

Folk entry for Italian TV contest

GRAMPIAN-TV's "An Impression Of Love"—a folk song programme starring Ewan MacColl and his wife Peggy Seeger—is to be ITV's entry in the music Section for the Italia Prize, which is held in Florence next month.

One of the featured songs is MacColl's own "The First Time" which has since been recorded by Joan Baez and Marianne Faithfull.

Byrds' tour 'hard but invaluable'



JIM MCGUINN

AMERICA'S long-haired boys the Byrds fly home today (Thursday), to Los Angeles, after their brief but hard-working tour of England. The five Hollywood artists' latest release, "All I Really Want To Do", this week moved up the Pop 50 ten places to number nine.

The Byrds publicist, Derek Taylor told the MM: "They will certainly not be returning before next year. No, there is absolutely no question of a Christmas show. The group will return to England when the bill is right, and at the right time and the right place.

"They have immensely enjoyed the tour; they've learned a tremendous amount how more closely they are scrutinised by the English press and fans than in America, and more about stage presentation and production.

"It's been hard but invaluable experience."

The Byrds will be recording their next single, to be released in America, almost as soon as they get back—but it is unlikely to be another Bob Dylan number—probably an original composition from guitarist Jim McGuinn and vocalist Gene Clark.

Two of the Byrds' concerts were cancelled at Portsmouth Guildhall, last week, due to "indifferent support at the box office."

Ivy League want their own backing on RSG

THE Ivy League this week complained to the MM that "Ready, Steady Go!" does not permit them to use their backing group, Division Two.

Said John Carter: "The boys play on our records and get the sound we want, but RSG won't let us use them." Added Perry Ford: "RSG say they try to get the actual sound, yet they don't use the group. Session men are OK, but blimey, it just isn't the same Ivy League sound."

Commented RSG editor Vicki Wickham: "We employ a regular studio group of top session men and we don't want to use any backing groups. For one thing it would cost a lot of money.

"I really do consider that the men we use are very good and do an excellent job."

The League's American trip has now been brought forward and they will fly to New York on September 5. They will do TV dates, including the Ed Sullivan show and "Shindig", plus coast-to-coast radio and TV interviews and, possibly, one or two concerts.

As a result their dates have

been rearranged. They now tour Ireland from September 24 to October 3 and Scotland from October 11 to 16. They go to Belgium on October 19 for three days of TV and radio dates.

NEW DISC VENTURE

FOUR of Britain's top recording managers — EMI's George Martin, John Burgess and Ron Richards, and Decca's Peter Sullivan—have formed their own company.

According to George Martin — who counts the Beatles among his many stars — the company will "make a small amount of top quality records that will sell very well. We are after quality not quantity."

The four will continue to

record on behalf of EMI and Decca those artists for whose recordings they are now responsible.

Their decision has been taken in order to have "freedom of action, freedom of decision and freedom from administrative ties."

RSG WILL DEVELOP

A NEW and refurbished "Stars And Garters" and the Donovan TV documentary were among new programmes announced by Rediffusion's Elkan Allan at London's Television House on Monday.

The ITV pub programme, to be called "The New Stars And Garters", will return in late September or early October with actress Jill Browne as hostess.



Ellen gets a break with the Seekers

AN EMERGENCY nasal operation on Judith Durham, of the Seekers, has meant an unexpected break for an "unknown"—a 23-year-old brunette from Glasgow named Ellen Wade. Ellen (pictured left with the Seeker Athol Guy) is depping with the group until Judith is fit to return to work early next month. "I'm still not quite able to believe it," said Ellen at Bournemouth Winter Gardens this week. "I've just been fantastically lucky."

Judith left hospital this week, but has been ordered by her doctor to rest until the end of the month.

Herman's Hermits return to boost new release

HERMAN'S HERMITS are due back in Britain today (Thursday) and will dive straight into a barrage of radio and TV dates to plug their new single "A Little Bit Better" which is due for release tomorrow (Friday) on the Columbia label.

Tonight they are to appear in "Top Of The Pops" and have two sessions tomorrow—'live' in RSG and a recording of "Yeh, Yeh" for transmission on Monday (30).

On Saturday they are to record for Sunday's (22) "Easy Beat" and for the same evening, Herman will appear in "Juke Box Jury", immediately afterwards flying North to join the Group for an evening session at Northwick Memorial Hall, Cheshire.

On Sunday (22) they have a concert at Gt. Yarmouth and Monday they record for Thursday's "Beat Show", have a "Discs-A-Gogo" date on August 31, and will appear in "Lucky Stars" on September 4.

BENNETT TV RADIO DATES

CLIFF BENNETT and the Rebel Rousers, whose new single, "I've Cried My Last Tear", is released tomorrow (Friday), have signed for TV and radio dates.

These include: "Easy Beat"

(22), Granada-TV's "Scene At 6.30" (26), "Saturday Club" and "Lucky Stars" (28) and TWW's "Discs a Gogo" (September 6).

DILL HOME FOR FUNERAL

WELSH jazz pianist Dill Jones flew home from the States this week following the death of his father at Newquay, Cardiganshire.

Dill will be staying in Britain until mid-September, when he returns to New York to join the Max Kaminsky group.

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