N.Y. Soul Concerts To Aid Non-Profit Groups

NEW YORK—Non-profit New York organizations are armed for operating funds because of the city and state's empty coffers will get a financial shot in the arm at the performances to be held in New York's first series of Kool Soul concerts counted in July.

The concerts, a joint-venture between George Wein's Festival Productions and the Brown & Root Radio Tobacco Co., are scheduled for Shea Stadium, July 9, 10, and will feature such top soul acts as the Temptations, Smokey Robinson, Nancy Wilson, Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Singers, MFSL Archie Bell & the Drells, and Theodore Peddaggers.

A percentage of the profits will be awarded to qualifying non-profit organizations in the form of grants, according to Westbound, producer of the series.

Additional, all non-profit organizations can get group discounts for their members, or buy tickets at $1 below face value and sell them at face value, if the profits are contributed to the benefit of the individual organizations.

The Shea stadium series is part of an 11-city festival tour that will include Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Nashville, Milwaukee, Houston, Pontiac, Mich; Atlanta; and Oakland and San Diego, Calif.

This marks the continuation of a project begun last year between Westbound and Brown & Williamson, and which attracted close to 500,000 admissions across the country.

Roller says that Jerry Rubinstein, ABC chairman, is continuing his talks with Len Levy. Levy is located in Florida but he has headed Chess-Janus, Metromedia and Epic.... An ABC TV film crew is reportedly working on interviews with Tony Orlando and his Rolling Stone Revue for a September special.

Getting around the industry has it that Steve Womack, Westbound's Denver office manager, is celebrating his May 13 birthday, now that Womack has officially signed with Motown.... Is Scotty Turner, producer-writer, still in the business?

Alex Cooley, the Atlanta concert promoter, has to be admired for his candor. In his newsletter plugging concerts for Alice Cooper and Tony Orlando & Dawn: "This is the biggest MOR gig we've ever attempted. Personally, I don't dig their music, but it pressures the hell out of you."... Al Teller, recently replaced as UA artist by Artie Mogull, is mulling New York offers. ... Isn't Capricorn Records trying to get in on one of its current staffers to new director of promotion?

Two members of the Chuk Mangione Quartet have deserted the group and taken up residence in Cleveland. Deejay Chip Jackson. They have been replaced by Gregory Herbert and Kim Daragon, respectively. Astra's Byron Minty has taken over at New York's Ebbets Field Club, following the group's opening was attended by Paul Simon, members of Bad Company and the Average White Band, Louisa Wainwright, New York City Chase and Broadway composer Adolph Green. Astra plans to have the live album, from the first two nights, completed and on the way to pressing by the end of June.

David Clayton-Thomas and Blood, Sweat and Tears will perform at Montreal's Olympic Stadium July 20 for the annual Gramaphone Gala—a new series of summer games. The group is one of two mainstream attractions being booked for the Olympics, out of a total budget of $1 million, including several opera, ballet and theater companies.

Lionel Hampton was appointed by President Ford to the position of special advisor to the White House election commission. ... WRVR, New York's only all-jazz radio station, will broadcast live and in stereo the musical birthday tribute to Duke Ellington, Thursday (14). The performance will include performances by Sarah Vaughan, Joe Williams, the Hampton Choir and the Duke Ellington orchestra and chorus. Doris Day, Andra Day, Frances Fox and Norman Gimbel have penned the theme for a tv pilot, "Walk, Walter." The song is sung by Bobby Hart.

Dave Marchishyn, formerly of ABC Record & Tape Sales accounts for Peter Pan "Superhero" record/tape sets, not J.L. Marsh outlets as noted last month. The Peter Pan-Panthera (Penney, New Jersey) (Vallely, Delaware) (Wescott) and Long Island (Masters).

Marchishyn received the "Record Merchant of the Year Award in New York, next Friday (7) for his dedication to the cause of underprivileged children. Gaye has initiated Marvin Gaye Learning Centers for children and through the State Dept., opens centers around the country and finances them with benefit performances.

Handelman Co. is consolidating its Houston warehouse into its Dallas quarters. ... Look for album promo added across all markets. ABC's "Reserve" Records next week.... Casablanca Records' staff has risen from about a dozen to 40 since its move to new quarters on Sunset Blvd. Good news. Bob Neil & Mike Wappett, co-promoter in Chicago, running his own truck carwash in southern Indiana.... The National Assn. of Music Merchants holds its annual convention June 25-29 in Chicago.

Dick Clark's oldies revue and Sarah Vaughan playing similar cruises to Mexico this spring.... 5th Dimension to Mexico City; Al Jarreau to Europe; Bay City Rollers heading West for U.S. concerts.

A&M picked up a platinum Peter Frampton LP and a gold Peter Tosh LP this week. Peter Wolf's "Takin' & Tennille and Nazareth.... Caffe salta group with a hot Miami record, is the Deauville Hotel's first move to New York.

Black Oak Arkansas headed a KZEW benefit concert for Good Will Industries in Dallas.... Henry Fonda Winkler hosts a Flash Cadillac concert at the San Francisco Cow Palace May 8.... Rick Wakeman's new "No Earthly Connection" album has an anamorphic cover. Which means that its stretched and rounded images were meant to be seen in a silver mylar tube provided with the LP.

A ghost friend of Camel keyboardist Peter Bardens is credited with the "one note" the group's new Janus album, thanks to a "supernatural visitation.

Tommy Bolin of Deep Purple breaks in his solo act at Joel Maiman's La Paloma Club in Del Mar, Calif., the night he releases his new Rick Vito LP. The Bellamy Brothers competed as finalists at the Tokyo Music Festival.

Record executive heard up the "Rolling Rock" oldies label; his name was spelled Ronney Weiner in a Billboard story last week.... Steve Fromholz, Capitol artist, spoke at Montreal Pizza & Cigarettes seminar at UCLA: The Bay City Rollers managed to tape a "Midnight Special" segment despite the NBC-TV network.