

NASHVILLE'S MUSIC INDUSTRY PUBLICATION

Tammy Graham

Top Ten Album All Stars * Breakthrough Artist * Breakthrough Video * Breakthrough Songwriter * Best Video of the Year * Dest Song of the Year *





(An "RF hit," that is.)

Grammy-award winning performer Randy Travis knows something about hits. After all, he's had 18 number-one singles and has sold more than 20,000,000 albums. But when he's onstage, at venues across the country. Rancy doesn't want his wireless mic taking any "hits" from RF interference. That's one reason he relies on the ATW-1237 true diversity wireless system from Audio-Technica.



"We've never taken a hit," says Travis's FOH engineer Phil Somers. "In a wide variety of weather and

temperatures, even outdoors in blowing rain, we've had zero problems."

And Randy really likes the smooth condenser sound. The mic delivers exceptional clarity and definition with virtually no handling noise. Supplied as a hypercardioid, it easily accepts cardioid, subcardioid and omni elements.

"The neutral response and warm low end are very natural," continues Somers. "All in all, it's a wonderful element."

Experience the bullet-proof performance and excellent sound of the ATW-1237 today. Because when you go onstage, you want to *perform* the hits, not *take* them.

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AND THE

PLAYS ON...

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AND ON... AND ON... AND ON... It wouldn't be possible without your extraordinary talent. Thank you!



THERE'S NO

The MiniDisc format has created a recording revolution. TASCAM's 564 makes the most of it to give you more creative power than any other MD multitrack available. It's the only MiniDisc multitrack system built with TASCAM's recording experience and reliability.

The TASCAM 564 Digital Portastudio®

Built for serious musicians who get inspired by great performance, the 564 is a complete 4-track digital studio with features that other MD multitracks can't match or simply don't have. The 564 complements your creativity with the intuitive operation, ease of use, and durability you expect from the inventors of the Portastudio — TASCAM.

You're gonna love the 564's jog/shuttle wheel

Hear the difference! Only the 564 gives you audible, frame accurate jogging, cueing and index trimming. The others



leave you guessing. Plus you can shuttle at 2, 8, 16, or 32 times normal play speed. Call up system parameters and alter values, even MOVE, ERASE and COPY with one hand tied behind your back.

Killer arrangements with exclusive Index Programming

Only the 564 lets you segment your song into as many as 20 patterns. And only the 564 has the hot new Index Program feature that lets you rearrange those patterns with as many as 99 steps

for tremendous flexibility. Half the intro, double the chorus, or construct a whole new arrangement without losing the original — even after you power down.



The best mixer section in a MiniDisc Multitrack

It's all here; high quality mic preamps, responsive faders and pots, 3-band EQ with mid sweep, 2 Aux Sends and more. The routing flexibility makes it incredibly

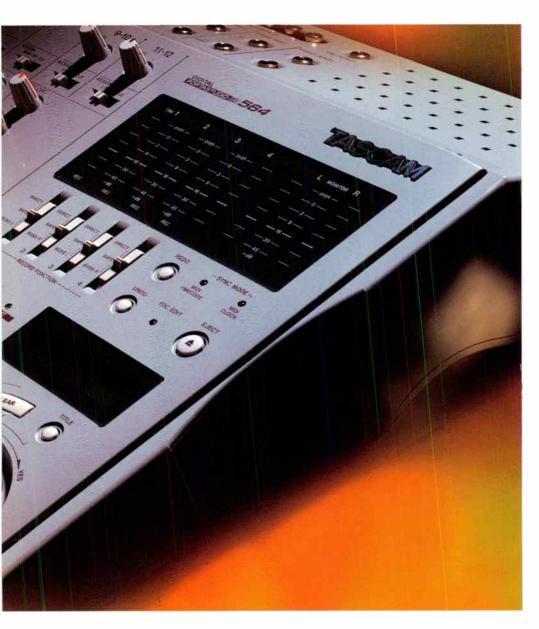
> easy to Bounce Forward, overdub, monitor, even transfer tracks to another machine for sweetening. All this and only on the 564 Digital Portastudio.

5 takes per track. Only from TASCAM!

Imagine the perfect solo. Only the 564 gives you five takes per track to create it. With Auto Punch you can set frame accurate punch-in and out points, even do hands-free punches! To rehearse, just repeat between any two index markers for continuous playback. Only the 564 lets you choose from 0 to 9.9 seconds between repeats. You've got the licks. The 564 helps you make the most of them.



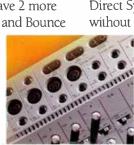
COMPARISON.



Bounce Forward only from TASCAM. It's incredible!

The 564's exclusive one-step Bounce Forward feature creates a stereo submix of your four tracks to the next song location on the disc with all EQ, panning and effects processing intact. Now you have 2 more tracks for overdubs. Overdub and Bounce

Forward again and again until the music is just right. Even create a studio quality final mix — all within the 564!



Ins and Outs: XLRs, MIDI and Digital

4 XLR ins. 4 mono ins. 4 stereo ins. Simultaneous use of 2 AUX sends. 2 insert points. 2-Track in. Up to 4 additional live inputs at mixdown with the exclusive Buss Direct System. Sync to your sequencer without wasting an audio track for Time

Code. And the only MD multitrack that lets you digitally transfer your mix to DAT or CD-R via S/PDIF? You guessed it — the 564!

World Radio History

Instant gratification. It's the fastest!

The 564 leaves other MD multitracks in the dust. It's so fast, it doesn't even need a pause button. With the only transport exclusively designed for digital multitrack recording, it continuously loads data for lightning-fast index trimming and song arranging, plus smooth multiple-speed shuttling capability.

Flex your creativity with non-destructive editing

With the 564, you'll never lose your inspiration. You can always UNDO or REDO the previous edit with the touch of a button. Ping pong, overdub, or create multiple mixes of your song on a

re-recordable disc you can stick in your pocket. The 564 even reminds you to save your original tracks. It's a complete digital project studio you can carry under your arm. And it's from the inventors of the original Portastudio.



There's only one digital Portastudio.

All MD multitracks are not created equal. So don't buy a TASCAM wannabe. You'll end up with a lot less than you bargained for. Get the 564 Digital Portastudio

from TASCAM and get the best. For the whole story, dial TASCAM FaxBack at (800) 827-2268 and request document #7620.



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Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price is \$1,499.

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NO MUSICIANS...NO RECORDS!

MAY 23, 1997 VOLUME 17 NUMBER 9

THE BIG STORY

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13 9TH ANNUAL MUSICIAN AWARDS

Music Row honors this year's Top Ten Album All Stars the session musicians who put the music in Music City. For complete methodology and details, see page 13.

31 MUSIC ROW AWARDS

Throughout our fifteen years of reporting and commenting on Nashville's music industry, we have tried to honor excellence and recognize outstanding achievements. This year's honorees were chosen by a consensus of *Music Row* critics and editorial voices. Categories include Song of the Year, Breakthrough Writer, Best Video, Breakthrough Artist Video and Marketing Achievement. Eligibility was from March 1995—March 1996.

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Ron Young

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Artist Name: Tammy Graham Label: Career Current Single: "A Dozen Red Roses" Current Album: Tammy Graham Current Video: "A Dozen Red Roses" Current Producer: Barry Beckett Hometown: Las Vegas, NV Special TV/Film Appearances: Prime Time Country; Graham was also the only country artist to participate in the nationally syndicated Easter Seals Telethon. She performed "Let The Girl Be Herself." Birthdate: February 7, 1968

Birthplace: Little Rock, AR

Interesting Facts: Performed at the Texas Grapevine Opry at age 10—her first paying job. She earned \$25. As a child, she opened for Jerry Lee Lewis and was later billed as the "Little Miss Jerry Lee Lewis." She also opened for Faron Young and Gary Morris. Graham cut a demo at age 9 at Bradley's Barn. By age 13, she cut a record with Harold Bradley. Outside Interests: Hiking, fishing, skeet shooting Musical Influences: Jerry Lee Lewis, Patsy Cline, Elvis Presley, Vestal Goodman Favorite Records: Patsy Cline's Greatest Hits

May 23, 1997 MUSIC ROW 7

Kenny Aronoff **Eddie Bayers Dennis Belfield Bruce Bouton** Spady Brannan Mike Brighardello Larry Byrom Mark Casstevens Mike Chapman J.T. Corenflos Paulinho DaCosta Dar Dugmore Larry Franklin Paul Franklin Vince Gill **Tony Harrell** John Hobbs Randy Howard Dann Huff David Hungale Greg Jennings Jeff King Paul Leim **B. James Lowry** Brent Mason Terry McMillan Greg Morrow Steve Nathan **Russ Pahl** Al Perkins Don Potter Brent Rowan Michael Rhodes Michael Severs Eric Silver Joe Spivey Billy Joe Walker, Jr. **Biff Watson** Lonnie Wilson **Glenn Worf Reggie Young**

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HERE

IN NASHVILLE.

It is an honor and a privilege to work with you. Mark Bright

World Radio History

31c0305

SOUNDSTREAM

MUSICAL CHAIRS by LISA BERG



STRAIT CARRIES MCA TO A RECORD WEEK

FAST BREAKS

► George Strait's Carrying Your Love With Me debut, with 194,411 units (No. 1 Country, No. 2 Top 200 LP), accounted for the biggest sales week ever in the history of MCA Nashville-the highest combined chart position, as well...

BUSINESS NEWS

Fred Cortez has resigned from Prime Time Management, and the company name has changed to The Clif Doyal Agency. Clif

Doyal and Kathie Bartel Doyal will continue to represent former Prime Time clients Laredo, Steve Maynard and Robyn Whitney...

Mechel K. Frost has been appointed Vice President and Investment Relationship Manager in the Trust and Investment Services Division of SunTrust Bank, Nashville. She previously worked at Cutler and Company, where she served as Vice President, Marketing and Client Services Division...

Jan Garich has been appointed CMA's full-time representative for Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Prior to joining CMA, Garich was head of co-op marketing for Germany-based ad agency Feldt & Compagnie...

Performance magazine has promoted Dick McVey to Senior News Editor/Nashville Bureau Chief. McVey is a four-year vetran of the magazine...

Country Weekly's florida-based Executive Editor Roger Capettini has exited the company and Clif H. Dunn has been named Managing Editor of the magazine. He was previously Nashville Bureau Chief, a position which was filled by Rick Taylor, a writer for Country Weekly, based in Los Angeles. Taylor will now be working out of the Nashville office...

Senior Music Segment Producer Clay Smith has exited from the Entertainment Tonight (ET) office in Nashville, leaving Field Director Greg Travis in charge. ET's music coverage has diminished in recent months, and Smith's position is not expected to be filled...

A 90-minute edited version of The 30th Annual CMA Awards aired March 30 in Sweden and commanded a 67% increase in viewers over last year's telecast. Reportedly, contributing factors to the success included an improved evening time slot (10:15-11:45 p.m.),



George Strait

Mechel K. Frost

promotions broadcast in the days before the show and a CMA publicity campaign to radio, press and the music industry in the month before the telecast. Spearheading the promotion was Benelux representative Karen Holt, who recently added the Scandinavian region to her responsibilities. Holt joined CMA in 1994...

BMG Entertainment North America recently entered into a unique partnership with America Online to include AOL's online service software on select BMG CD products. For the same price as standard audio CDs, CDs that include the AOL set-up software will allow consumers to enjoy 50 free hours of AOL's online service. Consumers will be directed to music-related sites and be encouraged to visit AOL, where BMG will provide exclusive content and information relating to its artists and music...

The "first-ever" music chart generated directly by the public via the Internet is now available on the Web at <www.rate-arecord.com>. Using a "point and click" interface, visitors to the site are anonymously polled for their opinion and have the opportunity to "rate" and "rank" the music currently released to radio. Site visitors also have the opportunity to sample new releases and win promotional items...

Nashville Country Club, Inc. recently completed its previously announced merger with Avalon Entertainment Group, Inc., a privately held, broad-based entertainment company specializing in the production of live entertainment events and music marketing programs for corporate clients. NCCI, headquartered in TN, is a diversified entertainment company that operates resort hotels and restaurants and is a national producer of concerts, corporate entertainment and marketing events and television programs...

Belmont University School of Music students Lee Anne Franklin, Stephen Gause and Julie Sparks were to be featured at the 1997 Commercial Music Showcase on April 25. The Curtain Call Award, presented for the third time this year, celebrates the professional achievements of a former Belmont commercial music student. This year's recipient is Gordon Mote, keyboardist for Lee Greenwood and Trisha Yearwood ...

Trifecta Entertainment has been retained to represent and support United Distillers, makers of George Dickel Tennessee Whisky, for the 1997 "Dickel Diaries" advertising campaign...

Gilles Godard, Professional Manager at Quantum Music, is producing country music records for the French markets of Canada and Europe. He has been in the studio with artists such as Kim Carnes, Steve Wariner and Michelle Wright, working on French versions of their English hits. Godard has arranged to fly in a phoenetics teacher from Montreal to help the artists with their French...

"The Reno Revival-A Video Scrapbook" is a video documentary which chronicles the events of the 2nd Annual Reno Revival in

Artist	\$Gross	Tix Sold	%Full	Venue	City, St.	Date
Reba McEntire/Brooks & Dunn	1,012,044	*24,684	98	Baltimore Arena	Baltimore, MD	4/10, 12
Garth Brooks	799,017	**47,356	100	Pepsi Arena	Albany, NY	4/10-12
"Floodfest '97" - Montgomery/Cyrus/ HeadHunters/Morgan/etc.	218,125	13,822	93	Freedom Hall Coliseum	Louisville, KY	4/6
The Statler Bros./Rhon da Vin cent	136,350	5,050	74	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville, IN	4/12-13
orrie Morgan	59,292	2,148	63	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville, IN	4/5
Newsboys/Third Day/Plank Eye	45,746	3,159	70	Vines Center, Liberty U.	Lynchburg, VA	3/27
Ray Price	20,264	723	30	Ctr. of Greater Des Moines	Des Moines, IA	4/4
		source: ami	usement b	usiness		

MUSICAL CHAIRS

THE	SONG POWE	2	IR		E	X
	MONDAY • MAY 5, 19	997		#03	80	
	Songs are ranked by SPI points. Ties are ranked according to highest Add Factor Averages. SPI = ADD FACTOR + PASSION ARTIST/TITLE/LABEL	# OF REPORTS	SPI	PREV SPI	ADD FACTOR	PASSION AVG.
1	TRACE ADKINS/I Left Something/Capitol	34	8.67	8.06	4.38	4.29
2	REBA McENTIRE/I'd Rather Ride/MCA	34	8.59	•	4.53	4.06
3	CLAY WALKER/One, Two I Love You/Giant	37	7.43	•	3.86	3.57
4	RICOCHET/He Left A Lot To Be Desired/Columbia	34	7.38	7.53	3.79	3.59
5	SKIP EWING/Mary Go Round/Word Nashville	37	7.32	6.91	3.62	3.70
6	TERRI CLARK/Just The Same/Mercury	20	7.10	٠	3.65	3.45
7	AARON TIPPIN/A Door/RCA	36	7.03	6.75	3.64	3.39
8	JO DEE MESSINA/He'd Never Seen Julie Cry/Curb	37	6.92	6.58	3.57	3.35
9	M.C. CARPENTER/The Better To Dream/Columbia	37	6.73	7.05	3.51	3.22
10	RIVER ROAD/I Broke It, I'll Fix It/Capitol	26	6.65	٠	3.27	3.38
11	BILLY YATES/I Smell Smoke/Almo Sounds	33	5.91	4.94	2.88	3.03
12	NOEL HAGGARD/One Lifetime/Atlantic	37	5.86	5.23	3.00	2.86
13	KRIS TYLER/Keeping Your Kisses/Rising Tide	37	5.86	5.70	2.97	2.89
14	KIM RICHEY/I Know/Mercury	34	5.74	5.67	2.74	3.00
15	RAY VEGA/I Can Dream/BNA	37	5.46	5.20	2.57	2.89
16	RICH McCREADY/That Just About/Magnatone	28	5.29	٠	2.54	2.75
17	BLAKE & BRIAN/Shut Up Heart/MCG/Curb	31	4.93	•	2.4B	2.45
18	VICTORIA SHAW/Different Drum/Reprise	35	4.63	4.73	2.20	2.43
19	SKY KINGS/Fooled Around And Fell/WB	33	4.48	4.10	2.24	2.24
20	BAILLIE & THE BOYS/God's Honest/Intersound	23	4.48	•	2.22	2.26
21	NANCI GRIFFITH/Maybe Tomorrow/Asylum/EEG	26	3.69	3.52	1.73	1.96



Giant Records duo Regina Regina caught up with Naomi Judd during a taping of "After Midnight With Blair Garner." (L to R) Regina Nicks, Judd and Regina Leigh. *Photo: Dan Kline*

1996. The 2-hour video, which includes jamming, instructional sessions and personal interviews with the students, is \$29.95 and can be purchased from Don Wayne or Lori Reno at 615-889-4197...

Jimmy Bowen's autobiography, *Rough Mix*, was scheduled to arrive in bookstores on May 5. Written with **Jim Jerome**, the book is billed as an "uncommonly candid, unbeholden look at the often rough and tumble music business by one of the industry's most powerful and controversial players..."

Three Chords And The Truth: Hope, Heartbreak, and Changing Fortunes in Nashville by **Laurence Leamer** was due in bookstores May 14. In the book, Leamer writes about numerous contemporary country music artists as well as industry insiders...

Author **Don Keith** is scheduled to sign copies of his two novels, *The Forever Season* and *Wizard Of The Wind*, on May 24 and again on June 7 at various Nashville locations. Keith is a former Nashvillian who programmed KZ Country Radio (now Radio Lightning) from its Music Row studios in the early '80s...



LABEL NEWS Rick Bau

Rick Baumgartner has been appointed Vice President of National Promotion at Decca Records. Most recently, Baumgartner was Director of National Promotion for Warner Bros. He replaces **John Lytle**, who resigned his post to become **Gary Allan's** manager. Also at Decca, **April Rider** has joined as Midwest Director of Regional Promotion. She was previously an independent record promoter with Skip Stevens Promotion...

Rick Baumgartner



John Lytle



April Rider



Matt McConnell

Brad Howell has been named National Director of Promotion for Warner Bros. Nashville. He was previously Southeast Region Promotion Manager for the label...

Ken Tucker has been named National Promotion Manager/Southeast for Warner Bros. Records. Tucker previously handled the Southeast for Giant/Reprise. Matt Williams rises to Regional Promotion Manager/Southeast for Giant/Reprise. He was formerly Promotion Manager...

Capitol Nashville has promoted **Jason Krupek** to Senior Coordinator of A&R Audio and Visual Services and **Randi Israelow** to Senior Coordinator of A&R...

Matt McConnell has been upped to Manager, A&R Administration/Production, Sony Music Nashville. He was formerly Supervisor, A&R Administration/Production, Sony Music Nashville...

Imprint Records and the Hit Label have reached a licensing agreement for Imprint Records' products in the United Kingdom. Formed five years ago by former Chrysalis Records executives **Phil Cokell** and **Savvas Sakkas**, the Hit Label is one of the leading country music labels in the UK...

Nashville-based indie label Blue Plate Music has released *Folk Live From Mountain Stage* and *Gospel Live From Mountain Stage*. The new volumes of the *Live From Mountain Stage* series include performances from artists such as John Hartford, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Iris DeMent, Steve Forbert, Cheryl Wheeler, The Delevantes, The Fairfield Four, Sounds Of Heaven and Pops Staples...

MUSICAL CHAIRS

ARTIST NEWS

Waylon Jennings, Travis Tritt, Joe Diffie and Steve Wariner were to join host Porter Wagoner for an impromptu "guitar pull" May 3 during TNN's *Grand Ole Opry Live...***Tanya Tucker** made her first Grand Ole Opry appearance in nearly 15 years during the April 19 *Grand Ole Opry Live* segment on TNN...

The Oak Ridge Boys, Bela Fleck and Wynonna were among the artists slated to perform at the opening ceremonies of the first Presidents' Summit for America's Future April 27 in Philadelphia. Summit honorary co-chairmen President **Bill Clinton** and former President **George Bush**, General Chairman **Colin Powell** and former President **Jimmy Carter** were scheduled to attend...

Pam Tillis' *Greatest Hits* album, which includes the single "All Of The Good Ones Are Gone," is scheduled for release on June 3...

Same Train. Different Time. Merle Haggard's tribute to Jimmie Rodgers, is scheduled to be released this summer on Koch Records. It is reportedly Haggard's first "concept" album...

Intersound artist **Ronnie McDowell** recently completed recording *The Greatest Tribute To The King*, a special project commemorating the 20th anniversary of **Elvis Presley's** passing. Scheduled for release on June 24, the 19-song project pairs McDowell with guitarist **Scotty Moore**, drummer **D.J. Fontana** and **The Jordanaires...**

The Flying Burrito Brothers' newest album, *California Jukebox*, is scheduled to be released July 8 on Ether Records American Harvest Recording Society...

Deana Carter is the only country artist in *Neusweek* magazine's list of "100 Americans for the Next Century." The magazine chose people in all professions whose "creativity or talent or brains or leadership will make a difference in the years ahead..."

Toby Keith and his wife Tricia welcomed their newest family member, Stelen Keith Covel, into the world on April 17. Stelen joins sisters Shelley and Krystal in the Keith household...Former Nashville session guitarist "Little" Jimmy Dempsey was recently named to the Atlanta Country music Hall Of Fame and has released a new self-titled instrumental LP co-produced with Merle Kilgore...

PUBLISHING NEWS

MCA Music Publishing has promoted Caroline Frilot to Controller, Finance Department and Lisa McCormack to Accounting Manager, Finance Department. Frilot was previously Assistant Controller. while McCormack served as Senior Financial Analyst...

Writer publisher **Dave Burgess** and Los Angeles-based producer **Keith Olsen** have formed a new publishing, production and artist management entity, The Bursen Music Group, located in Nashville's Berry Hill area. 615-297-3134...

John Oates of Hall and Oates has set up a new production company, John Oates Productions. at 19th and State St. in

World Radio History

continued on page 50



Trace Adkins was recently presented with a gold record plaque for his debut album, *Dreamin' Out Loud*. He received the honor at the exact same spot where he was offered his Capitol Nashville record contract, Tillie's and Lucy's Bar just outside of Nashville. (L to R) Capitol Nashville President & CEO Scott Hendricks, Adkins, manager Gary Borman and Borman Entertainment's Cindy Wunsch. *Photo: Alan L. Mayor*

SIGNINGS

PUBLISHING
Randy Archer, Claire Lynch
PolyGram Music Publishing
Clint CharlesTom Collins Music Corporation
Billy KirschHamstein Music
RECORDING
Bruce Henderson Omad/Paradigm Records
Ronnie McDowellIntersound
Seven Day JesusForeFront Records

E-MAIL/WWW ADDRESSES

The Southern BrothersVesper Records

Belmont University School Of Music www.belmont.edu/Music/Musichome.html **Blue Plate Music** www.ohboy.com **Bug Music** www.bugmusic.com Countrycool.com Radio www.countrycool.com Decca Records www.decca-nashville.com **Dottie West Music Fest** www.dwfest.com ForeFront Records www.foretrontrecords.com Fruit Of The Loom/CountryFest '97 www.countrycomfort.com **Get Down Records** www.primenet.com/~getdown Grammatrain www.grammatrain.com Ken Biddy copperfild@aol.com **Kickin' Country** http://kickincountry.com Lance Cowan Media LCMedia@Sprynet.com **MC Potts** www.mcpotts.com Music Row www.musicrow.com Odyssey www.odysseychannel.com Rate-A-Record www.rate-a-record.com RIAA www.riaa.com **Ricky Lynn Gregg's Trail Of Hope Products** www.utopianet.com/rlgregg/toh01.htm T.J. Martell Foundation www.TIMartellFoundation.org Trademark PR

TrademrkPR@aol.com

A SHOWERING THANKS

TO ALL THE TALENTED AND DEDICATED MUSICIANS

WHO PLAY ON OUR RECORDS



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TONY BROWN & MARK WRIGHT





7 MUSICIAN

by Paulette Flowers & Otto Kitsinger





ey, you know what? There are actually people in Nashville who aren't musicians. aren't "in the industry," and don't even know

what liner notes are, much less read them. Really. And, despite these handicaps, they seem to lead perfectly normal lives. But here at Music Row we do read liner notes, and once a year we tell you which musicians play on so many hit albums that they can't possibly lead normal lives.

Yes, it's time for us to perform a public service by listing Nashville's top session players in BIG TYPE so that their friends and families and the powers that be can actually read them, and maybe take these guys out for a nice dinner or something. So, without further ado, here are Music Row's Top Ten Album All Stars for 1997.

usic Row

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May 1, 1	996 - April 30, 199'	
ARTIST Trace Adkins Alabama John Berry Clint Black Garth Brooks Brooks & Dunn M.C. Carpenter Deana Carter Kenny Chesney Terri Clark Bill Engvall Jeff Foxworthy Vince Gill Ty Herndon Faith Hill Alan Jackson Alan Jackson Alan Jackson Toby Keith Alison Krauss & U.S. Tracy Lawrence Tracy Lawrence Tracy Lawrence Tracy Lawrence Tracy Lawrence Tracy Lawrence Uyle Lovett Neal McCoy Mindy McCready Reba McEntire Tim McGraw J.M. Montgomery Lorrie Morgan LeAnn Rimes LeAnn Rimes Kenny Rogers Kevin Sharp George Strait Randy Travis Travis Tritt Shania Twain Clay Walker Bryan White Wynonna Trisha Yearwood	TITLE Dreamin' Out Loud Dancing On The Boulevard Faces The Greatest Hits Fresh Horses The Hits Borderline A Place In The World Did I Shave My Legs For This Me And You Just The Same Here's Your Sign Grank It Up-The Music Album High Lonesome Sound Living In A Moment It Matters To Me Everything I Love The Greatest Hits Collection Blue Moon So Long So Wrong Time Marches On The Coast Is Clear The Road To Ensenada Neal WCCey Ten Thousand Angels What If It's You All I Want What I Do The Best Greater Need Blue Unchained Melody The Gift Measure Of A Man Blue Clear Sky Full Circle The Restless Kind The Woman In Me Rumor Has It Between Now And Forever Revelations Collection Everybody Knows	PEAK 6 7* 9 2 4+ 7+ 1 3 2 9 10 5 3 6 10+ 1 3+ 6 4 4 4 4 7 5 1 7+ 5 8 1 10 4 1 9 7 1 3+ 6 6 4 4 4 4 4 7 5 8 1 1 1 3 6 10+ 1 3+ 6 6 4 4 4 4 4 7 5 1 7 5 8 1 1 1 1 1 3 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Peak during period, down from earlier peak * Bulleted in 4/26 Billboard to new cuts on albums 6 & 41. Musicians not shown separately for new cuts on Ibums 4 & 18. No musicians shown for album 12; single of "Here's Your Sign (Get he Picture)" with Travis Tritt is not on tne album.





FIDDLE



TOTAL	NAME	ALBUMS
10	Rob Hajacos	1, 5, 7, 13, 16, 21, 22, 25, 37, 42 + miscellaneous instruments category
8	Joe Spivey	10, 11, 13, 17, 21, 29, 37, 38 + miscellaneous instruments category
7	Larry Franklin	3, 9, 15, 17, 26, 30, 33 + miscella- neous instruments category
6	Stuart Duncan	11, 17, 23, 34, 38, 39 + miscella- neous instruments category
5	Glen Duncan	13, 27, 28, 29, 37
2	Alison Krauss	14, 20 + background vocals category
2	Hank Singer	21, 35

ROB

WE LIED. THERE IS FURTHER ADO ...

O.K., O.K. A lot of new folks are moving into Nashville these days, so we'll explain our system again for all the newcomers out there. We only do this because we like the nice redhead, Eileen, who answers the phones at Music Row and we don't want her getting a lot of calls from people who want to know how we could possibly think that Brent's a better guitar player than, oh, Brent, say.

This is a quantitative survey. What we did is make a list of all the albums that appeared in the top ten on Billboard's country album chart between May 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997. Then we made lists of the musicians credited with playing on those albums. We gave each musician one point for each album he/she appears on, divided those lists into categories by instrument, and added up the points. Then we took a coffee break. The fact that we think Tom Roady has a really cool name didn't enter into it at all.

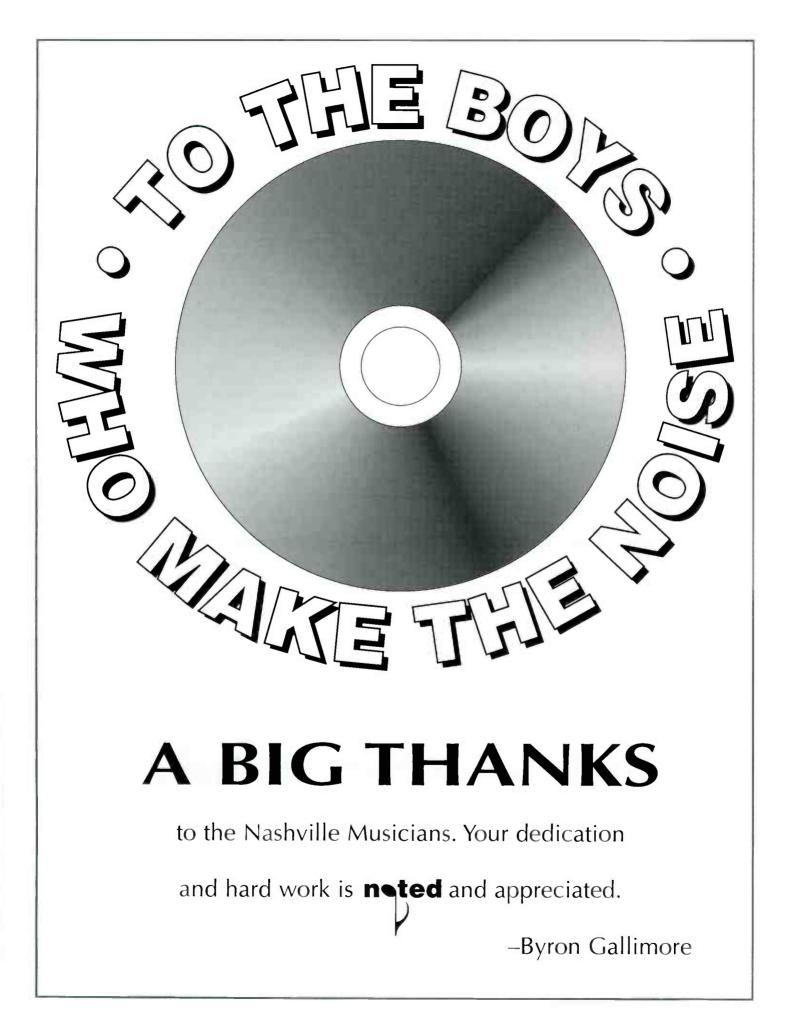
So you'll know who played on what without buying your own magnifying glass, we've included a numbered list of the albums surveyed (albums are listed alphabetically by artist) and have then put the album numbers next to each musician's name. So, for instance, you can tell that Roy Huskey, Jr. was the bass player who helped Randy Travis come Full Circle. (Get well soon, Roy!)

As always, we only give points to musicians playing on previously unreleased cuts on greatest hits collections. What that means this year is that nobody got credit for any of the four greatest hits albums that charted in the top ten. Neither Garth Brooks' The Hits nor Wynonna's Collection had any new cuts and, unfortunately, Clint Black's The Greatest Hits and Alan Jackson's The Greatest Hits *Collection* did not list the musicians separately in the liner notes.

We tried to be careful about the spelling of names, checking questionable spellings against the union membership directory, but sometimes it just wasn't possible to be sure. For instance, one of the bass players on the albums by LeAnn Rimes is called Curtis Randel on one and Curtis Randall on the other. But you don't have to be a

Musicians, You guys make my world go around.

Thanks, Don Cook





DRUMS/PERCUSSION

EDDIE BAYERS



TOTAL NAME ALBUMS Eddie Bayers 1, 3, 10, 11, 13, 17, 24, 28, 29, 15 30*, 34, 38, 39, 40, 42 3, 10, 11, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 11 Terry McMillan 30, 37 + miscellaneous instruments category 8 Paul Leim 15, 25, 29, 32, 33, 35, 37, 39 Lonnie Wilson 8 2, 7, 9, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27 7, 15, 38, 40, 42 5 Tom Roady Milton Sledge 5, 21, 22, 35 4 3 5, 36, 42 Sam Bacco 3 Owen Hale 13, 19, 42 2 Brad Billinasley 30, 31 2 30, 31 Fred Gleber 2 Farrell Morris 32, 34 (vibes) 2 9,30 Greg Morris * Not listed on album, but played on it per producer

rocket scientist to be pretty sure that the guy who got steel guitar credits all over the place as Bruce Bouton and Bruce C. Bouton is the same dude. Dann Huff got his first name spelled "Dan" on a few albums, but we decided to be consistent and, we think, correct. Mary Ann Kennedy had her name spelled Maryann and Mary Anne, as well as the correct Mary Ann, while Herb Pedersen found his last name spelled Pederson on one album. Some people were formal with Pamela Sixfin, while some just called her Pam. Same thing with Kristin Wilkinson, whose first name was sometimes spelled "Kristen" and, more frequently, "Kris."

We also tried to be very careful to get everybody included correctly. We worked almost exclusively from CD inserts, and whoever got credit there should have gotten credit here. We did have one instance where a producer advised us, in writing, that a musician was omitted from the album credits, but had actually played on the album. Naturally, we credited him. By our count, there are 1,137 individual credits on the various albums. In addition, a total of fourteen albums list musicians individually for each cut (at ten cuts per album, that's 140 more places we had to look), and two list the musicians in the aggregate but list the background vocalists on a cut-by-cut basis. We're not making excuses (well, maybe we are), we're just explaining that there's a lot of work in one of these, and almost no time to do it. The chances for errors are tremendous, and we're proud that in general we've been pretty accurate. Just as we did not intend to ignore Bryan White's fantastic accomplishments as a rookie recording artist a year and a half ago, or his sophomore accomplishments in the most recent year-end review, if we've slighted you, let us know and we'll try to get a correction run. It's not as good as having your accomplishments properly acknowledged in the article, but perhaps it's better than nothing.

In general, we used the description of instruments played from the albums. Sometimes for the sake of consistency we grouped things together, such as B-3, C-3 and Hammond B-3 all became "organ,"

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To All The Nashville Musicians:

You are truly the best players on this planet. Thanks from all of us on



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NEAL COTY • BRENT MASON • JOHN & AUDREY WIGGINS • RODNEY CARRINGTON • BILLY RAY CYRUS SHANIA TWAIN • HARLEY ALLEN • WILLIAM TOPLEY • TOBY KEITH • SAMMY KERSHAW • JOHN ANDERSON TOM T. HALL • THE RINGERS • KEITH STEGALL • KATHY MATTEA • KIM RICHEY • TERRI CLARK • MARK WILLS

	G	UITAR
		RENT ASON
TOTAL	NAME	ALBUMS
14	Brent Mason	1, 3, 7, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 34, 35, 37, 39, 42 + bass cate- gory
13	Brent Rowan	2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 30, 37, 38 + miscella- neous instrument category
12	Dann Huff	3, 9, 15, 16, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 37, 39, 40
9	Larry Byrom	21, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37
8	Billy Joe Walker, Jr.	3, 14, 16, 28, 29, 35, 39, 42
7	Don Potter	10, 19, 23, 24, 28, 32, 40
7	Biff Watson	9, 15, 26, 28, 33, 34, 42
6	Mark Casstevens	2, 5, 7, 21, 22, 35
5	Chris Leuzinger	5, 13, 19, 35, 39
8 7 6 5 3 3 3 3		9, 35, 42 + steel guitar category
3	Steve Gibson	26, 34, 35
3	Steuart Smith	14, 40, 42
3	John Will is	11, 13, 15

with the specifics given as an extension on the general category. We let the good folks at the various labels decide when something is a fiddle (which has its own category) and when it's a violin (which is miscellaneous). In the background vocals category, an artist is given credit for singing background on her own album or on someone else's album, not for singing lead on her own. So, for instance, Patty Loveless is getting points for being one of the *Faces* in the crowd on John Berry's album and helping Vince get that *High Lonesome Sound*.

In the past we have not broken down the guitar category, but there is a great deal of information we have not been able to communicate in the past. Some pickers seem to be associated in the minds of producers with electrics, while others are chosen especially for their prowess with acoustics.

REALLY, HONEST, NO MORE ADO

One thing producers seem to know by heart is that a Brent by any other name is a great guitar player. The Mason kind of Brent picks the top spot this year, as well as taking home another ACM award, by getting the blues. He played on both Toby Keith's Blue Moon and on George Strait's Blue Clear Sky. But, in a real photo finish, Brent Rowan got Blue with LeAnn Rimes and came in only one point behind at 13, to keep his spot at second. Rowan squeaked by last year's number 1 man, Dann Huff, by only one point. But, hey, Dann not only played tag team picker with Rowan on LeAnn's album, he also traded off with fourth-place Larry Byrom on Shania Twain's huge hit The Woman In Me. While Dann and the Brents are favorites on the electric guitar, when the producer wants it unplugged, he calls on Larry, Billy Joe Walker, Jr. (5th place), Don Potter, or Biff Watson (tied for sixth). So, if we had split the guitar category into separate electric and acoustic lists, Larry would have taken top acoustic spot, followed by Billy Joe in second, and Don and Biff tied for third.

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	B	ASS GUITAR
	G	LENN JORF
TOTAL	NAME	ALBUMS
12	Glenn Worf	1, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 30, 38, 39
7	Michael Rhodes	3, 7, 10, 11, 24, 28, 32
5	Mike Brignardello	13, 27, 35, 36, 39
4 4	David Hungate	7, 29, 35, 37
4	Dave Pomeroy	17, 21, 22, 42
4 3	Leland Sklar	14, 23, 28, 42
3	Roy Huskey, Jr.	17, 35, 36
2	Barry Bales	14, 20
2	Mike Chapman	5, 30
2	,	15, 33
2	Paul Goad	30, 31
2	Gary Lunn	13, 19
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Brent Mason	17, 37 + guitar category
2	Duncan Mullins	11, 32
2	Curtis Randel	30, 31
2	Bob Smith	30, 31

As for the guitar players who sit down on the job to add that sweet steel sound, every producer in town must have Paul Franklin on his speed dial. In addition to taking home another ACM, Paul slides into first place by a country mile with a phenomenal 22 points. He helped Jeff Foxworthy *Crank It Up* and did *Just The Same* for Terri Clark, as well as playing something called a "pedalbro" on Shania Twain's album and adding a touch of the islands to Trisha Yearwood's *Everybody Knows* with his Hawaiian slide guitar. Bruce Bouton peddles past the pack and lands at number two with 8 points, while Sonny Garrish and Dan Dugmore duke it out for third. Dan, by the way, proved he was a switch hitter by playing his lap steel on six albums, and also adding acoustic guitar licks to Deana Carter's album, electric guitar to Randy Travis', and 12string to Trisha Yearwood's.

As we all know, bass players are the guys who stand there looking cool while they're actually making plans for world domination. But Glenn Worf is too busy to get into much trouble. He comes in first for the sixth time, and was also an ACM winner again. Glenn helped Trace Adkins do some Dreamin' Out Loud, and guided Brooks and Dunn over the Borderline, as well as playing on both albums by Tracy Lawrence. Michael Rhodes did what he does the best for John Michael Montgomery to come in second with seven points. Michael also played on Kenny Rogers' The Gift and on Neal McCoy's self-titled album. Another Michael, Mike Brignardello, was all Tim McGraw wanted to cut some hits, but Mike's The Restless Kind, so he also played on four other albums to come in third. The two Mikes are followed by two Davids in fourth place. David Hungate and Dave Pomeroy are joined at fourth by Leland Sklar, who took The Road To Ensenada with Lyle Lovett.

Over on keys, Steve Nathan should be *Dancing On The Boulevard*, because he came in first again with fourteen points to Matt Rollings' ten. But don't feel bad for Matt, because he just

when "good enough" isn't good enough



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	TOTAL	NAME	ALBUMS
	18	Dennis Wilson	1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 35, 39, 40, 42
	12	John Wesley Ryles	7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 28, 35, 39
	10	Curtis Young	1, 10, 24, 27, 28, 29, 34, 35, 38, 39
	6	Liana Manis	13, 15, 21, 22, 26, 34
	3	Michael Black	3, 19, 29
	3	Mary Ann Kennedy	3, 25, 30
	3	Kim Richey	8, 14, 42
	3	Lisa Silver	13, 32, 35
	3	Curtis Wright	27, 35, 38
	2	Robert Bailey	14, 40
	2	Matraca Berg	9, 42
	2	Crista Carnes	30, 31
	2	Shawn Colvin	8, 23
	2	Lisa Criss	30, 31
	2	Deryl Dodd	21, 22
	2	Chris Farren	9, 33 + guitar category
1	2	Kim Fleming	14, 40
ľ	2	Alison Krauss	14, 29 + fiddle category
	2	Patty Loveless	3, 14
	2	Shelby Lynne	14, 16
	2	Joy McKay	30, 31
1	2	Jonell Mosser	15, 40
	2	Louis Nunley	28, 32
	2	Herb Pedersen	23, 36
	2	Pam Rose	16, 30
	2	Harry Stinson	16, 42
	2	Cindy Walker	16, 29
	2	Lari White	19, 36
	2	Trisha Yearwood	5, 42

BACKGROUND VOCALS

DENNIS WILSON



MISC INSTRUMENTS





NASHVILLE STRING MACHINE

TOTAL	NAME	ALBUMS
11	Nashville String Machine	2, 3, 5, 9, 22, 25, 27, 32, 37, 40, 42 (Contractor Carl Gorodetzky)
8	Terry McMillan	1 (harmonica), 2 (harmoni- ca), 10 (harmonica), 24 (harmonica), 25 (harmoni- ca), 29 (harmonica), 37 (harmonica, harp), 40 (harp) + drums/percussion category
3	Barry Green	17 (trombone), 32 (trom- bone), 40 (bone)
3	Rob Hajacos	7 (assorted hoedown tools), 21 (assorted hoedown tools), 22 (assorted hoe- down tools) + fiddle cate- gory
3	Mike Haynes	2 (trumpet), 32 (trumpet), 40 (trumpet)
3	Brent Rowan	2 (mandolin), 21 (man- dolin), 22 (mandolin) + gui- tar category
3	George Tidwell	2 (trumpet), 17 (trumpet), 32 (trumpet)

added another ACM to his collection. John Hobbs proved he has A Place In The World by nabbing third place for the second year. Keyboard perennial Barry Beckett is back at number five with five points by playing around with newcomers Trace Adkins and Kenny Chesney.

Rob Hajacos regains the top fiddler spot by being one of Mindy McCready's Ten Thousand Angels and sending in some Fresh Horses for Garth Brooks. Rob, by the way, also tied with a bunch of folks for third place in the "Miscellaneous Instruments' category by providing "assorted hoedown tools" to Brooks and Dunn and

Tracy Lawrence. Joe Spivey garnered eight points to come in second fiddle, but he also proved his versatility by playing banjo on Lawrence's Time Marches On and mandolin on Lorrie Morgan's Greater Need. In third place, Larry Franklin fiddled around on seven albums, but also added mandolin to two, while last year's first chair fiddle player, Stuart Duncan, comes in fourth with six points. Duncan also played mandolin on two albums, which leads us to believe that there may be a union rule that we don't know about that says fiddlers should be able to double on mandolin. Congratulations to Stuart, by the way, for his very first ACM award.

Eddie, Eddie, Eddie. What can we say? Eddie Bayers regains the top spot with fifteen points, and he does it simply on "drums." Eddie also took home his umpteenth ACM. Terry McMillan shakes, rattles, and rolls his way into second place for the second year. Terry also takes second place in "Miscellaneous Instruments" for his harmonica work, but here he gets points for adding "percussion" to nine albums and "cowbells" to two more. Paul Leim and Lonnie Wilson tie for third, with Paul providing the "door" on Shania Twain's album and Lonnie clapping along on Faith Hill's.

May 23, 1997 MUSIC ROW 23

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STEEL GUITAR

TOTAL	NAME	ALBUMS
22	Paul Franklin	1, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42
8	Bruce Bouton	3, 5, 7, 15, 21, 22, 30, 38
6	Dan Dugmor <mark>e</mark>	9, 13, 16, 35, 39, 42 + guitar category
6	Sonny Garrish	3, 19, 25, 27, 29, 39
2	Milo Deering	30, 31
2	Joh n Hugh e y	14, 37
2	Joh nn y Mulhair	30, 31 + guitar & engineer cate- gories
2	Robbie Turner	13, 36 (steel guitar, dobro, lap steel)

Speaking of claps, lots of musicians got credit for that this year, including Bill Cuomo, Paul Franklin, Dann Huff, Brent Mason, and Glenn Worf. And if you think there is any smart crack we could make about this that would get past editor David Ross, you're wrong. So, add your own punch line here.

As noted, Nashville String Machine, led by contractor Carl Gorodetzky, took home first place in our kitchen sink category, "Miscellaneous Instruments." We should note that the Nashville String Machine is credited as a unit, even though sometimes they were credited separately (and its personnel can vary up to 85 members, if needed).

Dennis Wilson sang for his supper enough to regain first place with eighteen points in background vocals. More than *Rumor Has It* moved John Wesley Ryles up to second place, from last year's third, with an even dozen points. Curtis "Mr. Harmony" Young, no stranger to our top spot himself, nabs ten points to come in third, followed by Liana Manis in fourth with six points.

In our newest category, "Engineers," Mike Bradley wins for the third year, sitting behind the board for Trace Adkins, Alabama, Brooks & Dunn, Faith Hill, and Tracy Lawrence. After Mike, though, you guys are just going to have to settle this in the alley, because we have a thirteen-way tie for second place.

HE PLAYED WHAT?!

We always like to mention the stranger credits of the year. For instance, Scott Rouse, a producer on Jeff Foxworthy's album, had one credit each for engineer, bass, drums, piano, slide guitar, acoustic and electric guitar, background vocals, harmonica and "everything else." We want to know what else is there? Brandon Conger, Sarah Valley and Megan Dockery provided "Children's Dialogue" for Kenny Rogers, while Michael Jones and Kelly Stewart provided the "Children's Vocal." The multi-talented Marty



	E	ENGINEERS		1	K	EYBOARDS
1		IKE RADLEY			SIL SN	TEVE ATHAN
TOTAL	NAME	ALBUMS	тс	TAL	NAME	ALBUMS
6	Mike Bradley	1, 2, 7, 16, 21, 22	14		Steve Nathan	2, 3, 9, 11, 14, 15, 27, 28, 30, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42
2	,	14, 40	10		AA U.D. II'	
2	Kevin Beamish	25, 39	10	1	Matt Rollings	1, 16, 23, 27, 29, 34 (piano, organ), 35, 37, 40, 42
2	Joseph Bogan	35, 39	8		John Hobbs	3, 9, 16, 25, 29, 30, 33, 39
2	Bob Campbell-Smith		5		Barry Beckett	1, 3, 10, 24, 28
2	Butch Carr	21, 22	4		Dennis Burnside	7, 21, 22, 35
2	Pete Greene	10, 24	4		Hargus "Pig" Robbins	
2	John Guess	26, 29	3		Bobby Ogdin	10, 24, 32
2	Greg Hunt	30, 31	2		Bill Cuomo	1, 16
2	John Kelton	11, 17	2		John Barlow Jarvis	2, 37
2		27, 38	2		Jimmy Kelly Carl Marsh	30, 31
	Julian King		2		Phil Naish	16, 28 10, 24
2	Johnny Mulhair	30, 31 + guitar & steel guitar categories	2		Gary Prim	10, 24
2	Ron "Snake" Reynolds	-	2		Benmont Tench	8, 36
2	Ed Seay	15, 33	2		Pete Wasner	9, 14
L						

Stuart pulled out his trusty "Sitar" for buddy Travis Tritt, and while Terry McMillan provided the "Boot," Shania Twain is credited with her own "Footsteps."

Well, there you have it, until next year. But all the musicians listed here are winners. They've worked long and hard to master their art, and they've all got the talent and discipline necessary to make it in the toughest market in the world. They got where they are by being the best there is and being able to give their best day after day, week after week. And they do it all to make some other star shine. But these folks are the real stars of Music Row. So all the "wannabes" out there should pay attention to what these musicians do on all the great albums. 'Cause, children, that's the way it's done when it's done right. \blacklozenge



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Joanks to the incredible talent who have contributed to the current and upcoming projects by TANYA TUCKER, CHRIS LEDOUX, DEAN MILLER and JOHN CODY CARTER



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FINANCIAL



by Amy Hoeft, CPA, O'Neil Hagaman, A Professional L.L.C.

CONTROLLING TOUR MERCHANDISING

Since for some artists, net income from tour merchandising can rival that from live performances, decisions regarding merchandising can be among the most important of an artist's career. One of the first questions to be answered is whether to handle the merchandising "in-house" or to lease the rights to a third party. There are advantages to either option. Here are a few areas to consider when evaluating merchandising opportunities.

CASH FLOW AND LONG-TERM PROFITS

Typically, a third party merchandising company, such as Winterland, Niceman or Sony Signatures, will negotiate for the exclusive rights to manufacture and sell the artist's licensed property, and in exchange will pay a royalty based on gross sales. A key point in these negotiations, and one of the chief advantages of utilizing a third party merchandising company, is the cash advance against future royalties that is typically paid to the artist at the start of contract term. The size of the advance will be determined by the artist's popularity, number of tour dates, expected ticket sales and historical sales of merchandise.

The need for immediate cash from the merchandising advance may well be the deciding factor in favor of allowing a merchandising company to handle the products. However, in many cases the potential longterm profits can be greater when the artist controls the sales of tour merchandise by bringing it in-house, and the economics of each of these options should be carefully considered.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Whichever arrangement is selected, there are numerous responsibilities associated with selling merchandise, such as recordkeeping, tax compliance and inventory control, that require trustworthy and knowledgeable personnel to travel with the artist and sell the products. The merchandise must be covered by insurance and shipped by reliable carriers. The merchandiser must be knowledgeable in the areas of sales and income taxes, import duties, and fee negotiations with venues. Regular inventory counts must be performed and detailed record keeping of purchases, sales, giveaways and other expenses is extremely important. A competent third party merchandiser will assume responsibility in all of these areas, and is required to account to the artist on a regular basis. Bringing inventory sales inhouse, while yielding additional control and (potential) profits, creates all the headaches inherent in managing another business.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Whether under an internal or third party arrangement, the key to insuring proper payment is the implementation of adequate controls and accountability.

Reputation and credibility are essential in any relationship of this kind—researching the background of individuals or interviewing a potential merchandiser's client roster would be a wise step. Look for ways the merchandise company has designed their system to account on a timely basis and make certain the contract provides for periodic audits and access to sales, inventory and accounts payable records.

CREATIVE CONTROL

In most respects, signing with a thirdparty merchandiser permits the artist to retain creative control of the products to be sold on tour. Under a typical contract, the artist will have final approval on everything from selection of merchandise items, quality of materials, pricing and artwork.

The artist also usually retains the right to designs and artwork for later use after the

merchandise contract expires. This control is not complete, however; the merchandise company will only be willing to design and develop products it believes will sell. The artist with innovative ideas in this area will find more creative freedom in an in- house merchandising arrangement.

RISKS

Under normal circumstances, a third party merchandiser will assume the risk of producing or purchasing, transporting and selling the merchandise. The products, personnel, and the vehicle used to ship merchandise must be adequately insured and the campaign must be carefully planned to maximize sales and profits. Under either scenario, the artist ultimately assumes the monetary risk associated with merchandise sales. Unforeseen circumstances, such as a cancelled tour or record deal, may find the artist with excess inventory he can't sell, or if under contract, the merchandiser may require reimbursement of the advance.

A successful tour merchandising campaign requires making the proper decisions in many areas, both creative and financial. However you structure your merchandise arrangement, whether by contracting with a third party or handling sales in-house, the key to successful merchandising is finding honest, credible, creative people that will work with you. \clubsuit







BIG HOUSE/Big House

(MCA Nashville 11446) Producers: Peter Bunetta, Monty Byrom, David Neubauser Prime Cuts: Take your pick

Critique: I first heard the name Big House over a year ago and have eagerly anticipated the release of this CD, because it lives up to the buzz that has surrounded it. The first two seconds of "You Ain't Lonely Yet" hints at the end

of the "Nashville Sound," where everything is slick and huge and perfect. The production is completely dead and in your face, infinitely more satisfying than yet another record where every instrument is panned in stereo and soaked in delay. The songs groove with a soulfulness few acts these days possess; "Amarillo" and "Sunday in Memphis"—the latter inspired by a visit to Rev. Al Green's church—are classic. And the fiery jam in "Road Man" shows you why no session players were called in: these guys can do it themselves. BH's California roots and Monty Byrom's high-pitched rasp will lead to inevitable comparisons, and had this record come out in the wake of *Common Thread*, it would've been a shoo-in for mega-

platinum. As it stands, *Big House* will reach the platinum mark under its own strength without appearing to cash in on country's Eagles fetish of a few years back. If this is where country music is headed, I'm hitchin' a ride.

ANITA COCHRAN/Back To You

(Warner Bros. 9 46395-2) Producers: Anita Cocbran, Jim Ed Norman

Prime Cuts: "Will You Be Here," "One Of Those Days," "Girls Like Fast Cars," "Back To You"

Critique: Anita Cochran not only co-produced her first album, she wrote nine of the ten songs and played every guitar lead as well as mandolin, dobro and banjo. Much has been made of her rather unique talents, and deservedly so. Yet the most remarkable thing about Anita Cochran's debut is not that she's the "female

Vince Gill." If you're going to check out *Back To You*, do it because the album heralds the arrival of an artist. Yeah I know, you're sitting there saying, "and?" Here's my point: Good music affects us on an emotional level makes us move, laugh, cry, etc. An artist uses his or her muse to explore their perspective on humanity—what makes *them* move, laugh or cry—in a way that is (hopefully) meaningful to others. In that sense of the word, Anita Cochran is an artist in a way I think this town often forgets. More than a collection of good music, Cochran's offering gives us a glimpse of who she is, where she comes from and, I think, where she's going. This strong album is not without rough spots, but certainly portends

growth which may yield sheer brilliance. An indication of that is the title track which is, perhaps significantly, the last song on the album. *Though the roads may all be new/The one thing that is true/They'll all be leading me back to you*, she sings to her family. The song indicates Cochran's desire to remain uncorrupted by her new career and reveals a maturity that hints at a promising voyage down the road of self-discovery. Here's hoping Warner Bros. sells enough albums to allow the rest of us to accompany her on that journey inward.

-Chuck Aly



-Joey Butler

Anita Cochran

Lee Ann Womack



THE RANCH/The Ranch

(Capitol 7243-8-55400-2-8) *Producers: The Ranch, Keith Urban, Monty Powell, Miles Copeland*

Prime Cuts: "Walkin' The Country," "Some Days You Gotta Dance," "My Last Name," "Freedom's Finally Mine," "Tangled Up In Love"

Critique: The creative force behind this honest-to-goodness power trio is Aussie Keith Urban, whose name is not unfamiliar to the Music Row community. A self-professed student of our culture and country music, Urban has a better grasp on popular American music than many artists who were born and raised here. Top to bottom, *The Ranch* is a phenomenally

enjoyable album, broad and expansive as the Outback, or the American west for that matter. The album's central themes are a) leave the office behind for dirt roads and blue skies—"Walkin' The Country," "Freedom's Finally Mine" and b) regular Joe wants the girl but has nothing to offer other than his heart—"My Last Name," "Desiree." Even when the songs lean a little too heavily on musical cliche, as on the aforementioned girl-name tune and the "Ballad of Curtis Loew" rehash, "Ghost In This Guitar," the entertainment factor is so high you don't really care. Capitol isn't taking the album to radio yet, in an apparent move to delay the filling of their coffers. Perhaps they worry that the guitar-driven

sound is too pop. They shouldn't. The album does forsake steel guitar, but is single-handedly capable of making banjo cool again. Those of you looking for deep insight or high art will be disappointed, but if you're not afraid to cop to an affinity for over-the-top, mass-appeal American music, you must bear this album. The sound pushes the country envelope in much the

> same way Not A Moment Too Soon and The Woman In Me did. And if I haven't yet given you a clear picture of the company I think this album is in, let me drop a few more hints: No Fences, Cracked Rear View and Born In The U.S.A.

> > -Chuck Aly

LEE ANN WOMACK/Lee Ann Womack

(Decca 11585) Producer: Mark Wright

Prime Cuts: "The Fool," "Make Memories With Me," "Montgomery To Memphis," "Never Again, Again"

Critique: As someone who has collected enough Grand Ole Opry ticket stubs over the past few years to fill up a small shoebox, I was thrilled to hear the traditional sound of Lee

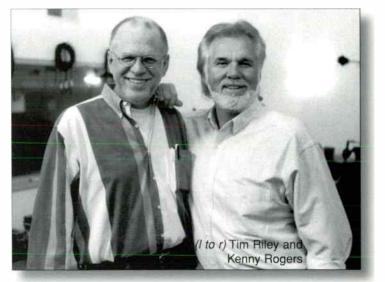
Ann Womack's initial single, "Never Again, Again." To say that I was similarly wowed by the rest of the album would be an understatement. Seems like Womack was almost destined for a project like this: Her father was a part-time country deejay, she shunned her senior trip with the rest of her graduating class to come to Nashville with her parents to tour Music Row and watch TNN tapings, she attended Belmont University, interned in MCA's A&R Department and now lives near the Opry House. Get the idea? The songs on her freshman effort are a cohesive lot, with the majority sounding very traditional—yet with an updated, current bent. From the outstanding, bare-bones ballad "The Fool" to the

beautiful, soaring duet with labelmate Mark Chesnutt. "Make Memories With Me," there are few misses song-wise. Even one of my least favorites, the trucker song "A Man With 18 Wheels," has a fabulous line which makes it stand out: *His home away from home is in the house that Peterbuilt.* To top it off, Womack even gets writer credit once, co-penning "Am I The Only Thing That You've Done Wrong." Vocally, Womack sounds stronger (and less ordinary) in the higher registers or when she's really belting it out. Still, even on the mid-range numbers, she's pleasant. So keep the faith, country music lovers—Lee Ann Womack has arrived!

-Lisa Berg



American Network Radio and Tim Riley brightened up the holidays for scores of country listeners with two Christmas specials, written and produced at



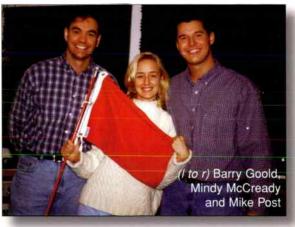
Audio Productions. Kenny Rogers brought a spirit of Christmas special to the air in celebration of "The Gift." A one-hour prayer for the holidays.



RadioWire



and produced at API, it featured live songs and good conversation, hosted by **Charlie Chase**. And leave it to



THE LABELS: The record keeps on turning and Audio Productions is proud to provide production services for Nashville's finest record labels and their great artists, Including:



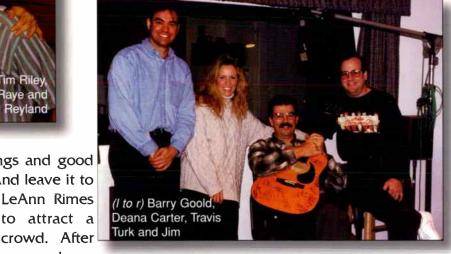
MCA... Wynonna, Vince, George Strait, Tracy Byrd, Reba, David Lee Murphy

and Trisha Yearwood. ASYLUM... Bryan White. ATLANTIC... Iracy Lawrence, Mila Mason, John Michael Montgomery and

Neal McCoy. CURB... David "Hey, Reyland Kersh, Tim McGraw, Burnin' Daylight, Sawyer Brown and Won't fit in n LeAnn Rimes. ARISTA...

Alan Jackson, and Brooks and Dunn. COLUMBIA... Mary Chapin Carpenter and Deryl Dodd, EPIC... Nikki Nelson, Ricochet, Joe Diffie, Collin Raye, Patty Loveless and James Bonamy.

Also giving us a great "Gift" was Collin Raye's Christmas Special. A wonderful album filled with a mix of classic songs and new favorites. And LeAnn **Rimes** waited until after the holidays to light up the API studios with a radio special of her own. Written



LeAnn held forth at API for more than a dozen media outlets and film crews. STARLINERS artist included: Aaron Tippin, Mary Chapin Carpenter, BR5-49, Kenny Chesney, Ty England, Mindy McCready and Deana Carter. ANR also produced many of the

label product spots done at APL

After

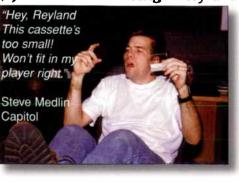
show

to attract

crowd.

our







WESTWOOD ONE ENTERTAINMENT and host Lon Helton continue to provide country radio with the information and entertainment it needs during their weekly Top-30 Countdown,

CAPITOL... Suzy Bogguss, Trace Adkins, John Berry, Deana Carter, Chris LeDoux, Billy Dean. Garth Brooks and George Ducas. RCA... Kenny Chesney, Ty England, KT Oslin, Aaron Tippin and Alabama.



"Country Countdown USA." Recorded each week at API's Studio B, Lon welcomed Mindy McCready, Ty Herndon, Rick Trevino, Jo Dee Messina, Kenny Chesney, Randy Travis, Blackhawk, Wynonna, Mark



Country Store". Garth Brooks, Brooks & Dunn, David Lee Murphy's New Year's "Party Crowd", and "For The Love of Country." WORLD PREMIERS with: Ty Herndon, Jeff Foxworthy, Little Feat, Randy Travis, Travis Tritt, KT Oslin, Daryle Singletary, Clay Walker, and did someone say George Strait? The shows were hosted by Lon Helton and Hoss Burns, then pressed on to CD and aired on great country radio stations across America.

Photo Credits: Richard Crichton - all B&W photos, John Lee Montgomery - Trisha Yearwood photo.

Chestnutt, Trace Adkins, Joe Diffie, Tim McGraw, David Lee Murphy, James Bonamy, Lonestar, Diamond Rio, Martina McBride, Ricochet, Terri Clark, Deana Carter, Mila Mason, Kevin Sharp, Tracy Bvrd and Travis Tritt.

In addition to the many great live shows done through API, SJS ENTERTAINMENT produced these pre-recorded programs: Travis Tritt's "Concert after the Concert", Ty England's "Backyard BBQ", "Monster Country", "The Three Hanks Listening Party", "No Turkeys", hosted by Deana Carter, "Country's Heavy Hitters", "The





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NASHVILLE Agency Action

Audio Productions works hard to make sure that every agency client has a high quality audio experience every

trip to API. So, a special thanks to everyone who gave us that opportunity, especially ... Castner Knott - Ericson Marketing ... Opryland USA -January & Associates...KFC- Music Partners ...Budweiser - Av Squad - Service Merchandise -Benefit Partners - Dye Van Mol & Lawrence - Bill Hudson & Associates - Bob Doyle & Associates -The Country Music Association ... CMA Awards -Bohan, Carden & Cherry - Louise Mandrell Celebrity Skeet Shoot - Brentwood Music ...Radio H.A.L.O. - WSMV Channel 4 - Envision - Ingram - Duthie & Associates - CI Advertising - Gaylord Program Services - Gish Sherwood & Friends -Filmhouse - McNeeley, Pigott & Fox - Cindy Mo Pictures - Greg Travis Television...Countryfest '97 - Ibis Communications - John Perry - Computers For Education - Force Audio - Garmezy Media -Joyce Harrison - Marshall Productions - WKRN -Proper Management...Twila Paris - Music Match - Towers/Perrin - Army Corps of Engineers - New Media Directions - Mike Keil & Associates -Petra/Newsboys - Severance & Associates Mixed Media Marketing - P & P Productions -Studio Productions - The Tennessean - Phillips Creative - Soundshop Productions - TEA.

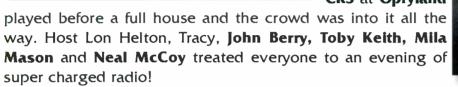
OUT-OF-TOWN AGENCY ACTION

UPS - Time-Life...Home Repair & Remembering Lassie - PBS Advertising...Living Edens - Brown Forman...L & G Distillery - Tallman Music Warehouse...Arizona lce Tea - Burson Marsteller -PGA Tours - Webster International - Zacuto Audio... Softub - Shorr & Associates - Nascar Country/Al Wyntor - The Tombras Group - Sullivan Productions - Target (Hey, great job on that Addy!) Marketing - The Strategy Group - The Ramey Agency - Ad Media - Chuck Thomas Creative - Sterrett-Dymond - Daniel Douglas Norcross - Faulkner/Rosenberg - Davidson & Chandler - Grey Whale...WV Lottery - Dill Productions - Complete Pictures.



Hoss Burns, from Crested Butte, Colorado and Suzy Bogguss along with some members of her fan club, celebrated her album premiere live from Audio Productions. John Berry showed a few million listeners across the country why he lives at the top of the charts with a full blown performance of

his new album, "Faces", live from S o u n d c h e c k here in Nashville. Tracy Lawrence and friends from CRS at Opryland





ADR: AUTOMATIC DIALOG REPLACEMENT OR LOOPING (When dialog is synced and re-recorded to video or film)



Barbara Mandrell didn't need the coast to loop her lines for an episode of **"Baywatch"**, just a call to Travis Turk, a trip to Music Row and API. When **"Lunker Lake Productions"** needed to replace more than one hundred fifty lines in their soon-to-be-released theatrical film, **"Lunker Lake"**, they called Audio Productions. **MTM** productions used all three beeps to replace lines with Nashville's own **Larry Black** for their new program, **"The Cape"**, seen each week in Nashville on **Channel Two. Pecos Films** used **ADR** to

punch up a video for CMT/Canada

starring "**Prairie Oyster.**" The Glover Group looped a project for the Global Network. Actress Jennifer O'Neil performed ADR at API for "**Poltergeist**", a Legacy production. API provided effects replacement for the Cracker Barrel TV pilot, "The Old Country Store." Cindy Williams, a last minute replacement for Mariette Hartley in the touring company of "Death Trap", came to API to replace dialog from its former star.

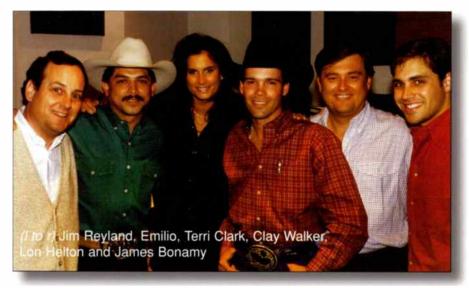


CONGRATULATIONS to Bill Fletcher, John Rowley and everyone at FLETCHER/ROWLEY "POLITICAL MEDIA CONSULTANTS." The big guns entered races in seven states this past November and won ten out of thirteen. Thanks for taking API along.

A very **LARGE** welcome to **LISA KRAMER** the newest member of the API band and the person most likely to pull you from a burning deadline. Lisa is a great addition to our staff.



"LIVING ON THE EDGE



Just where **Audio Productions** likes it. And again in late 1996 and early 1997, API proved that nobody does it better. API has been very fortunate to work with Country Music's best network radio and syndication companies who have partnered with API to broadcast great country radio. **SJS Entertainment** and host **Lon Helton** continue to be one of Country Music's most successful broadcasting teams. Including **Trisha Yearwood's** innovative live premiere of **"Everybody Knows",** from the **Douglas Corner Cafe**. It featured Trisha's fabulous voice and a host of Nashville's greatest

songwriters. John Michael Montgomery turned up the heat, live from the Stadium Club, to premiere his new album and Terri Clark fans had a chance to call-in with questions during her album premiere live from

API. **Bryan White** performed a special show from the **Oklahoma City Opry** with SJS and API there to help raise money for the bombing victims' childrens' scholarship fund.

It was a star powerful, "All Star Evening" with Clay Walker, Terri Clark, James Bonamy and Emilio. The event was recorded live in API's Studio B, hosted by Lon Helton, to kick off their "All Star Blow-out Tour" featuring all four artist.



World Radio History

ring all four artist. **Reba** gave us a first look at her new album **"What If It's** and Liz Becker

sive new **Starstruck Studios** all on one big night. **Billy Ray Cyrus** brought his music and his band and never looked back as he premiered his new CD live from API. In October there was no other "**Place In The World**" than the **Birchmere Club** in **Alexandria, Virginia,** for the premiere of **Mary Chapin Carpenter's** new CD. Backed by her great band and with the help of our friends at the **Record Plant**, it was what great radio is all about. **Kathy**

Mattea and crews from SJS and API braved the cold to bring back a live premiere, with special guest host

You", and her impres-



MICHAEL'S MUSIC CORNER MICHAEL STANTON LEADS AUDIO PRODUCTION'S NEW "CD-ROM" DIVISION

The hottest form of entertainment and marketing today is the "CD-ROM." They look great, but until now, the audio has mostly been substandard. Not anymore! Introducing...

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IN ADDITION TO CD-ROMS... Michael has been busy with musical scores for a variety of radio specials including: "The Gift", a Kenny Rogers' Christmas, LeAnn Rimes, Burnin' Daylight and the Collin Raye Christmas special. Custom music clients included: Country Fest 97' for Greg Travis Television, Cracker Barrel's "Old Country Store", The West Virginia Lottery, Broadman & Holman for John Perry, K& N Harley, Service Merchandise, Bohan, Carden & Cherry, The Nashville Arena, Caster Knott and two albums for Honest Entertainment and their OneMusic Library.

Michael has started scoring a new film, "Friends Till The End." Look for it at a theater near you.

EDGE OF THE ROW



"The Edge Of The Row Credit/Blame Master List and Calculator"

ou never know where inspiration is going to come from. I just finished reading Jimmy Bowen's fascinating new book, Rough Mix. Sheesh. What a great read. Love him, hate him; you gotta admit Bowen is one interesting character. And who wouldn't love to have been involved with some of the music he helped make? Of course, the biggest flap about the book is over Bowen's no-holds-barred dissing of Garth Brooks. Wowwie! (Now, boys, if you can't play nice, you're both going to sit right here and read while the other kids are having recess.) Anyway, this got me thinking; nearly everyone has a theory about what's right and what's wrong with country music, with Nashville, with America, the World, etc. Find a guy or gal who's on top, and they'll be glad to give you their version of "How Things Really Work and Why You Should Do It Like I Do It." Someone on a losing streak will tell you exactly what the problem is and, usually, who's the big culprit. (You hardly ever hear anyone say, "Things are really bad right now, and our research shows it's all because I'm an idiot.") Think of the time we're spending trying to figure all this out—what's going on, who's at fault, who's poised to jump in and save us all, what's gonna work, why it won't work. Think of all the extra time we'd have if someone would figure all this out for us! So Annie The Wonder Dog & I started working on the problem, and after an intense afternoon on the back deck with a few beers and a box of Milk Bones, I believe we've come up with something we can all use: The Edge Of The Row Credit/Blame Master List and Calculator. All you have to do is match one item from column A with one from column B, then plug in your choice from column C, and, voila! Everything that could possibly happen in the music business can be clearly understood! Maybe everything in life! Check it out:

•	D	C
A	B	$\frac{C}{C}$
Garth Brooks	is .	God
God	knows	Deana Carter
Jimmy Bowen	are	insanity
Hank Williams, Sr.	could be	success
Radio	causes	Edgar Casey
Tony Brown	has all the	hit records
Major Record Labels	doesn't have	a clue
Artists	will marry	money
Global Warming	is dating	me
Reba	has a percentage of	The World
Mindy McCready	wants to own all of	Garth Brooks
Democrats	should listen to	Jimmy Bowen
Republicans	should have ignored	Satan
Politics in General	won't allow	the next fad
Saturated Fat	sounds like	sex
Money	wants to be	failure
Digital Technology	thinks he/she is	Howard Stern
Pop Music	only plays	bad music
Michael Bolton	refuses to play	good music
Professional sports	owes me	everything
LeAnn Rimes	destroyed	nothing
Elvis	will save	reality
Bill Clinton	died for	Scott Hendricks
Spores	lives for	religion
Aliens	loves	America
Texas	hates	Nashville
Yankees	is/are the root of all	Wynonna
Television	has nothing to do with	radio

Note: After much testing, Annie and I have determined that columns A & C are completely interchangeable.

Now that we'll all be spending less time figuring out who's to bless and who's to blame, we can sit back and enjoy some music. We highly recommend:

Take That Ride, from **R.B. Morris** (Oh Boy). Morris didn't make the master list, but maybe he should have. Earthy, insightful songwriting, plenty of soul in the delivery & recording. Bassist Dave Jacques, six-string superman Kenny Vaughn and drummer Paul Griffith (Nashville's coolest grease-slinger) nail the loose-tight thing. My favorite tracks: "World Owes Me," "Hell On A Poor Boy," "Take That Ride," "The Bottom Of The Big Black Hull." Oh boy, indeed.

Darrell Scott has a groovy, eclectic disc out, *Aloba From Nashville* (Sugar Hill). Scott found success as a session player through a circuitous route—surely this accounts for the unusual overview evident on *Aloba*. Kinda folky, but with lots of energy. Darrell captured a real sense of urgency on tape (gee, what a concept!). "The Ballad Of Martha White" is brilliant! Funny how different your own back yard looks when viewed through a knothole from the other side of the fence. "Life Is Cheap" is another standout; a painful slice of life exposed through superb imagery, and every songwriter will get a laugh out of "Title Of The Song." Find this. Buy it. Then remember I told you so. Outta time for now—Annie's working on another theory, something to do with cats and their role in the militia thing. Must be a pretty hot idea; she's pacing a rut in the deck. **♦**



CONGRATULATIONS TO ERRY HOLLAND FOR MUSIC ROW'S 1997 Song Of The Year 66 FRENDS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT MIKE CURB MUSIC(BMI) AND THAT'S A SMASH PUBLISHING, INC.(BMI)



To honor a writer and publisher based on the craft of songwriting, not necessarily chart position.

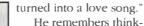
Though *Music Row* has a separate award that honors a songwriter who has charted in the Top 10 for the first time, this year's Song of the Year bears an equally compelling story of dreams realized. Writer Jerry Holland is enjoying once unthinkable success with the number one John Michael Montgomery smash, "Friends."

"It's just totally amazing," he says. "There are so many great writers here and great songs. I just love slugging it out with them every day—the

competition is what thrills me. When I hear a great song by another writer, it just fires me up to write another one."

Out of college, Holland went to work in the promotion department of Polygram in New York. After becoming disenchanted with the business, he dropped out to become a karate instructor. A decade later, he decided to give music another go and moved to Nashville for a fresh start. "I didn't want my friends to see me at a writer's night in New York and say, 'Jerry, you're really kicking yourself," he admits. Holland made the move four-and-a-half years ago and struggled as many songwriters do—even working in the kitchen at the Bluebird Cafe.

Holland wrote "Friends" prior to getting a publishing deal. "It's really more about losing touch with my friends," he says. "Coming here from New York, changing careers in mid-stream and half thinking I was nuts to do that—then after getting my initial thousand rejections, one night trying to call friends at home for moral support, I couldn't get a hold of anyone. It was like, what good are my friends? That's where the idea, friends get scattered by the wind, came from. It



ing he was on to something when he finished the song. "I put the tape in my back pocket and thought, I got more money than I've ever had in my back pocket. Which is not why you write," he adds. Several Row publishers passed on Holland and the song before he headed over to That's A Smash. "He rode in on a bike with a guitar on his back and knocked at my door." Randy Boudreaux says. Holland played

Jerry Holland

"Friends" and started to play a second tune. "I said, 'Jerry, you don't need to play another one. I think that's Song of the Year,'" Boudreaux recalls.

"He signed me up, pretty much on the spot," Holland says. "But we didn't demo it for over a year. We did twenty other demos, but that somehow got put off. Two or three days after it was demoed, Randy played it for Al Cooley."

"Randy Boudreaux called up and said, 'I've got an award-winning song for John Michael,'" Atlantic VP of A&R Al Cooley marvels. "He really said that. He came over that day and played 'Friends.' It just blew me away. Everybody who heard that song in the building was blown away. It blew John Michael away."

"I'm a big believer in the song 'Friends,'" Montgomery says. "It's one of the best songs I've ever cut. I'm glad to see it get the recognition it deserves—especially Jerry and the song's publishers."

"It was the first song put on hold for the project months before we cut," Cooley continues. "It was ten across the board and it stayed ten across the board for like five months, which is very unusual."

While Holland is thankful the song



"There are so many great writers here and great songs. I just love slugging it out with them every day—the competition is what thrills me."

remained highly rated by Atlantic, the experience taught him a lot about the songwriting process. "It was a lesson in patience," he says. And that patience has paid off, as the song's success has opened many doors for Jerry Holland.

-Chuck Aly

Second Place: "Strawberry Wine"—Matraca Berg/Gary Harrison; Publishers—Longitude Music Co./August Wind Music/Great Broad Music/Georgian Hill

Third Place: "Believe Me Baby (I Lied)"— Kim Richey/Angelo/Larry Gottlieb; Publishers—Mighty Nice Music/Wait No More Music/Polygram International, Inc./Julann Music

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Trisha ...and

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DIRECTOR: JIM SHEA, PLANET NASVILLE

To honor the overall best video of the year with regards to song, artist performance, visual interpretation and how these elements interact. Awarded to artist and video director.

The treatment reads like a sociology textbook: "Worlds Apart' will be a visually compelling portrait of people in difficult but very real situations. Moving smoothly from one image to the next, the video will be engrossing in its visual beauty and poignancy. Portraying themes of injustice, racial separation and financial uncertainty with honesty will allow the lyrics to take on other meanings. 'Worlds Apart' is a powerful song that conjures up images that confront us every day. Treating these issues with respect and candor will create a message that will resonate with each viewer. The images in this video are universal in their strength. Families all over the world are struggling for financial stability. Teenage violence continues to affect the lives of people everywhere. Crime touches each of us in different ways. Racial tension, intimidation and hate crimes destroy the foundations that usually draw us together. The video for 'Worlds Apart'

will give us the opportunity to address some of these issues. The strengths of Vince's per-



Vince Gill



Jim Shea

formance, coupled with a powerful song, are the perfect ingredients to make a thought-provoking and socially pertinent video." With Jim Shea's direction, the resulting video looks like a work of art.

As we all know, everything in this business begins with a song. After hearing the poignant Vince Gill/Bob DiPiero-penned number. Shea didn't have to think very long about his ensuing video idea. "Worlds Apart' is a powerful piece of songwriting that struck a deep emotional chord in my heart the first time I heard it," Shea relates, "Vince's stirring performance and the song's haunting lyrics were the source of my inspiration in creating the video."

With a video of this magnitude, rankings almost become an afterthought. Still, the clip reached No. 1 on CMT October 2 and followed suit on TNN October 14. The video was shot over the course of four days in various Nashville locations as well as

in Oklahoma. Casting played an integral role, with powerful performances coming



"'Worlds Apart' is a powerful song that conjures up images that confront us every day."

throughout the clip. Producer Robin Beresford commented, "It was some of the best casting to ever come out of Nashville, I believe. Everyone in the video was wonderful." Done in black and white, the project mixes stark, simple performance footage from Gill with B-roll depicting complex societal situations such as a family facing financial ruin, teenage gang involvement and a racially-motivated church burning. Gill, for one, was pleased with the end result. He states, "I've never been one to make social statements with my songs, but with Jim Shea being the compassionate soul that he is, his visual concept of the lyrics Bob (DiPiero) and I wrote couldn't have been better."

Shea returns that thought and summarizes, "My goal was to capture images that would live up to the quality of the music and underscore its poetic sentiment. I am very grateful to Vince, Larry Fitzgerald and MCA Records for giving me the opportunity to create images for such beautiful music. I am honored that Music Row has chosen 'Worlds Apart' as its Music Video of the Year."

-Lisa Berg

Second Place: "Three Little Words- Billy Ray Cyrus; Director-Michael McNamara Third Place: "Believe Me Baby (I Lied)"-Trisha Yearwood; Director-Gerry Wenner





May 23, 1997 MUSIC ROW 33

- A WOMAN IN LOVE - BOURBON CONFESSION - BY THE WAY - FOR

We knew It All Along. Now, the rest of the world knows...

THAT WAY

. Ш Ө

DAY - WHEN I COME TO MY SENSES - RIDIN OUT THE HEARTACHE

NORE

I MUSIC PUBLISHING

STEPHONY SMITH 1997 Music Row Breakthrough Writer Of The Year

"What Do I Know" – Ricochet • "How Was I To Know" – Reba McEntire and the current hit

"It's Your Love" as recorded by Tim McGraw & Faith Hill



35 Music Square East Nashville, TN 37203 • 615-742-8081

SO MAD AT LOVE • THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW IT'S LOVE • WHAT'S ONE

World Radio History



YOUR LOVE • GO AWAY • HOW WAS I TO KNOW • IT'S YOUR LOVE • LISTEN TO HER TEARS

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER CATHY MAJESKI, SUNNY RUSS & STEPHONY SMITH

"WHAT DO I KNOW" "HOW WAS I TO KNOW"

To honor a Nashville writer who, for the first time in their career, wrote or co-wrote a song that climbed into the top 10 on the Billboard, R&R or Gavin singles chart.

Honoring one songsmith whose work has reached the upper echelons of success is notable enough, but finding a trio whose collaboration has yielded two well-crafted hits, including a number one, is truly remarkable. In a *Music Row* first, this year's Breakthrough Songwriter award goes to three songwriters.

"This is pretty amazing," says Cathy Majeski. "Sunny and Stephony are two of my closest friends, so it's that much sweeter." Stephony Smith, calling from an airport in North Carolina, was incredulous at the success the three songwriters are having. "I'm really overwhelmed," she said. "This has been a dream of mine for so long, so it's sort of hard to swallow. I'm so honored." Sunny Russ is enjoying every minute. "We've had such a blast," she says. "This is great."

As with all overnight success, this concentration of positive response is the product of years of hard work. They met and first sang together at writer's nights at the old Third Coast. "We've been writing every week for three years now," Majeski says.

"We started writing together every week," Russ explains. "We wrote over at Little Big Town up in the top room for the longest time. It just got to be a thing. At first it was just because we liked what we were coming up with, now its kind of turned into a profitable thing as well," she laughs.

It was one of these regular appointments that yielded their first Top 10 hit, "What Do I Know," by Ricochet. The song did not, as the cliche goes, write itself. "This was one of those days where nothing was happening," Majeski recalls. "We were just staring at each other. So we went to lunch and Stephony said that we had to come up with at least a title. She'd throw out something off-the-wall, we'd shoot it down and she'd say, 'What do I know?' She did that six



Cathy Majeski



Sunny Russ



Stephony Smith



"This is pretty amazing. Sunny and Stephony are two of my closest friends, so it's that much sweeter." -Cathy Majeski

"I'm really overwhelmed. This has been a dream of mine for so long, so it's sort of hard to swallow. I'm so honored."

-Stephony Smith

"We've had such a blast. This is great."

-Sunny Russ

or seven times and Sunny finally stopped her and said, 'Stephony, that's it.'"

Smith admits a bit of apprehension at having the song cut by, what was at the time, an unknown group, Ricochet. "We were like 'who's that?' It turned out to be a great performance, great vocals and we were really pleased." Having Reba McEntire cut "How Was I To Know" and carry it to number one earlier this year brought Smith some affirmation from her family. "She's it. She's the pinnacle," she says of McEntire. "That made me legitimate with my parents," she laughs.

More good things are in store: Smith is the sole writer on the new Tim McGraw single, "It's Your Love," and all three have credit on what looks to be the new Tanya Tucker single. "I think it's pretty for sure," Russ says. "She sang it on television a couple times, so we're feeling like that's probably going to happen."

-Chuck Aly

Second Place: Paul Brandt—"My Heart Has A History,"/"I Do"

"How Was I To Know..."

SUNNY RUSS

MUSIC ROW'S BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER



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World Radio History

0



CLINT BLACK GREATEST HITS

To recognize excellence in successfully conceiving and executing a creative marketing plan. Past winners have included MCA Records for its Marty Brown High And Dry Backroads Tour (1992), Mercury Records for its Billy Ray Cyrus Dance Club Promotion (1993), MCA's What It Is Campaign (1994), Warner Bros./Reprise's "Redneck Stomp" Jeff Foxworthy promotion (1995) and MCA's Joe Ely Hour At Tower Train Tour (1996).

Clint Black

With the precision of a military commando raid, the RCA team planned and executed an exhaustive campaign establishing a major sales beachhead during the peak holiday selling season. Within 60 days of its release, the Greatest Hits 16-cut project was certified Platinum, becoming the auickest million-seller in Clint Black's

career. Although the plan did not incorporate any totally unique elements for country music marketing, it distinguished itself by the ferocity, thoroughness and depth of levels at which it was carried out. It required tremendous effort.

"We knew we had a major opportunity with Clint, but as you near the fourth quarter you only get one shot, so we had to make it count," said RLG Chairman, Joe Galante. "We didn't take anything for granted in our push to drive the consumer and alert them. I've got to tell you that Ron Howie, Randy

Goodman, Amy Macy, Dale Turner, Glenda Break and Left Bank Management's Jordan Berliant all did spectacular jobs. Also, Clint went out of his way to make himself available and give of his time. We're very pleased and honored to win this award."

MEDIA

The first goal was to "create a brand image and awareness of the new album at the consumer level utilizing consistent text and image while focusing on the signature sound and look of Clint Black." This was accomplished through a variety of methods which included special "Coming Soon" point-of-purchase imaging at retail and racked accounts. The label also scheduled an aggressive series of radio ad buys in the Top-50 country music markets, TV ad buys during the CMA Awards show and digitally delivered a syndicated radio special to stations the weekend before the album's street date (9/24/96).

A large variety of print and TV media interviews were arranged in advance of the LP's release to further reinforce product awareness. Some of the out-

> lets included: a performance on the CMA Awards show. The Tonight Show, CNN, ET, Access Hollywood, The Tonight Show with Letterman, Regis and Kathie Lee, People, Us, GO, Vanity Fair, USA Today Weekend and more. A Satellite Media Tour was also created to draw more attention at radio.

A second round of consumer advertising was placed during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend and

throughout the Christmas buying season.

"Like The Rain" was released as a single (8/14) and led the charge with win-itbefore-you-buy-it contests and special Clint Black posters. Western Union telegrams were sent to PDs, MDs and morning jocks heralding its arrival. In addition, Clint sent personal e-mails to those stations with Web sites and personal letters to those not covered by e-mail. The single eventually climbed to No. 1 and stayed there for three weeks.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Joe Galante

One of the more unusual aspects of the





Greatest Hits project was the Kellogg Cereals Product offer. Over 25 million boxes of "healthy" cereals featured Clint's picture and a manufacturer's rebate offer of \$3-\$5 (cassette/CD) for direct purchase of the album in conjunction with the American Heart Association via a 1-800 number. The campaign began in October and was advertised in 110 million Sunday newspapers.

RETAIL

The key words for retail were "pricing and positioning." During album release week, Clint performed live and did in-store signings in the Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Atlanta and Nashville markets.

Anderson. Handleman. Target. Musicland, Best Buy, Blockbuster, Camelot, Circuit City and Transworld were some of the accounts whose pumps were primed with special in-store materials, endcap placements, in-store video play, bin cards, Sunday Section ads, and other similar programs.

Overall, the Greatest Hits and its strong success re-established and reinforced Clint Black, at both country radio and retail, as one of the country format's premier artists. -David M. Ross

BREAKTHROUGH **ARTIST VIDEO "STRAWBERRY** WINE"



crowd, translate the ideas

within the song into fresh

symbolic images, and leave

the viewer with a vivid, lasting impression of Deana

didn't go quite as smoothly as

everyone had hoped. Pistole

relates, "We threw the shot list

out the window, because it

was raining every day. In fact,

every shoot I've been on with

Deana, it has rained." None-

theless, Carter enjoyed the

process, remarking, "Joanna

Carter (at Capitol) and Roger

and his crew always make

things go so smoothly-even

in the rain-so it's easy to

relax and have fun. I love the

shots where I was sitting on

the fence in the rain." The

stormy skies were also

responsible for one of the

project's most noteworthy ele-

ments for Pistole: "The

biggest dilemma on that shoot

was Deana's hair. We had to

Mission accom-

Early on though, things

Carter."

plished!



"Things go so smoothly even in the rain—so it's easy to relax and have fun. I love the shots where I was sitting on the fence in the rain."

keep messing with her hair over and over, because the humidity messed it up. But I think that's why she comes across as being so approachable."

The clip reached the No. 1 position on CMT November 13 and hit the TNN video pinnacle on November 25. Cut with Carter's performance, the video takes place in and around a farm, representative of "grandpa's farm" from the song's lyrics. Two memorable teenagers were cast to "represent" the feeling of first love-the joy and the agony. But Pistole had more in mind than just utilizing prototypical actors."You see the same people in a lot of country videos," he states. "The casting process for 'Strawberry Wine' was more like an interview of personalities. We got these two together-they were both 17, in high school and all that. On the shoot, a little magic happened, and they actually started dating."

A magical video for the young couple, and for Carter, as well. She summarizes, "I'm so honored that this video was chosen-mainly for Matraca Berg and Gary Harrison, who wrote this special song, and without the song there would be no video. I wore a white slip (in the doorway) that was my grandmother's, who was an inspiration in life and death. So she is being honored, too! Also, I've struggled for a long time with support of people believing in me, and this means we weren't wrong about our hopes and dreams."

—Lisa Berg

Second Place: "My Heart Has A History"-Paul Brandt; Director-Thom Oliphant

DEANA CARTER DIRECTOR: ROGER PISTOLE, STUDIO PRODUCTIONS

To honor a video which significantly helped establish a new or developing artist. Awarded to artist and video director.

"Strawberry Wine." 'Nuf said, right? At a time when many observers were chronicling the demise of country music as we know it, along came Nashville native Deana Carter with a different sound and a fresh song in "Strawberry Wine." In a virtual whirlwind of activity, the song that told the story of many a teenager reached No. 1, was performed at the Nashville Music Awards and most recently was nominated for both Single and Song of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards, not to mention Carter being on the receiving end of a New Female Vocalist of the Year nomination. But the first real glimpse at Carter for many was through the eyes of Studio Productions' director Roger Pistole.

According to the video treatment, Pistole's objectives were to: "Create an alluring video that stands out from the



Deana Carter



Roger Pistole



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38 MUSIC ROW May 23, 1997

PEOPLE WATCHER



by BEVERLY KEE

DEATON FLANIGEN DIVERSIFIES

t a time when many music video companies are suffering from

reductions in the number and budgets of videos, Deaton Flanigen Productions has stayed healthy by diversifying into commercials, marketing campaigns and other creative avenues.

Co-owners Robert Deaton, 35, and George Flanigen IV, 38, then bring back what they've learned from venturing outside of the country music arena and apply it to their work in Nashville.

"We enjoy doing music videos so much," Deaton says. "With the market, we looked at

the (album sales) numbers just like everybody else did. It's just natural, and a smart business decision, with money being tighter to spend less money on a video."

That's why Deaton Flanigen decided to diversify its client base, of which 60 percent is now located in Los Angeles. The firm only made about 10 music videos last year, including Lonestar's "No News" and "When Cowboys Didn't Dance," as well as the controversial video for Diamond Rio's "It's All In Your Head." "It allows us to grow and do unique things out of this market," Deaton says.

"Our favorite thing is videos, and this is the genre we prefer to be in," he adds. "We're not directors working in country who want to be in pop or rock. In country, you get to tell a story. How many genres can have an 'Independence Day?' We're in it for the long haul. We don't want to do 40 videos in one year and then be burned out."

Deaton Flanigen, which the duo formed 12 years ago, made a name for itself on CMT and TNN through such videos as "Independence Day," (which won the CMA Video of the Year) "Feed Jake," "Silver Threads and Golden Needles" and "Love a Little Stronger." But the firm has also quietly established a national reputation and won international awards by producing network commercials and campaigns. They've won Clios, Addys, Emmys, Nashville Music Awards, Doves, Tellys and virtually every other award out there.

The company has produced four ABC Monday Night Football campaigns, winning two national Emmys in the process (once beating NBC's Olympics package). They're now working on the fifth football campaign, which will bring Broadway to Music City.



Robert Deaton & George J. Flanigen, IV

In early May, Deaton Flanigen brought in Savion Glover, the famed tap dancer from *Bring In Da Noize, Bring In Da Funk*, as well as other drummers and dancers in the cast to join mainstay Hank Williams Jr.

"This year's going to be different," Deaton explains. "Last year, we did this big epic with the military and the jets and a big party downtown. This year is a more intimate setting.

"The track is more rhythm oriented, just like a music video, as opposed to a storyline. In the past year, there's always been an inner-linking storyline. This year it's like random nonsense."

The project is not only attractive as an outlet for their creativity, but also as a means to expose their work to millions every week. "Forty million people see your product every night," Flanigen says. "Creatively, it's fulfilling because that many people get to see your work. From a business standpoint, when you're showing your reel, there's no one who hasn't seen *Monday Night Football*. It brings instant recognition to your work."

The duo is about to begin the promotional campaign for the TV shows *Grace Under Fire* and *Boy Meets World*, which are about to go into syndication. It launched an image campaign for CBS and produced commercials for NBC's *Sunset Beach* and the Anaheim Angels baseball team. They recently hired producer Joe Ramey, who has an extensive advertising background.

In the country arena, they just finished "Dancin', Shaggin' on the Boulevard," a video for Alabama that will be included free with the purchase of the group's CD at Wal-Marts. "We feel like from a project standpoint, we're just beginning to scratch the surface,"

> Deaton says. "Our best work is ahead of us. You have these layers and you burst through them to another level of creativity."

He says the decade's worth of experience has made their work more precise and unique. "When you first start out, you sometimes do work with the edges more ragged," Deaton adds. "Now there's more precision. The longer you've been doing it, the less you settle for what's already been done.

"We've become good story tellers, able to convey an emotion" he continues.

"The long-term goal is still to make a feature (film). The problem is we've read 100 scripts and haven't found anything we want to produce. Our level of expectation is very high, so we'll just keep on looking."

The video budget reduction has affected the production quality of videos, according to Deaton, but not their creative expression. Budgets that were once \$90,000 to \$100,000 are now \$10,000 lower. "You may not travel as much or get the crane you might have wanted," he explains. "That's not to say you can't be creative, but from a production standpoint, there are sacrifices that have to be made.

"Right now, everybody from the labels to the video directors are shifting in the sand and it hasn't quite settled yet. Most video companies are just tightening their belts and moving on.

"It's going to become better in the future. We're seeing an upswing in the number of the clips being done. Recently, the music has been better. When you have great music, it is a lot easier to come up with a great video.

"The hardest part about making videos is coming up with new ideas. We try not to repeat ourselves," he says. "We have to come up with something that fits the artist and the music. You're not just given a blank sheet of paper and the music. You've got to fit the artist's personality and be true to the artist and the music.

"Also, remember that it's a 3-1/2 minute commercial, basically, where you're promoting the artist, so you have to come up with something the audience likes. Sometimes you get caught up and want to make videos for your peers or the industry." *



GIVIN' YOU THE BUZZ

I'll be brief, since there is so much music to survey this week.

The big news is the totally amazing number of **DISCovery Award** contenders. This is, of course, the whole point of being a reviewer, to turn people on to music that gives you a buzz.

The big bonanza is in the Americana/alternative country field. That's where you'll find Darrell Scott, R.B. Morris, Bob Millard and Mary Ann Rossoni, all of whom deserve your attention, as well as a striking Tejano stylist named Shelly. Over in mainstream country, you'll find outstanding debuts by Wes Barnes, Lila McCann and Michael Peterson. There's even a pop/rocker in the race, Abra Moore, courtesy of Arista Austin. She's our winner, but it could just as easily have been any of the others.

As for a Disc of the Day, that boiled down to McCann, again, versus country's Kathy Mattea, r&b queen Etta James and alternative country's Son Volt and Julie Miller. Despite everyone else's many merits, I've gotta go with Etta James. I hope she records all her records on Music Row from now on.

The Wes Barnes/Johnny Anthony releases on little CSA Records made it the only company in the running with consistently quality output in this stack of platters. Label of the Day to the underdoggy.

COUNTRY

"I'm On Your Side" KATHY MATTEA Writer: Jim Lauderdale; Producers: Ben Wisch/Kathy Mattea; Publisher: Mighty Nice/Laudersongs/Blue Water, BMI; Mercury 162.

She's such a gem. And this has so much rollicking charm.

THE WILD WEASELS "There's A Hole in My Pocket"

Writer: Gabe Medrano; Producer: Gabe Medrano; Publisher: none listed, ASCAP; Moreco CDX.

From the cheesy instrumental intro, you think maybe you're headed for trouble. Then he starts to sing and you're positive. Hands down, the worst indie single I've heard so far this year.

DANNY ALLEN "Buy You Some Business"

Writer: Danny Allen; Producer: Jimmy Harris; Publisher: New Chenaniah, BMI; Rio Bravo CDX.

No. I take that back. This is the worst. He has no vocal range and absolutely no feeling for rockabilly, pseudo or otherwise.

TRACY BYRD

"Don't Love Make A Diamond Shine"

Writers: Craig Wiseman/Mike Dekle; Producer: Tony Brown; Publisher: Almo/ Daddy Rabbit/Wayland, ASCAP: MCA CDX.

Innocent summertime romance to the accompaniment of some slippery steel guitar. Pretty irresistible. Roll down the windows and sing along.

REBA MCENTIRE "I'd Rather Ride Around With You"

Writers: Mark D. Sanders/Tim Nichols; Producers: Reba McEntire/John Guess; Publisher: Starstruck/Mark D/EMI-Blackwood/Ty-Land, ASCAP/BMI; MCA CDX.

More zesty summer breezes. Also irresistible.

LAZY T "I Don't Wanna Know" Writers: Steve Benjamin/Michael Dean/Lazy T; Producer: Lazy T; Publisher: Lazy T, BMI; Lazy T CDX.

She has personality and some ability as a stylist. But the production and arrangement are like Super Glue on the bottom of her boots. The word "leaden" comes to mind.

M.C. POTTS

"I'm So Sorry" Writers: Noab Gordon/Jason Blume; Producer: Brad Allen; Publisher: C&P Nashville/Zomba, BMI; Critique CDX.

She sings great. The song is strictly routine.

LILA McCANN "Down Came A Blackbird"

Writers: Mark Spiro/Micheal Smotherman; Producer: Mark Spiro; Publisher: M.Spiro/ Hidden Words/Nakomis, BMI/ASCAP; Asylum 9815.

Dark swirling drama in the mix. Bright piercing sunshine in the vocal. This lady grabs ahold of this haunting little thing and shakes it to its bones. Gripping and ferociously wonderful.

DERYL DODD "Movin' Out To The Country"

Writer: Deryl Dodd; Producer: Chip Young/Blake Chancey; Publisher: BMG, ASCAP; Columbia 78463.

More of that rock-'em-sock-'em country. Thank you, I've heard more than enough of this sort of thing during the past few years. Bring on the next trend. Besides, this man has so much better quality stuff to offer than this.

TIM McGRAW

"It's Your Love" Writer: Stephony Smith; Producers: James Stroud/Byron Gallimore/Tim McGraw; Publisher: EMI-Blackwood, BMI; Curb 8089.

Hearts-and-flowers, love letters-andlace romance. It's sweet. But it is not really a duet. I'd have been happier if Faith had been used more prominently than merely as a backup harmony singer.

DAVID KERSH "Day In Day Out" Writers: Marv Green/Thom McHugh; Producer: Pat McMakin; Publisher: Warner Tamerlane/Golden Wheat/Kicking Bird/ Thomahawk, BMI; Curb 1357.

Boring, paint-by-numbers, Music Row contemporary country. Same boring session players; same generic singer; same hack songwriting. It'll probably be huge.

TERESA

"Baby That's What Love Does"

Writers: Teresa/Ronnie Samoset; Producer: Doug Johnson; Publisher: Warner Tamerlane/WB/Samosonian, BMI/ASCAP; Epic 78561.

Bright and crisp and shiny and new.

T.J. DENNIS

"Gone"

Writer: S. Rogers; Producer: Kevin Bloody Wilson; Publisher: none listed, BMI; Both Barrels 41095 (track) (619-448-0155).

A stunning vocal showcase. Australian belter takes Ferlin Husky's power ballad, strips off the strings and production, raises the key verse by verse and stands there "naked in the rain." The hair on the back of my head bristled and goosebumps popped up on my arms.

"You Ain't Lonely Yet" BIG HOUSE Writers: Monty Byrom/David Neubauser; Producer: Peter Bunetta; Publisher: MCA/Shinin' Stone Cold/Bik Haus, ASCAP; MCA 72005.

I have yet to meet the person who didn't like this totally groovy band on first listen. So how come they ain't big stars already? Liven up yer playlist and brighten up some listener's life.

MICHAEL PETERSON "Drink, Swear, Steal & Lie"

Writers: Michael Peterson/Paula Carpenter; Producers: Robert Ellis Orrall/Josh Leo; Publisher: Warner Tamerlane/BMG/Above the Rim, BMI/ASCAP; Reprise 8680.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Major personality alarm! This ol' boy almost jumps right through the speakers at ya.

AMERICANA

JULIE MILLER

"Dancing Girl"

Writer: Julie Miller; Producers: Buddy & Julie Miller; Publisher: Tinkie Tunes/Martha Road, ASCAP; Hightone 8079 (track).

The Celtic drone is hypnotic. Her folkpop soprano is a delight. Husband Buddy Miller drawls cool hillbilly harmony. By the time you get to the electric guitar rave up, you've fallen head over heels. Album features many other delights, including appearances by Steve Earle and Emmylou Harris. Get into it.

HIGHWATER

"I Fell Hard"

Writers: Stubbs/Abel; Producers: John Stephenson/Alan Johnson/Highwater; Publisher: Orchard Pig, BMI; Del Rio 22501 (track) (615-383-6723).

I dug his half-strangled, barroom delivery and the tasty little steel guitar licks. If Americana means too country for country radio, this is right in the pocket.

JO-EL SONNIER "Juste Une Affaire" Writers: Jo-El Sonnier/Bucky Lindsey; Producer: Jo-El Sonnier; Publisher: Wall to Wall, ASCAP/BMI; Rounder 6069 (track).

It's in French. Deal with it. This is real music from one of America's richest traditions. Besides, the squeezebox means twostep in any language. CD is called *Cajun Pride* and it's all real cool.

SHELLY "Blame It On Love" Writers: Vince Gill/Delbert McClinton; Producer: Shelly Lares; Publisher: none listed; Sony Discos 469830 (track).

Here's another ethnicity heard from. This hot chili pepper was a Tejano buddy of the late Selena. Some of the CD is in Spanish, but this particular sultry rocker is Anglo all the way. Nashville recorded track features Vince Gill on background harmony. Even if he weren't there, her throaty power would be enough to sell this smokin' groove.

DEANA JO "Workin' Man's Hands" Writers: Pierce/Pierce/Marsball; Producer: Johnny Pierce; Publisher: Pierce/Mulberry, ASCAP; Rain 681115 (track) (615-395-7165).

I love working-man songs. However, I am not accustomed to hearing them sung by women who sound like drawing-room debutantes.

TISH HINOJOSA & KRIS KRISTOFFERSON "By The Rio Grande"

Writer: Tish Hinojosa; Producer: Booker T. Jones; Publisher: WB/Maverick/Manazo, ASCAP; Watermelon 1062 (track).

OK: They goosed it with some echo chamber. Even so, these two work as a duo better than you might expect.

SON VOLT "Back Into Your World" Writer: Jay Farrar; Producer: Brian Paulson & Son Volt; Publisber: Warner Tamerlane/Grain Elevator, BMI; Warner Bros. 46518 (track). These boys have set the standard for all the alternative-country "No Depression" major leaguers. Listening to this, I think they just raised the bar a notch. Rootsy and real.

DARRELL SCOTT "Great Day To Be Alive"

Writer: Darrell Scott; Producer: Darrell Scott: Publisher: EMI-April/House of Bram, ASCAP; Sugar Hill 3864 (track).

I first heard this guy live in Music City one night and I have never forgotten the experience. It oughtta be against the law for any one man to have this much vocal, instrumental, production and songwriting ability. Every single track on this *Aloba From Nasbville* CD deserves airplay.

BOB MILLARD

"Happy Go Lucky So And So"

Writer: Bob Millard; Producer: Stuart Ziff: Publisher: Mike Curb, BMI; Curb Music (track) (615-298-3724).

Ultra cute lyrics. Solid country-rock band with vocals that echo John Prine. The rest of the five-song sampler is equally ear catching. Something different, with lotsa integrity.

R.B. MORRIS "Ridin' With O'Hanlon" Writer: R.B. Morris; Producer: R.S. Field; Publisher: none listed; Oh Boy 16 (track) (615-742-1250).

Put Millard and Morris on a bill together and you've got two of yer stronger new rootsy song poets—both have drawling, individual deliveries, imaginative musical settings and striking, iconoclastic lyric talents. Knoxvillian Morris has more of a folkrock edge and is much the darker, as this swaggering, whiskey-swilling rampage indicates. On this track the backing is Irish; elsewhere on his extraordinary debut CD you'll find electric rock, spoken word and much more.

R&B

E.G. Kight "Somewhere In Atlanta"

Writers: E.G. Kight/Dianna Ryan/Ricbard Fleming/Sunny Stephens; Producers: E.G. Kight/Skip Slaughter; Publisher: Georgia Songbird/Kight Flying/Air Deluxe/Nitelife Charlie, ASCAP/BMI; Blue South 297 (track) (615-361-9189).

Horns, rhythm and sass. She could use a little more grit, but there's still plenty that's listenable here. CD is titled *Come Into the Blues;* it's pretty straightforward urban/electric in tone and attitude.

ETTA JAMES "If I Had Any Pride Left At All"

Writers: Troy Seals/Eddie Setser/John Greenbaum; Producer: Barry Beckett; Publisher: WB/East 64th/Warner Tamerlane/Yasa/Major Bob, ASCAP/BMI; Private Music 100582140 (track).

John Berry's rendition of this just became irrelevant. Miss Etta makes you liscontinued on page 54





"What we do," he says, "is help labels use all the things that are available to them to reach radio. Obviously airplay is what you want, it's a three minute commercial for your product. But there are many other ways to approach radio besides beating them over the head about airplay."

Part of Hart's philosophy, employed through mediums including The Monday Memo, The Midweek Report and Power Facts On-Line, is to get labels to think in terms of what radio needs. "They're always looking for ways to increase 'Time Spent Listening.'" He feels that helping radio fight their battles will allow the labels to achieve their goals.

Conversely, the radio veteran found his move to Nashville to be a revelatory experience. "Everything surprised me," he admits. "On the other side of the fence, one of the things we don't understand is the size of the business. At radio, you're constantly bombarded by the promotions people and you don't see all the other levels that are at work."

Bringing a better understanding of radio to the record labels is especially important with country music at a crossroads. "We have nine regular clients we work with marketing to radio. Research is going to play a larger role, not necessarily telling people what to do, but helping them make better decisions. Research is just a tool.

As for the predicted demise of country music, Hart doesn't buy it. "There are a lot of journalists predicting the downfall of country music. They've been doing it for a long time and it's not all roses, but the big labels will still be releasing albums ten years from now and profit from doing it. Radio will still be a major chunk of that."

There are challenges out there for radio, and Hart feels one of the keys is trying to lure back the "P3, P4" level listeners. He also sees CMT and technological advances eating away at radio, but not substantially. "There's more local competition—CMT, cable radio—those kinds of things," he admits. "But mainstream country listeners still listen in the car, so until they can put TVs in cars—which I don't think they can do—and provide local traffic, weather and news, I don't see a real threat to radio's core business."

-Chuck Aly

JOHN HART President, John Hart Media

1314 16th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212 615-292-0616 • FAX: 615-262-0828

ROW FILE

"I'm very bullish on radio," John Hart affirms. "The nay sayers aren't even in the ball park." Having been in the radio business since he was nine, Hart knows of which he speaks.

"My first job of any substance was with Colonial Broadcasting," he says. That was in 1983, when he put WUSY-FM on the air in Chattanooga for the group. He served as assistant program director, music director and afternoon DJ for a year before taking over as program director. In 1988 Hart was named Corporate Program Director for Colonial and was responsible for programming four of the group's properties.

During that time, Hart developed, designed and implemented various research programs for his stations. These included weekly callout, auditorium testing, focus groups and perceptual studies. He also began consulting with several country music radio stations as well as Radio Management Services, a company that works with financial institutions who hold lien positions on broadcast properties.

In 1991, Hart joined WXTU-FM in Philadelphia as program director and, over the next four years, pushed the station's ratings into the top five. Two years ago, he decided to "see how I could integrate into Nashville." Finding the radio consultant field to be overly crowded, Hart decided to focus his new firm on assisting labels. John Hart Media now works with

THE GOOD LIFE



Bobby Karl.... WORKS THE ROOM CHAPTER 82

For me, it all started in record shops. From the age of 10 or so I was clerking in my grandma's music store in Dubois, PA. Lowe's House of Music did it all—records, instruments, sheet music, needles, tuning forks, guitar strings. In the back were stacks of 78s from an earlier era. She had a big RCA Nipper dog made out of plaster. Upstairs above the old tin ceiling were Victrolas and old radio cabinets. Back in the garage, dozens of vintage jukeboxes and pinball machines gathered dust. You could still play some of them.

Man, I loved that place. I loved the old wooden floor, the glass display cases and the long counter with the big brass cash register; I loved the cardboard stand-ups of the music stars and the yellowed posters on the walls. Every week, we'd read *Billboard* together and I'd advise Grammy to pick up in Pittsburgh copies of 45s by The Bee Gees or Buck Owens or whoever was hot that week. She turned me on to Hank Williams, Tony Bennett and Frank Yankovic. I turned her on to The Beach Boys, The Everly Brothers and Motown.

I helped out there through the 1960s. In the 1970s I clerked at Discount Records in St. Louis. The store kept at least one of every album that was in print; and we prided ourselves that one of us could answer any question about any kind of music that a customer was seeking.

There is just something about a good record store. If I'm having a bad day, just walking into one and browsing through the bins can lift my spirits. I love people who love records; I love the folks who work in record shops. When I moved to Nashville 20 years ago, the town's disc emporiums were my first havens of hospitality.

So it was with a happy heart that I headed to The Arena to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ernest Tubb Record Shop (5/4). The first banquet guest I ran into was **Owen Bradley.** It doesn't get any better than that. **Hillous Butrum, Tandy Rice, Billy Deaton, Jack Greene, Hope Powell, Dave Kirby,** Tubb biographer/store historian **Ronnie Pugh, The Johnson Sisters,**



Curb Records Chairman Mike Curb (L) and producer Wilbur Rimes (R) display the trophies they received when LeAnn Rimes' "Blue" was named Single of the Year at the 32nd annual Academy of Country Music Awards. *Photo: Ron Wolfson*

Austin Church, Nora Lee & Duane Allen, Jim Ed Brown, Ray Pillow, Larry Stephenson, Jo Walker-Meador, Charlie Dick, Stu Phillips, Trish Hennessey, Karen Wheeler and several members of Tubb's family (including longtime store employee, daughter Violet Elaine) mingled at the 200-person gala.

We dined on some breaded chicken thing, but no one was there for the grub. It was a time of sweet reminiscences about the shop, about E.T., about country music.

TIME TO GET BACK TO SWINGTOWN

"He saw the best minds of his generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, dragging themselves through the L.A. streets at dawn looking for an angry fix, angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night." (Modified Allen Ginsberg poem)

Multi-Platinum award winning Texas songwriter

Chris McCarty

has returned relatively unscathed to Nashville from the west coast with some new country songs.

Call for a listen and please...pass the cornbread.

Some of Chris' hit songs have appeared on the Steve Miller Band albums Fly Like An Eagle, Book Of Dreams, Italian X-Rays, Steve Miller Band Greatest Hits, and Wide River, as well as on country albums The Time Has Come by Martina McBride and The New Frontier by Highway 101.





Eddie Stubbs co-hosted the program with Keith Bilbrey, the last announcer to work with E.T., and with Carol Lee Cooper, the current host of the store's famed "Midnite Jamboree" radio show. Ray Pennington, Johnny Counterfeit, Bob Battle, Sam Marshall of the Jimmie Rodgers Foundation, Leona Williams, Jan Howard, Chuck Chellman and others got up to do sentimental testimonials.

Stonewall Jackson was a particular delight. "I could speak about Ernest all night," he said. "And some nights on the bus, 1 do." Tubb bought him his first stage clothes and took him under his wing until Stonewall's own hits started happening. George Hamilton IV was especially eloquent, relating an anecdote about getting on "The Midnite Jamboree" without an audition, recalling encountering a fan in Moscow who'd ordered a country LP from the shop's famed mail-order service and making a plea for donations for a Tubb memorial statue. Jay Orr spoke about the great service the store provides to country lovers. Ernest Tubb Jr. recalled that the Music City News Awards originated at the shop. Carol Lee called 417 Broadway, "a national landmark."

And so it is. At least to those of us who love record stores.

There are now six Ernest Tubb Record Shops. It is the world's largest mail order source of country music. Owner **David McCormick** had 26 employees on stage at one point, including **Fred Buchanan**, who is celebrating his 40th year with the retailer.

"The Midnite Jamboree" returned to Lower Broadway for the golden anniversary (5/3). An outdoor stage was erected for the 2,610th consecutive WSM broadcast of the show. It is second only to the Opry in radio longevity. Frankly, it was a tad chilly by the time 12 o'clock rolled around. But that didn't stop **Bill Anderson** from doing his usual splendid job. Good-guy **Travis Tritt** made a surprise appearance and everybody had a ball.

Now that spring is here, downtown is rocking just about every night. **Kari Estrin, Rick de Yampert, Hugh Bennett** and 11,000 others attended the kick-off of this year's "Dancin' in the District" concert series (5/1). Despite lousy sound, **The Evinrudes** were great. During the **Jason & The Scorchers** set, **Jason Ringenberg** announced he's getting married again and becoming a father.

Springtime. So many reasons so say "It's great to be alive and be in Tennessee." One of the them is **Tim Mensy**, who show-cased at Caffe Milano (4/21). Another is **Malcolm Holcombe**, at The Bluebird (5/3). The same venue also hosted **Harley Allen** (5/7), whose Mercury CD is a thing of wonder.

Skip Ewing celebrated the release of

Until I Found You at BMI (5/8). The Gordons showcased End of a Long Hard Day at The Station Inn (4/24).

Lorrie Morgan starred at the Summer Lights Festival preview party at MPL Event (4/29). **Alabama** swung by the Target on Lebanon Road to promote its new CD (5/7). **Joe Diffie** celebrated *Twice Upon a Time* at Caffe Milano (5/6). **The Ranch** did their CD-release thing at Tower Records (4/22).

Among the 70 bazillion events clustered around Gospel Music Week were a **Bill Gaither** bash at ASCAP (4/23), **E.T.W.** announcing its anti-violence campaign at The Stouffer Renaissance (4/21). Myrrh Records' 25th anniversary party at same (4/22). **Point of Grace** going Gold at TPAC (4/23), the EMI fiesta at San Antonio Taco (4/23) and **Petra**'s silver anniversary at the Convention Center (4/20)—not to mention the Doves (4/24), the first TV awards spectacular at the new Arena.

Speaking of awards, this was the third annual Golden Pick presentation for *Country Weekly* magazine (5/5). Staged at the Opry House, the gig featured **Bryan White** surrounded by a host of country newcomers. I am told that 100,000 readers vote for these honors. **Loretta Lynn** was named the Living Legend—no news flash there. On a sadder note, the event marked the swansong of the mag's ebullient **Clif Dunn**, who is being promoted to the Florida headquarters and leaving Music City.

Clif's always good to huddle with in a party schmooze. I encountered him at the Magnatone Records "do" on Music Row (4/30), as well as Schatzi Hageman, Wayne Halper, David Corlew, Wynn Jackson, Dave Lehman, Aristo's newly promoted Angie Watson, Lynn Shults, Dub Cornett, Bobby Young, Brian Williams, Tom Long, Sam Cerami, BKWTR handmaiden Marjie McGraw, Gerry Wood, Chet Flippo, Tom Grant, Rick Rockhill, Tari Laes, Alan Mayor, Jeff Walker, J. Aaron Brown and Debe Fennell.

At the fabulon schmooze, New York lenswoman **Raeanne Rubenstein** was all a-twitter about buying a Nashville home. Wrestler **Chad Brock** has finally begun his Warner album. **David Zimmerman** was excited about Mary Cutrufello, a black honky-tonker in Houston. **Mary Matthews** was fresh from her video shoot at the Bill Monroe tribute concert; she shot 100 testimonials there. Meanwhile the Magnatonians entertained, first the publisher's writers and then the artists, notably **Carol Mack Parker** and **Great Plains**.

The weather was glorious; the sounds were fine and the fellowship was delicious. We really must get together again soon.



May 23, 1997 MUSIC ROW 43



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Up in hillbilly heaven, Faron Young surely was smiling.

Nashville doesn't often get treated to such a lineup of unadulterated "country" performers as when **Johnny Paycheck**, **Wayne "The Train" Hancock** and headliners **BR5-49** took over the stage at 328 Performance Hall (4/19). The audience, made up of older dyed-in-the-wool longtime Paycheck fans and younger fans of retro honky-tonkers BR5-49 and Hancock, enjoyed a night of honky tonk nirvana.

Although he is a legend in more ways than one, Paycheck wisely opted to let the roots country revivalists and hometown favorites BR5-49 close this one down. So after a smoldering set by Hancock, the crowd, which by now filled 328 to capacity, was set for Paycheck's entrance. But first, his hot five-piece **Working Man Band** delivered a trio of Texas dance hall favorites. "This is the best country band Nashville's seen in five years," offered fellow scribe Rusty Russell.

The cigarette smoke parted as Paycheck, looking more haggard than Merle, sauntered onstage to thunderous applause and the clinking of beer bottles. Launching into "I'm the Only Hell (Mama Ever Raised)," the crowd roared its redneck approval. Paycheck, whose voice, which easily stretched from whisper to scream in nanoseconds and seems stronger and more intense than ever, clicked through a brace of jukebox standards such as "A-11," "11 Months and 29 Days" and a hypnoticsounding "Someone To Give My Love To."

Paycheck, between sips of natural spring water (not "Colorado Kool-Aid"), thanked Tracy Byrd for making new hits of his older material like "Someone To Give My Love To" and Byrd's current chart-topper "She's All I Got." He also showcased some new material from a forthcoming album, including the tasty shuffle "I Wish My Mind Would Stay Out Of This." And while he didn't perform all of the crowd's requests (including my barroom fave "I Drop More Than I Drink"), Johnny closed with a swinging version of the anthem of



the late '70s, "Take This Job And Shove It."

Fresh from a tour of Ireland, Grammynominated BR5-49 was, while not exactly back home at Robert's Western World, the Lower Broadway bar that served as their launch pad, at least back in Nash Vegas. And though radio still hasn't embraced the band's retro-hillbilly sound, they have remained true to the spirit of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Hank, Jimmie, Lefty).

Little has changed in the band's natural fervor; if anything, they're more focused, tighter, honed by a year on the road from having played everywhere from outdoor arenas to Texas dance halls. Truly honored to be sharing the stage with the legendary Paycheck, they rocked the joint with the appropriately titled "Do Something Even If It's Wrong," their latest shot at the charts. From there it's like they never left Lower Broad as frontman Chuck Mead knocked out "Long Gone Blues" and Gary Bennett drilled 'em with a double shot: "Can't Get No Grindin'" and the James O'Gwynn nugget "My Name Is Mud." It was Mead again on letter-perfect renditions of "Long Black Veil" and Carl Smith's "Loose Talk." And what BR5-49 set would be complete without the rockabilly-tinged "I Ain't Never" and "Bettie Bettie."

Though it seems that the road is the only place that acts like BR5-49 are going to convert new fans, while the all-hat-and-nocattle acts rule country radio, they've got a unique quality that, despite its being bottled on Music Row, cannot be manufactured.

Looking like the older, chubbier, sweatier brother of BR5-49, Hancock and his three-piece backing band from San Marcos, TX kick-started his set, getting things heated up with "Juke Joint Jumpin'," a soundalike tip of the hat to Hank Williams (Sr., that is). Hancock, whose original songs are equally derived from the styles of Williams, Jimmie Rodgers and Sun rockabilly cat Charlie Feathers, is a graduate of the nasal-and-twang school of singers. And while much of it seems imitative, Hancock's uninhibited singing, genuine good ol' boy persona, and his band (especially steel guitar/Telecaster ace Chris Miller) is the real deal. His mournful, yodel-spiked version of Hank's "Lovesick Blues" halfway through his set and the rocking Rodgers number, "California Blues," which closed the set, really got the honky tonk crowd's attention. A new original number titled "Missing You" was an indication of exciting things to come from "The Train."

-Ron Young



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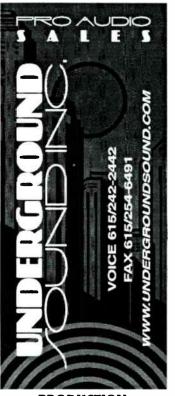
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MUSICAL CHAIRS

continued from page 11

Nashville. Day-to-day operations will be handled by **Monte Willis...Teresa Wade** has joined Tom Collins Music Corporation as Executive Assistant to **Tom Collins...**Oatman Publishing has changed its name to Oatman Music. Phone number remains 615-244-7800...

Songwriters **Bob McDill** and **Kostas** have renewed their contracts with PolyGram Music Publishing...

Nashville-based songwriter **Gary Nichols** is scheduled to appear in the New Folk Concerts' "Emerging Songwriters" competition at this year's Kerrville (TX) Folk Festival on May 25...

In the April 23 issue of *Music Row*, **Ken Biddy's** e-mail address was listed incorrectly. He can be reached at <copperfild@aol.com>. *Music Row* regrets the error...

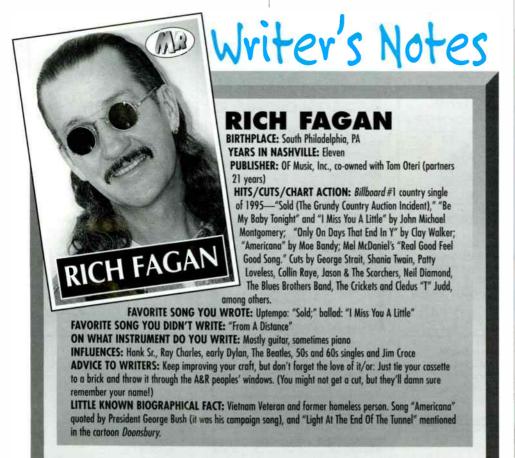
BOOKING/TOURING NEWS

Martha White Foods will sponsor Alison Krauss & Union Station's American tour for the second straight year. The tour began April 4 in Austin, TX and will include stops in Atlanta, Little Rock, Nashville, Myrtle Beach, Birmingham, Boston and New York City. Once again, the band will be traveling the countryside on the Martha White Bluegrass Express bus...

Neal McCoy and **Burnin' Daylight** have joined the Fruit of the Loom CountryFest '97 lineup. Five-year-old Hunter Hayes, a Louisiana "squeeze box phenom," will accompany Hank Williams Jr. during his CountryFest appearance. The mega concert featuring Vince Gill, Wynonna, Travis Tritt, Randy Travis, The Charlie Daniels Band, Bryan White, LeAnn Rimes, Jo Dee Messina and others is set for June 14 at the Texas Motor Speedway in Ft. Worth with ovewr 250,000 expected to attend...

Tom T. Hall is scheduled to perform with three other songwriters as part of the "In Their Own Words" showcases June 12 at New York's Bottom Line... Robert Earl Keen recently began his "Texas Blitz" tour in celebration of his first major label album debut, *Picnic* on Arista Austin... Pete Anderson was to take his *Dogs In Heaven* tour to clubs and small halls during a threemonth barnstorming schedule across North America, beginning in April...

Chubby Checker, Mary Wilson, John Anderson, Loretta Lynn and Harley Allen are slated to perform during the 4th Annual Dottie West Music Fest June 20-21 at the McMinnville-Warren County Fairgrounds in McMinnville, TN. In addition, the Dottie West Music Fest Talent Competition in gospel, country and songwriting categories will be held. Up to \$500 can be won in each, with the first place country winner eligible to compete at the state level in the True Value/Jimmy Dean



Country Showdown. The deadline for entries in the talent competition is June 2. For more informaion, contact Nicole Worzek at 615-473-5848...

The 2nd Annual Stringbean Memorial Bluegrass Festival is slated for June 19-21 in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Gray Hawk, KY. **Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys, Jim & Jesse And The Virginia Boys** and **Mac Wiseman** are among the performers scheduled for the event. For ticket information, call 606-287-0600...

RADIO NEWS

Power Country 103 (WZPC) has added **Billy Block's** "Western Beat Radio Show" to its lineup, with the first installment airing April 27 at 7 p.m., featuring Grammy winner **Lucinda Williams.** The show features five hours of interviews, live in-studio acoustic performances, new CD releases, the Western Beat Roots Revival Live Broadcast and the Western Beat Top 10 Countdown...

Karen Barich has been promoted to Director of Finance and New Business Development at Jones Radio Network. She was previously Business Manager and Financial Analyst. Jones Radio Network has also hired **C.J. Johnson** as Marketing Manager and **Lou Lavaux** as Business Manager...

The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc. has established a new initiative which will focus on radio's relationship with the creative community. The program's primary focus is to "enhance cooperation between music's makers, marketers and music formatted radio stations." The program's initial effort will honor radio stations in major markets which "consistently practice front and back identification of artists and song titles" with the first annual NARAS RadioActive Award. The first honors were given to WMJX-FM, Boston; XTRA-FM, San Diego; WMMO-FM, Orlando; and WONE-FM, Akron...

BENEFIT NEWS

The tenth annual Music Row Ladies Golf Tournament and Tupperware Party is slated to be held on June 2 at Old Natchez Trace Country Club. Sponsored by ASCAP, Capitol Records and TNN, the tournament is expected to draw more than 250 music industry executives. Over the past nine years, the tournament has raised nearly \$130,000 for United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee. 615-742-5043...

The T.J. Martell Foundation's annual Music City Celebrity Luncheon & Fashion Show is scheduled for June 16 in the Presidential Ballroom of the Opryland Hotel. *Prime Time Country's* Gary Chapman will host, with Bryan White, Paul Brandt, Doug Stone, Skip Ewing, **Carman, Jeannie Seely, Jan Howard, Richard Sterban** and others slated to appear. Tickets may be purchased by calling 615-256-2015...

The Nashville Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is slated to hold its Fourth Annual Red Cross Round Up Concert & Silent Auction beginning at 6:00 p.m. June 19 at the Wildhorse Saloon. **Trace Adkins, John Berry, Tammy Graham, Mila Mason** and **Burnin' Daylight are** scheduled to appear at the concert, and items such as Gibson guitars signed by **Dolly Parton, Porter Wagoner** and **Vince Gill** will be available in the silent auction. Tickets will be on sale for \$12 at the door. 615-327-1931...

The 1997 Full Moon Festival, a bluegrass concert, party and auction benefiting Prevent Blindness Tennessee, is scheduled for June 21 at the H.G. Hill Barn on Brookmont Terrace Lane ("Nine Mile Hill") in Bellevue, TN. For information, call 615-352-0450...

Sawyer Brown's August 26 concert at the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln has been named "A Tribute To **Brook Berringer**," in honor of the Nebraska quarterback who was killed in a plane crash in April of 1996. All proceeds, including ticket sales and expenses are being donated to establish a University of Nebraska athletic scholarship



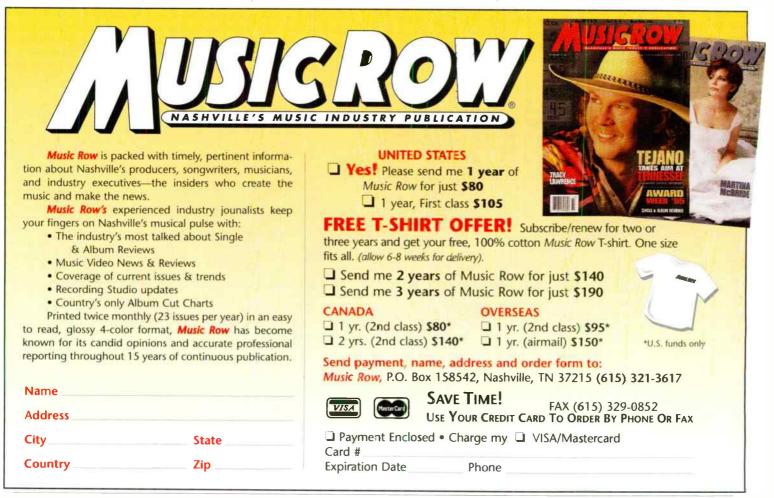
Kim Richey played to a packed house at New York's Bottom Line on April 3. (L to R) Michael Pontecorvo, Director of Artist Development and Touring, Mercury New York; Chris Stacey, National Director Alternative Artist Development/Promotion, Mercury Nashville; Luke Lewis, President of Mercury Nashville; Richey; Steve Ellis, Vice President Promotion, Mercury New York; David Leach, Executive Vice President/General Manager, Mercury New York; Maria Aronis, National Director Promotion and Marketing, Mercury New York; and Richey's manager, Robert Bennett, President of Bennett Management.

and provide support for the Brook | Berringer Memorial Fund...

Sammy Kershaw served as host of the April 29 "Torch Breakfast" at Planet Hollywood Nashville. The breakfast/celebrity auction raised over |

\$10,000 for the 1997 Tennessee Special Olympics. The event was part of the yearly fundraising efforts of the Metropolitan Police Department...

"FloodFest '97" was held April 6 in Louisville, KY to help those in Kentucky



MUSICAL CHAIRS

RIAA CERTIFICATIONS

PLATINUM LP George Strait/Strait From The Heart GOLD LPs Tracy Byrd/Big Love McBride & The Ride/Sacred Ground Trisha Yearwood/Everybody Knows



Christian Hit Radio

"Lead Of Love" • Caedmon's Call WarnerAlliance

Adult Contemporary

"On My Knees" • Jaci Velasquez • Myrrh Inspirational

"On My Knees" • Jaci Velasquez • Myrrh Country

"Love Lives On" • Brent Lamb Word Nashville

Mainstream Album Sales

Whatcha Lookin' 4 • Kirk Franklin GospoCentric

Christian Album Sales

I Surrender All: 30 Classic Hymns Carman • Sparrow

(Source: April 21, 1997 issue of CCM Update. Reprinted by permission.)



ARISTA Pam Tillis/Greatest Hits ASYLUM Lila McCann/Lila CAPITOL Chris LeDoux/Live River Road/River Road CAREER Lee Roy Parnell/Every Night's A Saturday Night COLUMBIA Ricochet/Blink Of An Eye EPIC Sons Of The Desert/Whatever Comes First MERCURY Billy Ray Cyrus/Greatest Hits **RISING TIDE** Kris Tyler/What A Woman Knows

and Indiana who were ravaged by the March floods. The Everly Brothers, Exile, The Oak Ridge Boys, Billy Ray Cyrus, The Kentucky Headhunters, Lee Greenwood, Lorrie Morgan, John Michael Montgomery and T. Bubba Bechtol were among those participating in the event, which raised \$270.000. The American Red Cross received all the proceeds...Clay Walker's Four Star Blowout Tour assisted flood victims in Cincinnati— \$17,000 was raised at the recent Cincinnati Gardens concert and silent auction...

On March 3 and 4, WTNT 94.9 in Tallahassee. FL held its annual Radiothon to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. **Kippi Brannon** and **David Kersh** were on hand for the two-day event, which raised over \$116,000 for St. Jude's...

TV/FILM NEWS

Pecos Films has signed Director Rich Murray, who has directed over 70 music videos for artists such as Mark Chesnutt, The Spin Doctors, Billy Dean, Arrested Development, Rich McCready and The Fugees. Murray has directed #1 videos in four separate musical genres and received several awards, including a *Billboard* Music Video Award for his work with Kris Kross...

Director **Steven R. Monroe** of The Collective received the prestigious Grand Jury Prize for **Crystal Bernard's** music video. "Have We Forgotten What Love Is," at the Houston Film Festival. There were over 4,000 entries in this year's competition. The Collective's **Steven Goldmann** picked up the Gold Award for **Collin Raye's** "I

Think About You" (produced by Susan Bowman); Miller/Murano received the Bronze Award for Chris Ward's "Fall Reaching" (produced by Ken Byrnes); and Thom Oliphant won a Finalist Award for Martina McBride's "Wild Angels" (produced by Philip Cheney and Lenny Grodin)...

High Five Entertainment's third season of *Monday Night Concerts With Ricky Skaggs* premiered April 21. The 15-part series, which includes performances by Elvis Costello, George Jones, Martina McBride, Jim Brickman, Carl Perkins, Wade Hayes, Lyle Lovett and Faith Hill, was shot on location at the Ryman Auditorium...

Nashville-based Producer Maureen A. Ryan and Production Coordinator Lisa A. York worked on the documentary *The Entrepreneurial Revolution*, which was to be broadcast April _9 on PBS. The one-hour video chronicled the subject of entrepreneurship in America...

CHRISTIAN NEWS

Frank Breeden was slated to take over as President of the Gospel Music Association on May 5, replacing **Bruce Koblish**, who departed to take the Reunion Records helm. Breeden served as Secretary of the GMA's Executive Committee for the past three years and is responsible for launching the GMA's Academy of Gospel Music Arts program...

Steven Curtis Chapman and **dc Talk** were the big winners at the 28th Annual Dove Awards, held April 24 at the Nashville Arena. Chapman received nods for Artist of



Tim DuBois, President of Arista/Nashville, recently discussed his career and answered questions during the Songwriters Guild of America Ask-A-Pro session. (L to R) SGA's Rick Carnes, DuBois, Ask-A-Pro Coordinator Judie Bell and SGA's Casey Kelly. *Photo: Alan L. Mayor*

the Year, Male Vocalist, Songwriter and Pop/Contemporary Album for *Signs Of Life*. dc Talk also picked up four wins, for Rock Song of the Year ("Like It, Love It, Need It"), Pop/Contemporary Song ("Between You And Me"), Rock Album (*Jesus Freak*) and Short Form Music Video for "Jesus Freak." **CeCe Winans** was tapped as Female Vocalist of the Year, **Jars Of Clay** received Group of the Year honors and **Jaci Velasquez** was named New Artist of the Year...

SESAC held its Christian Music Awards April 23 at the Hermitage Suite Hotel. **Regie Hamm** received the Christian Songwriter of the Year Award for the second consecutive year, with his publisher, McSpadden-Smith Publishing Co., named Christian Music Publisher of the Year...

ForeFront Records has restructured its marketing department with several new positions: Doug Mann has been named Vice President of Marketing. Mann originally joined the ForeFront team four years ago after leaving the R.E.X. label, which he founded in 1989. Mark Adkison, formerly National Promotions Manager, was tapped as Senior Manager of Promotions. Former Senior Marketing Manager Assistant Mandy Galyean has been promoted to Marketing Coordinator. Gael Van Sant, formerly Video Coordinator, rises to Video Production Manager. Cindy Simmons has been named Creative Services Manager. Simmons was formerly with Capitol Nashville, where she worked four years as Manager of Artist Development. She replaces Paula Wright, who departed ForeFront to become President of Market Graphics...

Brentwood Music Publishing, a member of the Zomba Group of Companies, following the recent Zomba/Brentwood acquisition of Benson Music Publishing, has formed a new Christian music publishing company called Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc. **Dale Mathews**, former Senior Vice President and General Manager of Brentwood Music Publishing, has been appointed President of the newly formed company...

Lindy Warren, formerly Associate Editor of *Aspire* magazine and Manager of Public Relations for the Gospal Music Association, has become *The CCM Update's* Managing Editor. She replaces **Debra Akins**, who recently joined True Artist Management as Director of Special Projects and Communications...

Brentwood Kids Company, a division of Brentwood Music, recently received seven RIAA Certified Sales Awards for longform videos. *Mother Goose Gospel, Volume 1*, received platinum certification. Two other videos in the series, *Mother Goose Gospel, Volume 2* and *Mother Goose Goes To The Zoo*, received gold certification. Four other videos, all from the Kids Sing Praise series, earned at least gold certification...

Gloria Gaither and EMI Christian Music Group Chairman **Billy Ray Hearn** were recently inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Gaither and Hearn were honored during the pre-telecast portion of the 28th Annual Dove Awards...

Odyssey, the national religious cable television network, is scheduled to launch *CeCe's Place* this fall, with **CeCe Winans** serving as host and performer on the onehour musical variety series. Created and produced by Odyssey and Scene Three Productions in Nashville, the music-driven series will feature live performances as well as informal interview segments. Each episode will feature three guests from various genres of the music field...



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A TRUE TALENT LOST

Dear Music Row:

It was with great sadness that I read in a recent *Music Row* issue of the death of Canadian singer Colleen Peterson. I won't eulogize Colleen because I did not know her well enough personally to do so. However, as a budding independent producer in Music City, I wanted to take a moment to tell my compatriots in Nashville about what an awe-some talent we have lost.

Colleen never "made it" here (although she had fine success in her native Canada). But I will always consider Colleen the finest singer who ever hit this town. I highly encourage any aspiring young female singer (AND the established singers with successful careers) to obtain a copy of either of her two albums on Capitol from the seventies, and to really listen. When you do, you will hear someone who can convey deep emotion without growling, whispering or shouting, someone who can touch the soul, someone who can make you chuckle or make you cry (the first time I heard her sing, I cried like a 5-year-old). These are facets of a singer which image-makers and A&R departments cannot create. And facets which are missing in many of even the best acts today.

Whenever an aspiring young female singer asks me, "What do you look for in a singer." I always say, "Listen to Colleen Peterson." She was talented, original and far ahead of her time. I will miss those rare opportunities when I could see her perform. (YES. She was even terrific on stage!) But I will never forget her, and I wanted Nashville to know how wonderful she was.

—Joshua David Whitmore, President, Mr. Roosey's Songs, Nashville, TN

DISCLAIMER

continued from page 41

ten to it as if it were a brand new song and leaves you gasping for breath. CD's title tune is Gretchen Peters's "Love's Been Rough on Me," and the whole Beckett-produced masterpiece is sprinkled with the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famers takes on Music Row's lyrics. Essential listening.

POP/ROCK

VAUGHAN PENN "Eye For An Eye" Writer: V. Penn; Producers; V. Penn/Dave Goodwin; Publisher: Chrysalis/Veeper/ Bluesabilly, BMI; Penwin 1930 (track).

Sparse folk-rock, Dylanesque harmonica/guitar/drum kit productions underpin a drawling, conversational vocal and a striking lyric. Song is already getting some airply on WRLT and has definite CCM potential.

LYNYRD SKYNYRD "Travelin' Man" Writers: Ronnie Van Zant/Leon Wilkeson; Producer: Josb Leo: Publisber: Pacific Windswept/MCA, no performance rights listed: CMC International 0607686211 (track).

I wish I could tell you that the "duet" between the late Ronnie Van Zandt and his brother Johnny was a real event. But the fact is, the song just isn't that strong.

ABRA MOORE "Four Leaf Clover" Writer: Abra Moore; Producer: Mitch Watkins; Publisber: WB Music/Maverick/ Abra Songs, ASCAP; Arista Austin 3082.

In a word, wow. The slapping brushes, jangly guitar and thumpin' bass took me straight to the stratosphere. When she began to whisper/sing, I went into orbit. A bubbling pudding of sound that's delicious in every way. I'm drooling. I could listen to this forever.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Wes Barnes/Find A Broken Heart/CSA. Rick Bennett/Willie Boy/AVL. Rodney Atkins/In A Heartbeat/Curb. Bob House/Could 1 Have.../Bluxo. Marge Calhoun/Fire And Gasoline/WW. Brady Seals/She/Reprise. Eddie Collins/Hurt Again/R-R. Dona Nelson Love Letter.../Atomic Jukebox. Johnny Anthony/Who's Gonna Tell.../CSA. Charlie Daniels & etc./Long Haired.../Blue Hat. Brent Lamb/The Wall Came ... / Word Nashville. Jess McEntyre/I Can't Take You.../Debut. Shelly Streeter/White Lace,.../Long Arm. Debi Smith Shenandoah/Amerisound. Red Meat The Girl With The ... /Ranchero. Kae Lynette/Dream Big/(Wence). Billy Hoffman Big Dawg/Hoffman Mary Ann Rossoni. Run Of The Mill/TGT. Sylvia/ The Real Story/Red Pony. Jimi Vincent & Stallion Lonely State ... / Titefire. Little Texas/Your Mama.../Warner Bros.

DON'T GIVE UP YOUR DAY JOB: Duke Michaels/Honk If You.../615. Ray Stevens/Too Drunk To Fish/MCA.



MAY 29-June 1

16th Annual Summer Lights Festival, Downtown Nashville, TN • 259-4000

JUNE 2

10th Annual Music Row Ladies Golf Tournament And Tupperware Party, Old Natchez Trace Country Club, Nashville, TN • 615-742-5043

6-7

Hank Williams, Sr. Day, Hank Williams, Sr. Park, Georgiana, AL • 334-376-2396

13-15

Variety's ShowBiz Expo West, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA • 800-840-5688

14

Fruit Of The Loom CountryFest '97, Texas Motor Speedway, Dallas, TX 214-373-8000

14

Lefty Frizzell Day, River Rock Country, Cross Plains, TN • 888-826-7862

15

7th Annual Wrangler/City Of Hope Celebrity Softball Challenge & Concert, Greer Stadium, Nashville, TN 800-333-4849

16

29th Annual TNN *Music City News* Country Awards, Grand Ole Opry House, Nashville, TN

16-21

26th Annual International Fan Fair, Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN

CLASSIFIEDS

OTARI IS LOOKING for a full time professional audio salesperson to work out of Nashville office. Knowledge of recording studio applications a must. Contact Melody Rhodes at 615-255-6080.

GROWING ROW MUSIC INDUSTRY min-conglomerate seeks Director of Finance to supervise accounting department. 5 years at financial management level in industry a must. CPA not essential. Familiarity with Peach Tree a plus. Salary based on experience. Send resume, including salary history, to Mr. Daniel, 9 Music Square South, #344, Nashville, TN 37203.

Classified Ads are \$25 per insertion for 25 words or less. Additional words are 25¢. Send copy/payment to: Music Row, P.O. Box 158542, Nashville, TN 37215 or call (615) 321-3617.



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