp. (ASCAP) which publishes the other three compositions.

The four new albums appearing on the Dot label include "The Other Side of Roy Clark"; "The Instrumental Sound of Hank Thompson's Brazo Valley Boys"; "It's Anita Kerr Country" by the Anita Kerr Singers; and "Where Were You When . . .", a collection of 1950s golden oldies including the Dell Vikings, Gale Storm, Jim Lowe and Tab Hunter, among others.

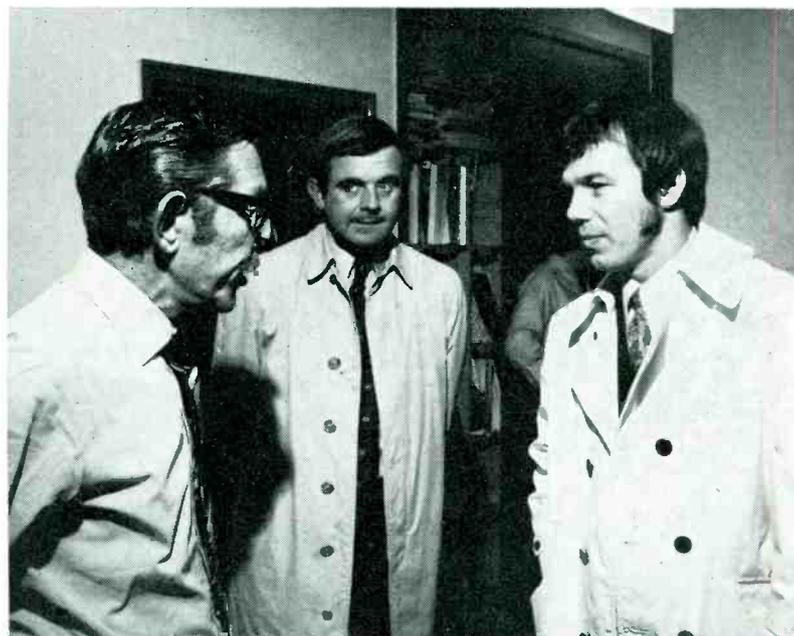
Bell Sales Soar

NEW YORK—Oscar Fields, National Single Sales Manager for Bell Records, announced that during March the label sold more singles than it has during any month in its history. "In one week alone," Fields stated, "we sold over 600,000 singles."

Air Force to States

Ginger Baker will bring his "occasional" Air Force band to the United States on an eight-week concert tour beginning June 6 in Pittsburgh.

Fuller Visits Record World



Record Worlds Bob Austin, Columbia Records' Jim Brown and label producer Jerry Fuller during latter's recent visit to Record World offices. Fuller recently turned artist on his own single, "I Know I Can Make It," which he also wrote and produced.