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# MUSIC ROW

COUNTRY PUBLICATION



Faith  
Hill

**MP3 FOR  
YOU AND ME**  
A Primer

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**SINGLE REVIEWS:**  
What Made Country Great

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## On The Cover: Faith Hill

**Label:** Warner Bros.

**Current Single:** "Breathe"

**Current Video:** "Breathe"

**Current Album:** *Breathe*

**Current Producers:** Byron  
 Gallimore, Dann Huff, Faith Hill

**Hometown:** Star, Mississippi

**Birthdate:** September 21

**Birthplace:** Jackson, Mississippi

**Management:** Borman Entertainment **Booking:** CAA

**Awards:** 1999 ACM Awards—Top Female Vocalist,  
 Single and Video of the Year for "This Kiss," Top Vocal  
 Event of the Year (with Tim McGraw) "Just To Hear You  
 Say That You Love Me," TNN Music City News Awards—

Female Artist of the Year, Single and Video of the  
 Year for "This Kiss," Vocal Collaboration of the  
 Year (with Tim McGraw) "Just To Hear You  
 Say That You Love Me," and Song of the Year for  
 "Just To Hear You Say That You Love Me."



**RIAA Certifications:** It Matters

To Me (3x), Take Me As I Am (2x) Faith (3x)

**Recent Hits:** "This Kiss," "Just To Hear You Say That You  
 Love Me," "Let Me Let Go," "The Secret Of Life"

**Special TV/Film Appearances:** *VH-1 Divas Live  
 1999*

**Interesting Facts:** Hill is the celebrity spokeswoman  
 for Cover Girl cosmetics and the Faith Hill™ Family  
 Literacy Project

**Musical Influences:** Tammy Wynette, Elvis Presley

Faith Hill successfully wears more hats than any  
 other woman in the music business. Wife, mother,  
 producer, multi-platinum artist, literacy spokesperson  
 and now Cover Girl, Hill manages it all with a trademark  
 grace and beauty. It's been an amazing journey from Star,  
 Mississippi to superstar status for Hill, who released her first  
 album in 1993. Her fourth Warner Bros. release *Breathe* will be  
 released November 9.

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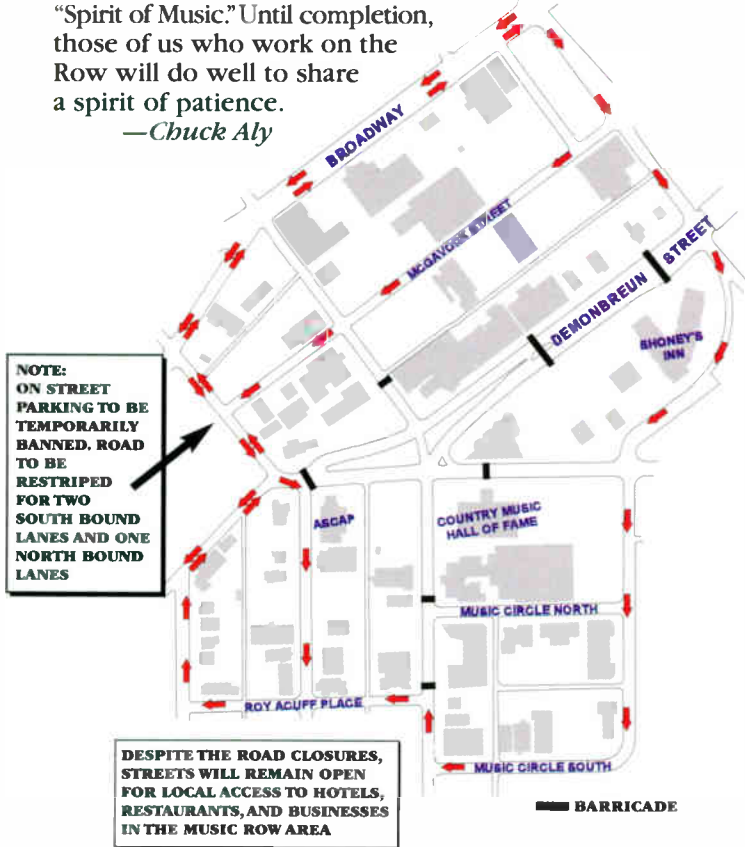
15 Music Square West, Nashville, TN 37203  
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## Roundabout The Row

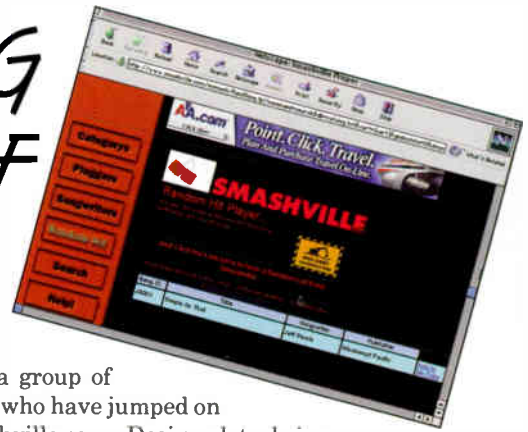
Beginning in December or January, the road closures and new traffic patterns needed to construct the Music Row Roundabout will take effect. Expected to last 12-18 months, construction will result in a traffic circle-like gateway to the Row featuring a two million-dollar centerpiece sculpture titled "Spirit of Music." Until completion, those of us who work on the Row will do well to share a spirit of patience.

—Chuck Aly



## SMASHVILLE

### SONG SURF



"We're bursting into the 21st century," says Warner/Chappell's Kurt Denny, one of a group of writers and pluggers who have jumped on the Web with Smashville.com.

Designed to bring songs and song-searchers together, the site was the brainchild of BMG's Chris Oglesby who asked writer Craig Wiseman to help fulfill the vision.

"It is a way for me to better exploit the BMG catalog," explains Oglesby. "Craig enlisted the help of web designer Chris Heric. Before long, more writers and pluggers also wanted to be included. Now almost every major publisher is included in some way, either through a song or a songplugger." Temporarily, visitors can enter the site using the word <smash> for both user ID and password. Surfers can listen to a verse/chorus of the available songs (using Real Audio) and then choose the ones they are most interested in. At the end of a visit, an e-mail is sent from the site to the listener, listing the songs and contacts for the chosen material. "Producers and A&R folks can just go to the site and start listening any time—night or day," Denny adds. According to Oglesby, "There's still a lot of fine tuning to be done, but the response has been fantastic."

—David M. Ross

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye

The CMA is hosting a "Town Meeting" at the Nashville Convention Center on Tuesday, November 16 from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Divided into two sessions, "Music & The Internet" and "Consolidation," the event features panelists including producer Phil Ramone, the RIAA's Hilary Rosen, WUSN's Steve Ennen, Mercury's Luke Lewis, CAA's Rob Light and Citadel Communications' Larry Wilson. (*Music Row* is a co-sponsor of the event.)

The cost is \$20 for CMA members and students, and \$35 for non-members. CMA Executive Director Ed Benson says, "If there is a must-attend event to wrap up this year and the millennium, this is it." Visit [www.cmaworld.com](http://www.cmaworld.com) for more information.

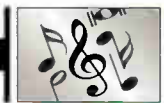
—Chuck Aly

## The Buzz

**The End Is Near Edition**

*They'll be driving around in circles on the Row (on the Row)  
They'll be driving around in circles on the Row (on the Row)...*

- MP3**—Latest technological revolution roars on while the labels twiddle, fiddle.
- Johnny Rodriguez**—If he's had a hit you must acquit.
- Opryland Y2K Bash**—Drops talent, slashes price by \$1500. Upgrades those who booked early with...free parking.
- 18 Wheels of Justice**—Liddy, Lucky, Lando and a high-tech semi. *Definitely* a better way for TNN to promote country artists.
- Country On Ice**—A sure sign of the approaching apocalypse.



# TNN Allies With Country Weekly; Radio Monolith Emerges

## NEWS

**TNN CHANGES AWARDS PARTNER**—TNN and *Country Weekly* magazine have signed a long term agreement to produce a fan-voted country music awards show, effectively dumping nine-year partner *Music City News* from TNN's annual Fan Fair week fete. The alliance will produce the first show next June, and TNN will telecast the awards live from the Gaylord Entertainment Center. Conflict arose last week as *MCN* learned of the TNN/*Country Weekly* alliance from reports in Nashville's newspaper, *The Tennessean*. *MCN* publisher Mike Jones told *Music Row* publisher



Mike Jones

David Ross that personal notification would have been a "matter of civility," and that his last communication was with TNN's Brian Hughes who said "he would get back to me." Jones also insists, "*MCN* has an ironclad contract giving us the arena for our award show." TNN contends they hold the contract to the arena for the dates in question. TNN has produced and telecast an annual fan-voted country music awards show since April 1988 when it introduced the Viewer's Choice Awards. In 1990, that awards show merged with the *Music City News Awards* to become the TNN *Music City News Country Awards*.

**MONO-LITHIC RADIO**—The nation's two largest radio groups, Clear Channel Communications and AMFM Inc., have initiated a merger that will create a company with nearly 1,000 radio stations, 425,000 billboards and two radio networks. For an estimated \$23.5 billion in stock—which makes the deal tax free—plus the assumption of \$6.1 billion in AMFM debt, Clear Channel gets AMFM's 443 radio stations. The merger establishes the country's dominant radio company and sets the stage for significant spinoffs, many in major markets.

**GIANT DROPS BAER IN REORGANIZATION**—Connie Baer, Giant Records' VP Marketing and Artist Development, has exited the label. According to label heads Doug Johnson and John Burns, Baer's position was eliminated due to financial cutbacks. This announcement comes only weeks after the label added an in-house six-member promotion team.

**CMA EXITS NETHERLANDS**—The CMA is reorganizing its European operations and has closed its Netherlands office. The Netherlands operations duties will be shared by the CMA's Nashville headquarters, the London office, and assisted by Cologne-based Jan Garich, who handles CMA operations in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Karen Holt, who headed the Netherlands unit, will reportedly join business communications company Baxter Associates based in the Netherlands.

**UMG ATTENDS CATALOG**—Universal Music Group has established Universal Music Enterprises (UME), to market UMG's catalog, the largest in the country, and specialty releases from each of the company's U.S. labels. Headed by Bruce Resnikoff, President, UME will operate with its own fully dedicated resources such as product development, marketing, publicity and creative services. UME will be the umbrella organization for five independent businesses which report to Mr. Resnikoff: Catalog Management, UTV Records, Hip-O Records, Universal Music Special Markets and Universal Film & Television Music.

**OPRY COMES HOME**—The Grand Ole Opry will return to the Ryman Auditorium for four week-ends in January. According to a report in *The Tennessean*, Opry general manager Pete Fisher says there are no plans to make the move permanent, but acknowledges that occasional visits to the Ryman are likely. The live radio show will be held at the "Mother Church of Country Music" on Jan. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29. While the Opry is temporarily at the Ryman, cleaning and a few minor upgrades will be made to the Grand Ole Opry House on Briley Parkway, Fisher said. The Ryman, originally named the Union Gospel Tabernacle, opened for religious services and other public events on May 12, 1892. It housed the Opry from 1943-74.

[continued on page 13]

## MUSICAL CHAIRS



Kevin Lane



Damon Moberly

Mercury Nashville has made the following promotions: Kevin Lane has been elevated to Senior Director of Media Relations; Damon Moberly has been named Director of Northeast Regional Promotions; Gina Weeks has been upped to Promotions Coordinator; Karen Naff has been named Creative Services Coordinator and Julie Johnson has been promoted to Marketing Coordinator. Jill Boles joins as Receptionist...Jimmy Rector has replaced Chuck Thagard as Manager/Northeast Regional Promotion at BNA Records. He was previously Mid-Atlantic Regional at Capitol Nashville...RCA/Nashville has upped Suzette Tucker from Manager/Mid-Atlantic Regional Promotion to Director...As a result of restructuring at Arista Records, the position of National Director of Promotion, held by Dave Dame, has been eliminated. All Arista promotion staff will report to VP of Promotion, Bobby Kraig.



Frank Chimento

KMG Records has announced the following staff changes: Frank Chimento has been promoted to Executive Director; Amy Wilken has been named Marketing Coordinator, Carmen Coe has been added as Production Coordinator, Jennifer Schwarz has been named International Coordinator and Executive Assistant, James Hume has been named Marketing and Management Coordinator and Brad Ford joins as A&R Assistant...Andrew Patton recently joined Word Records as National Promotions Manager...Becky Sowers has joined Sparrow Label Group as Director of Artist Development.



Curtis Green

Curtis Green has been promoted to Senior Creative Director for Famous Music's Nashville Division...Eddie Tidwell has joined Muy Bueno Music Group as Creative Director. Jim Williams has been added as Catalog Manager and Tarryn Smith has been promoted to Creative Manager...Bryan Hansen has been promoted to Manager of Licensing Administration for The Copyright Company...Debra Mayes has been upped to VP

of Music Administration at Integrity Incorporated.

The Box Music Network has announced the following staff promotions: Eric Turpin has been upped to VP Affiliate Sales & Marketing, Eastern Region; Liz Kiley has been promoted to VP of Radio and Broadcast affiliations and Michael Gannon has been named National Director of Promotion.

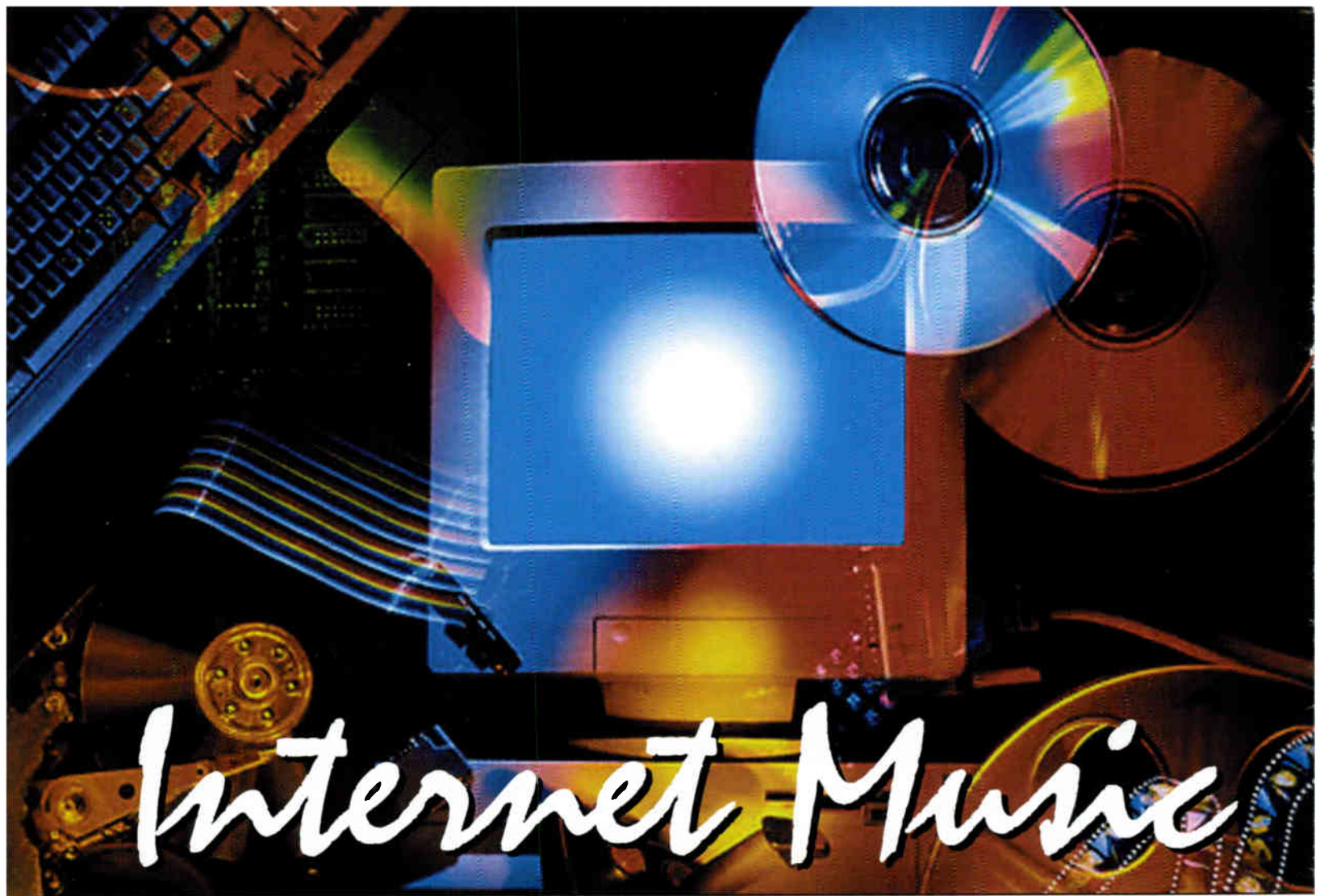


Jay Smith

Jay Smith has joined Gaylord Entertainment as Chief Creative Officer...Brad Cicoine has joined The Orsborn Company as an Associate Account Executive...Jeff Stouten has been upped to National Promotion Manager for Young-Olsen & Associates...Jeff Wayne has been promoted to President and COO of Jones International Network Ltd.

Marc Fortney and BigFish Entertainment have parted ways...JD Myers has left the Don Goodman Music Group and Earnest Whitney Entertainment.

The Press Network has relocated to 1025 17th Ave. S., Suite D, 37212. 615-322-5445... The New York office of Westwood One has relocated to 40 West 57th St., 5th Fl., NY, NY, 10019. 212-641-2000.



# Internet Music

## From Hard Drive To Hip: An MP3 Primer

by Dwight D. Heckelman

**T**here are all kinds of fascinating statistics available regarding MP3s. For example, "MP3" is one of the most frequently used queries on internet search engines. Major MP3 sites log hundreds of thousands of hits daily and thousands of MP3 downloads hourly. At CDNow, arguably the largest online music retailer, buyers often have the choice of having a CD shipped to them or downloading the album in MP3. It seems as if every week at least one major label announces an alliance with a software company to "develop and distribute the next generation of digital music." Does anyone still believe this MP3 thing is just a fad?

Regardless of how you feel about the considerable legal ramifications surrounding internet music distribution, you can still legally enjoy all that MP3 technology rather easily. First of all, it is important to understand that there is nothing inherently illegal about the MP3 file format. The law affords you the capability to create an MP3 file for your personal use from a legitimately obtained CD just as the law afforded you the capability to create a

cassette for your personal use from that same CD.

However, be aware that the law does not provide you with the right to pass that same MP3 along to other people. Once you know how to create an MP3, you may discover how deceptively easy it is to pass MP3s along. Resist that temptation lest you find yourself as part of another statistic—counterfeit internet music arrests and indictments are up more than 250 percent this year.

That being said, you are now ready to dive headfirst into the wonderful world of MP3s. You may be thinking to yourself, "Me?!? Create a music file?!? I don't even know what end of my computer to plug in, let alone create an MP-whatchacallit." There was a time when you would have been right to be leery. In the not too distant past, creating an MP3 was a formidable and time-consuming task, even to those who knew exactly what they were doing. As with all things technological (except maybe your VCR), advances in technology simplified the process. In no time at all you can be creating MP3s just like you create Word documents.

## MUST BE THIS TALL TO RIDE

In order to create an MP3, you must have the following:

- Pentium-class (or higher) Windows 95/98 computer or,
- PowerPC Macintosh running system OS 7.6.1 or higher
- CD-ROM drive (IDE or SCSI)
- System compatible sound card connected to your CD-ROM drive

(Note: If you can play audio CDs from your computer, your sound card is connected to your CD-ROM drive.)

There is some unique terminology to creating digital music that you should know before you start. Not to worry, none of these are difficult concepts—computer people make stuff like this up because they think it sounds cool. Understanding these terms will help you understand your computer a little better:

**Ripping**—Digitally extracting audio from a CD to produce an exact copy without loss of quality. Simply put, ripping copies the music off the CD and temporarily stores it in the computer. Example: "I just ripped 'Ready To Run' off Fly."

**Encoding**—Converting analog or digital multimedia content into compressed form, typically in the MP3 format. Example: "I ripped the song, but I still need to encode it."

**Bit Rate**—Speed (in seconds) at which information (in bits) is transferred for compression. Think of bit rate as a section of water pipe. The bigger the pipe, the more water it can transfer and the larger the amount of water in the pipe. All of these analogies are important for one reason only—bit rate has a direct correlation with file size. Higher bit rate equals higher sound quality, but at the cost of a larger file size. Lower bit rate means greater compression—smaller files—but reduced sound quality. "CD quality" recording is widely held to be 128kbps.

Now that you've checked your system for the appropriate requirements and have a few of the buzz words down, it's time to choose a computer program for creating and/or playing MP3 files.

## SWISS ARMY PROGRAM

There are no less than 97 software programs that play MP3 files (including Windows' own MediaPlayer). However, there are only a handful of programs that can both create and play MP3s. These programs are known as "all-in-one" utilities and provide for the easiest conversion of CDs into MP3s.

### MusicMatch 4.2

**OS: Windows 95/98**

**Price: \$29.99**

**URL: [www.musicmatch.com](http://www.musicmatch.com)**

Version 4.2 was just released a few weeks ago and is already gaining strong support. It includes a player, ripper/encoder, and a music



library (for organizing your MP3s). It also has MP3 streaming support, which allows you to listen to Internet radio. In addition, MusicMatch has line-in audio recording capabilities, so you can generate an MP3 from a secondary audio source, such as cassette tape or vinyl. If you are one of those people who can't handle two minutes of silence, this program also allows you to listen to the CD you are recording while you create your MP3.

### Real Jukebox Plus

**OS: Windows 95/98**

**Price: \$29.99**

**URL: [www.real.com](http://www.real.com)**



From one of the leaders in Internet multimedia technology, Real Jukebox plays virtually any kind of music file, even some pretty obscure ones. Like other programs in this class, it includes a player and ripper/encoder. It also has a library feature to organize your MP3s and CDs. Real Jukebox gives you the option of hearing what you are recording in real time, or you can opt to record silently.

### AudioCatalyst Workshop 2.01

**OS: Windows 95/98**

**Price: \$29.95**

**URL: [www.xingtech.com](http://www.xingtech.com)**



The ripper/encoder in this program is the one that others seek to emulate. For those of you who like a lot of control over what you are recording, this program is hard to beat. A player and ripper/encoder come standard with this software bundle, as well as an MP3 editor. The editor allows you to mix MP3s together and tweak them to your heart's content. For the rest of our discussion,

AudioCatalyst will be the program that we use to demonstrate how to create MP3s.

### SoundJam MP

**OS: Macintosh 7.6.1 or later**

**Price: \$39.99**

**URL: [www.soundjam.com](http://www.soundjam.com)**



SoundJam is currently the only all-in-one utility available for Macintosh users. But that's OK, because by all accounts it's a good program. A ripper/encoder and a player, both with well-planned interfaces, make this a good choice for the other 10% of personal computer users.

## PLAYBACK ONLY

The programs listed above are the most popular all-in-one utilities on the market today. They vary slightly in interface and features, so you may want to try several before you choose the one you like best. All have a trial period or evaluation version, so you can try several before you upgrade to the full version. For those who want the ability to play MP3s, but aren't necessarily interested in creating the files, check out the programs below.

### WinAmp

**OS: Windows 95/98**

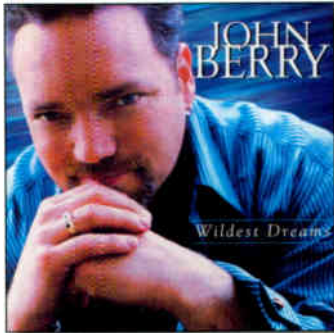
**Price: shareware (\$10 registration)**

**URL: [www.winamp.com](http://www.winamp.com)**



Far and away the most popular MP3 player, WinAmp does not have a ripper/encoder as part of its program. You will have to use another program (such as the AudioCatalyst stand-alone software) to actually create your MP3s. However, should you choose to go with a playback-only program, WinAmp has some very nice features (such

*(continued on page 18)*



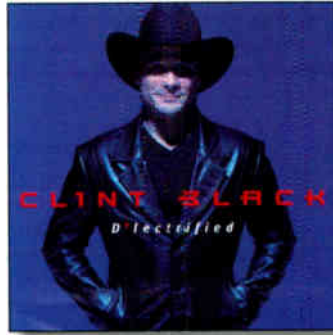
### JOHN BERRY Wildest Dreams

(Lyric Street 650005)  
Producer: Mark Spiro

**Prime Cuts:** "Power Windows," "Salvation," "You'll Be In My Heart"

**Critique:** John Berry's first album for Lyric Street Records is an ode to one's faith in the power of love: God's love, the love of a woman, the love of mankind, and love's ability to save, to heal, to nourish. The album consists of songs so positive it could just as easily find a home on Contemporary Christian charts as on country charts. Berry is easily one of the most talented singers in any genre. But he is not really a country singer, and there's little on *Wildest Dreams* to indicate otherwise. Now don't get me wrong—it's an excellently produced, wonderfully sung collection of pop songs. In fact, Berry's never sounded better. On his earlier Capitol albums his big voice was all too often buried beneath layers of guitars, drums and echo. Here, it's up front and personal and warmer than ever. He soars on Phil Collins' "You'll Be In My Heart" and rocks hard with the single "Power Windows." He also delivers an anti-violence message with the rhythmic "You're The Voice." One of the album's most powerful and moving songs is Gary Burr's "Salvation." The trucker's tale of lost love, wrong roads and a plastic Jesus comes closest to country and is eloquently sung by Berry. On "Rescued Me" the lyrics could be about a woman's love or God's saving grace as Berry sings: *I lost my faith, lost my pride/Burdened by the storms of life/But my heart found shelter, my soul found peace/When you came and rescued me.* Perhaps this will be the album that will help rescue John Berry's recording career.

—Ron Young



### Clint Black D'lectrified

(RCA-67823) Producer: Clint Black

**Prime Cuts:** "When I Said I Do,"

"Been There," "Who I Used To Be"

**Critique:** Over the last 10 years, Clint Black's music has evolved at a steady pace yet never strayed too far from his country roots. *D'lectrified*, however, changes all of that. As the name implies, there's not a single electric instrument among its 14 songs. Instead there's a deluge of piano, harmonica and even horns, which blend into a unique and creative hybrid that can, at times, hardly be considered country. But that seems to be the whole point. With four cover songs, this is also the first album that isn't entirely Black-written material. Produced by Black, *D'lectrified* starts with a cover of The Marshall Tucker Band's "Bob My Life Away." If it weren't for Black's voice, I'd surely have checked to see if I'd picked the right album. He follows with "Are You Sure Waylon Done It This Way," a liberal and admirable remake of Waylon Jennings' former hit. The album's stand-out is the beautiful "When I Said I Do," which pairs Black with wife Lisa Hartman. His voice also floats effortlessly with Steve Wariner's on the superb "Been There." Other collaborators include Bruce Hornsby, Kenny Loggins and a vocal intro from Monty Python funnyman Eric Idle on the humorous, albeit bizarre "The Galaxy Song." Black, inspired by Eric Clapton's remake of "Layla," gives fresh arrangements to his old hits—"Burn One Down," "No Time To Kill," and a tender instrumental of "Something That We Do." While you have to appreciate his complete disregard for playing it safe in a time when everybody else is, Black's latest offering is, at times, a bit too different.

—Richard McVey II



### TRACY BYRD It's About Time

(RCA-67881) Producers: Billy Joe Walker Jr., Tracy Byrd

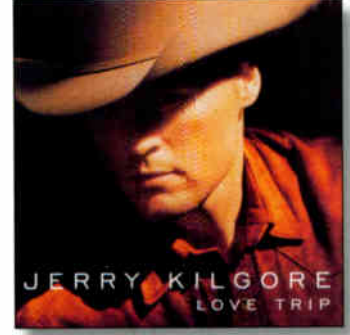
**Prime Cuts:** "Every Time I Do,"

"Ain't It Just Like A Woman,"

"A Little Love"

**Critique:** Besides the fact that this is Tracy Byrd's debut release on RCA, and his first since leaving MCA after six best-selling albums, the other thing one notices after a single listen is there are no dopey (though hit-smelling) ditties that, for better or worse, have helped to make him a star. While this may not be the through-and-through country record that Byrd has so longed to make, it comes close, though it doesn't really take off until nearly halfway down. The first part of the CD is taken up with family-oriented material that seems true yet somewhat forced. That includes the catchy title cut, another in the line of "Cat's In The Cradle," as well as more contrived sentimental pap from Skip Ewing in "Put Your Hand In Mine." But with "Every Time I Do," a chugging Shawn Camp-penned heartbreaker that features Byrd's falsetto yelp, things start to get better. The rock-edged, Waylon-esque "Love, You Ain't Seen The Last Of Me" keeps things moving in the right direction. As does the shuffle "Undo The Right," the Hank Cochran-Willie Nelson chestnut. Here, it's easy to see where Byrd got much of his singing style. Byrd comes up with a strong pair of ballads in "Ain't It Just Like A Woman," and "A Little Love." On the rambunctious Cajun-styled two-step "Something To Brag About," Byrd finally cuts loose to end his RCA debut. Throughout, he and co-producer Walker work hard to deliver some of the singer's most relaxed and finest recorded performances.

—Ron Young



### JERRY KILGORE Love Trip

(Virgin 47828-2)

Producers: Steve Bogard,

Jeff Stevens, Scott Hendricks

**Prime Cuts:** "The More I Love You," "The Look," "The Real

Thing," "Cactus In A Coffee Can"

**Critique:** With acts like Julie Reeves and Jerry Kilgore on their roster it appears that Virgin Records is trying to make their mark on Nashville by doing something other Music Row labels have forgotten how to do—releasing country songs performed by country acts. Vaguely reminiscent of early George Strait, Kilgore is the real deal. Not only is he a legitimate country act, he is also a stand-up songwriter with six co-write credits on this debut. He executes his tales of heartbreak and heartbeats in a smooth, rich style of cowboy crooning in such a relaxed manner that you get the impression that Kilgore has never been in a hurry in his life. There are only a few true uptempos on *Love Trip*, but it just proves that it's the content not the bpm that makes a great project. You can almost smell the sawdust and see the two-steppers as he strolls through each cut. "Cactus In A Coffee Can," a Steve Seskin/Allen Shamblin creation, is a beautiful but tragic story song that will move even the toughest hearts—another "Don't Laugh At Me" from these brilliant writers that could do for Kilgore what their previous hit did for Mark Wills. The Bogard/Stevens/Hendricks production collaboration is mellow sophistication loaded with thick fiddles, lonesome steel guitars and tasteful piano. This is a truly classy project. Thank goodness Virgin had the vision to sign a cowboy over a pretty boy. Hopefully, it's a trend that will catch on.

—Emilie Marchbanks-Patton





# Bobby Karl...

Always remember, boys and girls, it's not how much you sell or how cute you are that matters in this business. It's how fabulous a party you give. **Mark Hartley** hosted one for the books when he feted **Clint Black** (9/30).

Clint's *D'Lectrified* CD is a dandy, no doubt about that. But the party celebrating its release was something else. The invitation read that we were to head to Shady Acre Farm in Leiper's Fork. So we did. Who knew Mark had such a palace out there? **Pam Tillis** and I were walking through the mansion scraping our chins off the floor. "I think I counted nine sitting rooms," I said, "and this isn't even their primary residence!" "That is what really hurts," replied Pam. "We are definitely in the wrong ends of the business."

Mark told me that the original log-cabin room of the house had been kept in tact because it had a "magical" quality. Generations of the Reynolds family were born and died there and today "the most amazing songs are written there," he added. The home is used as a writer's retreat by performing songwriters so fabulous that he wouldn't even drop their names. Features include Brazilian cherry floors, a guest wing as big as your whole house, a master suite to die for and fireplaces and balconies everywhere. It overlooks exquisite Tennessee scenery, including a pond with an island in its center containing a lighted gazebo, accessible via a walking bridge. I won't even go into the patio, flower beds and fountain. A bonfire helped heat the chilly night.

**Patsy Bruce** remains the unchallenged queen of party tossers. Her Events Unlimited imported tamales wrapped in corn husks from Santa Barbara. Tortillas were filled with your choice of beef, chicken or—get this—lobster. Sweetened Mexicali shrimp and mountains of mouth watering quacamole were everywhere. A mariachi band played in the copious kitchen and got their guitars autographed by the stars. **Larry Carlton, Chris Parr, Steve Buchanan & Ree Guyer Buchanan, Lon Helton, Nancy Shapiro, Bonnie Garner, Shannon, Ron Huntsman, Brian Mansfield, David Ross, Janet E. Williams** and **Brad Schmitt** were bug-eyed over the fabulousness of it all.

**Joe Galante** announced that all of Clint's prior RCA albums are now platinum. **Steve Wariner** presented his buddy with an Ovation mandolin. "We're about to have the Clint and Steve show," said Black, "because we're both so hard to get along with." **Lisa Hartman Black** reported that she got over any stage fright on the first date of the *D'Lectrified* tour when she came out to do her part on "When I Said I Do" in front of a wildly enthusiastic hometown crowd of 20,000 in Houston. She's just as nice as her husband is; and her four pop LPs of 1978-86 were really quite good. They now

maintain a home in Green Hills, by the way.

Fabulous in quite another way was **Bill Friskics-Warren's** 40th birthday bash in East Nashville (10/2). Holly Street isn't exactly Shady Lane Farm, but the backyard was decorated with party lights, fall decorations and tables with bright cloths. The noble Americana scribe invited **Mike McCall, Jim Ridley, Ellen Pryor, Mike Janus, Elaine Wood** and neighbor **Chuck Mead** of BR5-49, among others. Earthy folk sounds were provided by **Tommy Goldsmith, Tomi Lunsford, Tom House** and **Scott Chase**. Hog Heaven was the source of the delectable barbecue.

From there we headed to the Nashville Symphony's 54th season kick-off concert (10/2) at TPAC. It was a pops concert featuring **K.T. Oslin, Lee Levine** and the **Jack Daniels Original Silver Cornet Band**. **Teddy Bart** and **Karlen Evins** hosted, struggling mightily with glitching mics. Despite her years off the road, Oslin was in superb voice and was a revelation especially on the Gershwin standards.

She also whisked us through her Broadway background, pausing memorably to perform "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" (from *Promises, Promises*) with **Sam Bacco, Kenny Malone** and **Biff Watson** as her nifty rhythm trio. **Ronn Huff** conducted, showcasing his world-class skills as an arranger. In addition to Malone and Watson, **David Hungate** and **David Hutsinger** sat in from Music Row to back the diva. Socializing in the lobby were **Dwight Wiles & Diana Johnson, April Barrows** and **Diane Petty & Blake Emmons**, among others.

A who's-who of Music Row turned out to hear the sold-out show by **Linda Ronstadt & Emmylou Harris** at the Ryman (10/4). **Nanci Griffith** and **Susanna Clark** were "Lucy and Ethel" as dates, claimed the latter. Nanci recalled being awestruck seeing Linda perform in a Houston club way back in 1970. We sat with **Jon & Cynthia Grimson, Steve Fishell & Tracy Gershon** and **Chet Flippo & Martha Hume**. But you could have tossed a rock into any row and hit a fabulon—**Garth Fundis, Kay Williams, Wes Vause, David Haley, Jamie Amos, Barry & Jewel Coburn, Matraca Berg & Jeff Hanna, Robert Reynolds, Mary Matthews, Jay Orr** or **Mike Milom**. The onstage guest celebs were also abundant. In addition to our own **Bernie Leadon** in the band, the likes of **Gillian Welch, Patty Griffin** and **Trisha Yearwood** appeared.

Emmy and Linda performed for three hours; still we wanted more. Linda calls herself

# Works The Room

retired, so this might have been our last glimpse of one of the great vocalists of our era.

**Roger Sovine** summoned us to *The General Jackson* to roast **Norro Wilson** as a benefit for the Spina Bifida Association (10/6). What a blast that turned out to be. Handsome **Bill Cody** emceed. The enduringly gifted **Con Hunley** sang. The room was packed with familiar faces—**Joe Stampley, Merle Kilgore, Ray Stevens, Eddy Arnold, Gerry House, Kenny Chesney, Shannon Brown, Wayland Holyfield, Patsy Bradley, Buddy Cannon, Bud Wendell, George Richey, Margo Smith, Bonnie Taggart, Charlie Douglas, John D. Loudermilk, Paul Lovelace** and **Ima Weathers**, to whom we sang "Happy Birthday" in honor of her 50th.

**Dave Mack** sat me at a table with **Ralph Emery, Reba McEntire & Narvel Blackstock, Ken Dudley & Barbara Mandrell** and former teen idol **Johnny Tillotson** ("Poetry In Motion," "It Keeps Right On A-Hurtin'," etc.). Babs said she'd never participated in a roast before, but was wickedly funny during her portion. She also said she wouldn't mind being roasted, herself. She rounded up Reba to take photos with one of the wheelchair kids and suggested that each snap the other. "Narvel can take care of it," Reba replied, summoning him to duty. "Once a road manager, always a road manager," he muttered humorously.

Notable album showcases of late include **Jon Randall's Willin' at The Exit/In** (9/27) and **Alecia Elliott's I'm Diggin' It at The Bound'ry** (9/21). Doing the let's-make-a-deal thing were **Emerson Drive at The Castle Door** (9/30) and **The Great Divide at The Exit/In** (10/12). On one recent Wednesday you had your choice of invites to hear **Mr. Haney** at Gibson's Guitar Cafe, **Bela Fleck** at the Ryman, **Crucial Smith** at Robert's Western Wear and/or **Damon Gray, Jennifer McCarter** and the rest of the Broken Bow roster at The Castle Door (all 10/13).

Who says this isn't a live music town?



**RIVERBOAT ROASTING**—**Norro Wilson** (L) was recently roasted by **Ray Stevens** and other Music Row royalty on the *General Jackson* as a benefit for the Spina Bifida Association. Photo: Alan Mayor



# Remembering What Made Country Music Great

The always mighty MCA Records brought out its big guns Vince and Reba, fortified by upstarts Chely and Alecia, to claim this issue's **Label of the Day** award. But the powerhouse failed to claim either of our other two categories.

In fact, all of the majors let us down in the quest for new talent. Curb had a good shot with a smooth baritone guy named Lesley McDaniel. (As long as I'm on the topic, what is the deal with releasing guys like this and Steve Holy with absolutely NO media set-up? I have never even heard of these people prior to tonight.) Asylum's entry in our sweepstakes is the equally worthy Chad Austin. But both were trumped by little Soundwaves Records, which presents us with both a swing disc and a comedy entry from a fellow named Carroll Brown, our **DISCOVERY Awardee** of the day.

Susan Ashton has had a remarkably successful career in Christian music. Others of her peers have attempted country crossovers and failed (Kim Hill, Russ Taff, etc.). If there is a record that can do what has thus far seemed impossible, Susan's sexy "Closer" is surely it. This **Disc of the Day** has what all of the best performances of tonight have, personality. Play her, Trace Adkins, Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Hank Williams III, Charlie Robison and The Mavericks and remind yourself that diversity, individual identities and, yes, personality are what used to make country music great.

## COUNTRY

### CHAD AUSTIN "All My Dreams"

Writer: Bat McGrath; Producer: Jerry Taylor/Dale Dodson; Publisher: Wanted Woman, BMI; Asylum CDX.

It's a love-song idea that is trite to the point of banality. But, gosh darn it, he sings it beautifully, the track is a delight and the whole thing is a swirl of production brilliance. If this isn't a gigantic hit record, there is simply no justice.

### TRACE ADKINS "Don't Lie"

Writer: Chet Biggers/Frank Rogers; Producer: Paul Worley; Publisher: EMI-April/Sea Gayle, ASCAP; Capitol CDX.

Artists like this give me hope for the future of country music. Hillbilly charisma... excellent steel-guitar work, too.

### LINDA DAVIS

#### "I Took The Torch Out Of His Old Flame"

Writer: Tim Ryan Rouillier/Leslie Satcher; Producer: James Stroud/Julian King; Publisher: EMI-Blackwood/Song Island/Mission Valley, BMI/ASCAP; DreamWorks CDX. Zilch.

### CHRIS LeDOUX "Stampede"

Writer: Chris LeDoux; Producer: Gregg Brown; Publisher: Lehsem, BMI; Capitol CDX. Zilch, zilch.

### SheDAISY "This Woman Needs"

Writer: Kristyn Osborn/Bonnie Baker/Connie Harrington; Producer: Dann Huff; Publisher: Without Anna/Songs of Hamstein Cumberland/The Key Club/Lelas Voice, ASCAP; Lyric Street CDX.

The message has some truth and the delivery is OK. But is warmed-over Wilson-Phillips now considered country music?

### BRYAN WHITE "God Gave Me You"

Writer: Jamie Houston/Andy Goldmark/James Dean Hicks; Producer: Dann Huff; Publisher: Warner-Tamerlane/New Non Pareil/Scoggin Songs/On the Mantel, BMI; Asylum. ...and speaking of pop...

### REBA McENTIRE "What Do You Say"

Writer: Michael Dulaney/Neil Thrasher; Producer: David Malloy/Reba; Publisher: Michael Dulaney/Dulaney House/Ensign/Major Bob, BMI/ASCAP; MCA CDX.

An intriguing stab at social commentary. The song doesn't quite hit the nail on the head lyrically or hold together structurally; but my hat's off to Reba for having the guts to make the attempt.

### CLAUDIA CHURCH "It's All Your Fault"

Writer: Annie Roboff/Fred Knobloch; Producer: Rodney Crowell; Publisher: Almo/ANWA/J. Fred Knobloch, ASCAP; Reprise CDX.

Bouncy, sunny and just vacant. How many positive love songs can this format endure before it gags on itself?

### VINCE GILL "Loving You Makes Me A Better Man"

Writer: Rodney Crowell; Producer: Tony Brown/Rodney Crowell; Publisher: Sony-ATV Tunes, ASCAP; MCA CDX.

Dazzling, hypnotic and altogether gorgeous. The string arrangement is exquisite and his prayer-at-twilight delivery is to swoon for. Track appears on the soundtrack of the film *For Love Of The Game*.

### CARROLL BROWN & ACE BASIN "On My Butt"

Writer: Chet Williamson; Producer: Larry Jefferies/Carroll Brown; Publisher: Second Sign, BMI; Soundwaves (1-800-499-7693) CDX.

"On my butt there's a picture of a lady/I put her there to get her off my mind...On my butt I left/the girl I left behind." It goes on from there. I have to admit, I laughed out loud.

### KENNY ROGERS "Buy Me A Rose"

Writer: Jim Funk/Erik Hickenlooper; Producer: Kenny Rogers/Brent Maher/Jim McKell; Publisher: Rex Benson/Stone Forest/Tripp Tunes/Blue Plate, BMI; Dreamcatcher.

Say what you will about George Jones, this guy is the comeback story of the year. He still knows a hit when he hears one.

### KENNY CHESNEY "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy"

Writer: Jim Collins/Paul Overstreet; Producer: Buddy Cannon/Norro Wilson; Publisher: EMI-Blackwood/Jelinda/Scarlet Moon, BMI; BNA CDX.

"Young country" to make you smile. Sure it's dumb, but goofiness has always been a part of what makes country charming.

### SUSAN ASHTON "Closer"

Writer: Neil Thrasher/Kent Blazy/Kim Williams; Producer: Emory Gordy Jr.; Publisher: Sophie's Choice/Major Bob/Sony-ATV Tunes/Kim Williams, BMI/ASCAP; Capitol.

Stuttering rhythm track overlaid with rippling Dobro grabs you by your earlobes and seizes your chest. Then her ultra-expressive vocal sells it, Big Time. Sexy and commercial as all get out.

### TRAVIS TRITT & GEORGE THOROGOOD

#### "Move It On Over"

Writer: Hank Williams; Producer: Ralph Sall/Travis Tritt; Publisher: Acuff-Rose/Hiriam, BMI; Asylum.

Thanks, I'll take Hank's version.

### THE MAVERICKS "Here Comes My Baby"

Writer: Cat Stevens; Producer: Raul Malo/Don Cook; Publisher: Mainstay, BMI; Mercury.

Enormous sonic joy, right down to the trumpets and handclaps. This little delight originally charted for the British Invasion act The Tremeloes in 1967.

### JO DEE MESSINA "Because You Love Me"

Writer: John Scott Sherrill/Kostas; Producer: Tim McGraw/Byron Gallimore; Publisher: Sony-ATV Songs/Nothing But the Wolf/PolyGram/Seven Angels, BMI; Curb.

What drivell. What a disappointment.

## CHRISTIAN

### JACI VELASQUEZ "Llegar A Ti"

Writer: T. Torres/A. Talamantez/A. Grulion/D. Hernandez; Producer: Rudy Perez; Publisher: Ventura, ASCAP; Sony Discos 2-475134 (track).

I dig it that it's in Spanish, as well as the ethereal pop choral harmonies. This young Nashvillian is tapping into something really fresh and original, here. The *Music of the Heart* movie soundtrack, by the way, includes

the English-language version of the track ("Love Will Find You").

**BRYAN DUNCAN & REBECCA ST. JAMES**  
"Love Takes Time"

Writer: Bryan Duncan/Chuck Barth; Producer: none listed; Publisher: Fanatic/Word/Chuck Barth, ASCAP/BMI; Myrrh.

Faintly cheesy rhythm track gets under your skin after a few moments, particularly after the alternating vocalists put layer after layer on top of it. A very cool reworking of Duncan's 1992 hit.

**NEWSBOYS** "Love Liberty Disco"

Writer: none listed; Producer: Peter Furler; Publisher: none listed; Sparrow.

This attempt to fuse the molecules of Curtis Mayfield's "Superfly" with disco's "That's the Way (uh-uh) I Like It" in the mad-scientist's laboratory results in the soulless monstrosity you might expect.

**AMERICANA**

**CHARLIE ROBISON** "My Hometown"

Writer: Charlie Robison; Producer: Charlie Robison/Lloyd Maines; Publisher: Warner-Tamerlane, BMI; Lucky Dog CDX.

True grit and true communication. I was with him on every word. Lord, I wish this

could be the mainstream of country music instead of Music Row's crap. I mean it.

**HANK III** "Devil's Daughter"

Writer: Kostas/Shelton Williams/Eddie Pleasant; Producer: Chuck Howard/Bob Campbell-Smith; Publisher: Universal/Seven Angels/Hank III/Mike Curb/Eddie Pleasant, BMI; Curb 2-77949 (track)

Deep twang on the bottom, spare sonic attack in the middle and a stone hillbilly vocal on top. The torch has been passed to a third generation of honky-tonk mastery. This kid has more musical integrity and personality than the entire rosters of some major labels in "country music" today. This has the potential of superstardom in every note. Album is titled *Risin' Outlaw*. Get it.

**MALCOLM HOLCOMBE** "Who Carried You"

Writer: Malcolm Holcombe; Producer: J. Steven Soles; Publisher: Purple Girl, BMI; Hip-O 0694904242 (track).

Many of those who seek truly individual American songwriting voices are already charter members of this man's fan club because of his Nashville nightclub appearances. Malcolm's warm, ruffled-shirt vocal rasp and vivid imagery await the rest of you. Album is titled *A Hundred Lies*. Get it.

**DOLLY PARTON** "Train Train"

Writer: Shorty Medlocke; Producer: Steve Buckingham; Publisher: copyright controlled; Sugar Hill/Blue Eye 3900 (track).

Dolly kicked every young butt in the hall when she rocked the CMA Awards with this bluegrass raver. As if her flaming-arrow delivery weren't enough, she's backed by dream-team players like Jerry Douglas, Stuart Duncan, Sam Bush and Jim Mills. Her *The Grass Is Blue* CD also features the likes of Rhonda Vincent, Alison Krauss, Patty Loveless, Claire Lynch and Dan Tyminski. Bluegrass heaven? You bet.

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Alecia Elliott**/I'm Diggin' It/MCA

**Lesley McDaniel**/I Was Over You Last Night/Curb

**Chely Wright**/It Was/MCA

**Wes McClelland**/The Seven Wonders Of My World/Plantation

**Toby Keith**/When Love Fades/DreamWorks

**Hal Bynum**/I Wanna Be/Warner Bros.

**Aaron Tippin**/What This Country Needs/Lyric Street

**Carroll Brown & Ace Basin**/All My Old Flames/Soundwaves

**Margaret Becker**/What Kind Of Love/Sparrow

**Steve Holy**/Don't Make Me Beg/Curb

**A Ragamuffin Band**/Make Me An Instrument/Myrrh

**Vestal Goodman & George Jones**/Angel Band/Pamplin

**Jon Gibson**/The Man Inside/B-Rite

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Millennium marketing is all about the "niche." Randy Wachtler and 615 Music happily found theirs years ago, as a leader in background and "identity" music. 615 and its staff of six composers create music beds for approximately 200 television stations nationwide, along with title themes and underscores for such series as TNN's *Life & Times*, A&E's *Biography* (for which 615 won an Emmy in 1996), and *Movies In Time* for the History Channel.

Wachtler, a Minneapolis native and skilled musician, started 615 in 1985 while attending Middle Tennessee State University. "We almost starved to death for three years," he laughs. The loosely-

termed "company" rented space behind Masterfonics Studio, and went about the task of niche-seeking. In 1988, 615 developed an award-winning musical spot for the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers. "That snowballed into other work," Wachtler says. "People knew we did the Lakers spot, and all of a sudden they wanted to meet with us."

The snowball has evolved into a near-avalanche. "We are the second largest studio in the country for background and promotional music," Wachtler says evenly. "We've scored about 225 episodes of different series, and created commercial music for Wendy's, Ford, Sears."

Composing in the commercial area involves a combination of

music and psychology. "We try to create something simple enough to remember, but not too complicated for the listener," Wachtler explains. "You come up with note combinations that give the client a personality. If you're doing music for a TV station's newscast, it's often very fast-paced and creates a sense of urgency. What the music is trying to say is, 'There's something going on, and we have the answer. It's important for you to watch.' Other stations might want to sound more authoritative, which is where large orchestras come into play. We have to think as marketing people, not just as music people. A client has only two ways to get to the consumer—through the eyes and through the ears. Our job is to set the tone."

The bulk of the writing is done by the staff composers and, occasionally, freelancers. "We're always looking for hot young writers who are proficient in scoring. We also develop pieces with some of the songwriters around town when the client needs lyrics along with

the music. Greg Barnhill and I recently wrote a song for the Cleveland Browns promotional campaign, for example." Another current project stars actor Kelsey Grammer (*Frasier*) in a singing role, performing a 615-composed tune for *World Animal Day*, set to air on cable's Animal Planet channel.

After numerous requests from clients, Wachtler launched the 615 Music Library, a collection of 65 CDs containing several different styles of background music. "Television stations, corporations and other clients use the library when they need certain types of music for background," Wachtler says. "We produce 10 new CDs a year for the library."

Wachtler looks to movie soundtracks as the next logical area for the company. "We haven't really competed in that arena yet, but I would love to do films. Our main studio can accommodate 48 pieces, so I believe we could handle that. It would be great to hear more soundtracks coming out of Nashville."

—Bob Paxman



**THE GREAT AMERICAN COUNTRY TOP FIFTEEN COUNTDOWN**

October 15th, 1999  
Hosted This Week By: The Kinleys

1. Something Like That • **Tim McGraw** • Curb
2. I Love You • **Martina McBride** • RCA
3. Ready To Run • **Dixie Chicks** • Monument
4. Single White Female • **Chely Wright** • MCA
5. Crush • **Lila McCann** • Asylum
6. Man, I Feel... • **Shania Twain** • Mercury
7. Please Remember Me • **Tim McGraw** • Curb
8. Never Been Kissed • **Sherrie Austin** • Arista
9. Amazed • **Lonestar** • BNA
10. You Go First • **Jessica Andrews** • DreamWorks
11. You've Got A Way • **Shania Twain** • Mercury
12. It Was • **Chely Wright** • MCA
13. The Secret Of Life • **Faith Hill** • Warner Bros.
14. She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy • **Kenny Chesney** • BNA
15. I Ain't Missing You • **Brooks & Dunn** • Arista

The G\*A\*C Top 15 Country Countdown is derived entirely from votes received from our viewers at our website: <http://www.countrystars.com>



**SMALL TOWN HOMAGE**—Alan Jackson (seated) recently paid tribute to the struggles of small town America with his song and video "Little Man," directed by Steven Goldmann and filmed in small towns throughout Georgia, Tennessee and Florida.



COUNTRY MUSIC TELEVISION

42 million households

**TOP TWELVE COUNTDOWN**  
(October 13, 1999)

1. **Martina McBride** • I Love You • RCA
2. **Sherrie Austin** • Never Been Kissed • Arista
3. **Tim McGraw** • Something Like That • Curb
4. **Mark Wills** • She's In Love • Mercury
5. **Montgomery Gentry** • Lonely And Gone • Columbia
6. **Dixie Chicks** • Ready To Run • Monument
7. **Jessica Andrews** • You Go First • DreamWorks
8. **Brooks & Dunn** • I Ain't Missing You • Arista
9. **Trisha Yearwood** • I'll Still Love You More • MCA
10. **Dwight Yoakam** • Thinking About Leaving • Reprise
11. **Chad Brock** • Lightning Does The Work • Warner Bros
12. **John Michael Montgomery** • Home To You • Atlantic

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27 Music Sq. E. ....255-9957  
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**BUSINESS NEWS**

ASCAP recently expanded its business structure by dividing into four distinct business groups led by newly appointed executives.

The performing rights group, led by Al Wallace, will provide an enhanced focus on ASCAP's core business of licensing, performance tracking, distribution, and will also handle International Services and oversee the delivery of the International Music Joint Venture benefits to ASCAP members.

The Membership Group, headed up by Todd Brabec, will focus solely on the needs of ASCAP members by expanding services in the areas of payments, career development, benefits, education, communication and recognition. The Enterprises Group will be fronted by Marc Morgenstern and will serve as the entrepreneurial center focusing on internet activities, as well as investing and partnering in developing technologies and ventures. The Headquarters Group, which will report to John A. LoFrumento, will provide company-wide support in the areas of marketing financial, legal, human resources and legislative affairs...

Gaylord Entertainment Company has finalized the sale of KTVT-TV of Dallas-Ft. Worth, to CBS. Gaylord received shares of CBS Series B convertible preferred stock in the tax-free exchange. These shares will be convertible at any time into approximately 10.1 million shares of CBS common stock, and will have the same characteristics of CBS's common stock. In addition, Gaylord is expected to receive \$1 million of advertising time on the station annually over the next 10 years...

CMT International has launched its own web site at [www.oneCountry.com](http://www.oneCountry.com). The site, developed by Australian-based Massive Interaction, contains numerous informative and interactive features in several languages...

Over two million people recently tuned into the United Kingdom broadcast of the 33rd Annual CMA Awards Show. BBC-2 television aired an edited 90-minute version of the program, while BBC-2 radio dedicated a week to special country music programming, including live coverage from the Awards show...

Opryland Hotel has formed a partnership with AVW Audio Visual, Inc. to provide hotel clients with a complete range of audio and video presentation technology services. Effective December 1, 1999, the company will begin service as the official recommended contractor with on-site capabilities at the hotel. Jamie Gresham will serve as General Manager...



Charles Osgood

CRS 2000 will be held March 1-4 at the Nashville Convention Center. The theme of the event is "Growth Through Sharing In The New Millennium." Charles Osgood will serve as key note speaker. 327-4487...

**Writer's Notes****Bob DiPiero****BIRTHPLACE:** Youngstown, Ohio**YEARS IN NASHVILLE:** 20**PUBLISHER:** Love Monkey Music/Sony Tree**HITS/CUTS/CHART ACTION:** 13 No. 1s including Neal McCoy's "Wink," "Take Me As I Am," Faith Hill; "Till You Love Me," Reba McEntire; "Worlds Apart," Vince Gill; "Blue Clear Sky," George Strait; and "Daddy's Money," Ricochet. Has songs just recorded by Reba, Martina McBride, Faith Hill, Brooks & Dunn, Tim McGraw, Toby Keith, Lonestar and Shane Minor**FAVORITE SONG YOU WROTE:** "Worlds Apart"**FAVORITE SONG YOU DIDN'T WRITE:** "My Funny Valentine," "Like A Rolling Stone," "Louie, Louie"**ON WHAT INSTRUMENT DO YOU WRITE?** Guitar**INFLUENCES:** Lennon/McCartney, Jagger/Richards, Homer/Jethro**ADVICE TO WRITERS:** Protect your health and protect your spirit. The music industry can be very corrosive to both.**LITTLE KNOWN BIOGRAPHICAL FACT:** Turned down a football scholarship to Dartmouth College to play in a rock 'n' roll band.**ISSUES FACING SONGWRITERS TODAY:** There are too many gatekeepers between the song and the audience. We as a community must simplify this process. We are overthinking ourselves into bad health. It is our duty as creative people to stir the pot, continue to dream, be unrealistic, a little unreasonable and highly irreverent while remaining inspired enough to write something that will bust all the gates down.

**Bob DiPiero is one of the most celebrated, successful songwriters in the Nashville songwriting community. He earned his stripes in his home-town rock 'n' roll circuit, which also put him through Youngtown State University's Dana School of Music. DiPiero moved to Nashville in the late '70s and taught music lessons to support himself while he developed his songwriting skills and career. His first publishing deal was with the legendary Combine Music, home of such high-caliber writers as Kris Kristofferson, Tony Joe White and Larry Gatlin. His first cut was with Reba McEntire, but his career was launched with the Oak Ridge Boys' recording of "American Made." We asked DiPiero how he has sustained such an extraordinary career.**

I think I've sustained my career by approaching what I do not as a job, but as being a student. This is a learning process. And a student is never done learning, as far as I'm concerned. As long as you continue to learn, your viewpoint is a fresh one. **What did you mean about simplifying the process of getting the song to the consumer?** There are some great minds in this business—Tony Brown, Tim DuBois—I have great respect for the top of the creative food chain in this town. It's that middle part of the food chain that should try and help the process, not try to impose their belief. I think a lot of good songs get lost and a lot of artists' careers get diluted in that process. **What was it like being a Combine writer in those early days?** There are three major watershed events in my life as far as being a musician and a songwriter. One was seeing the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, one was a professor I had in school, Tony Leonardi, who was a total be-bop jazz fanatic and so inspirational. And the third is Combine. It was like being in a musical petrie dish. [Bob] Beckham was one of the last of the old school publishers. He had an uncanny ability to find one-of-a-kind characters. A lot of it was serendipity; it was a small in-house organization, and Beckham didn't even allow us to write with anyone outside of Combine, which was great because it allowed me to hang around someone like Dennis Linde, who I think is one of the true geniuses of Nashville. I got to be around people like Steve Earle and John Scott Sherrill and Tim Kregel—people who were trying to do what I was trying to do. We were like a gang. **If you could have any three people from any time in history over to dinner, who would they be?** Jesus, Marilyn Monroe and John Lennon.



## RIAA Certifications SEPTEMBER

### PLATINUM

Dixie Chicks—*Wide Open Spaces*—Monument (7x)  
Lonestar—*Lonely Grill*—BNA  
Lee Ann Womack—*Lee Ann Womack*—Decca

### GOLD

Lee Ann Womack—*Some Things I Know*—Decca  
Kenny Rogers—*She Rides Wild Horses*—Dreamcatcher

## SIGNINGS RECORDING

The Star Room Boys • Checkered Past Records  
Joanie Keller • Broken Bow

### PUBLISHING

Robin Lee Bruce • (re-signed) Big Tractor Music  
Jess Leary • (re-signed) Froehlig Palmer Music Group  
Austin Cunningham • (re-signed) Froehlig Palmer Music Group

### BOOKING

Janie Fricke • Bobby Roberts Company  
Three Strand • The Greg Oliver Agency  
Tommy Overstreet • MSP, Inc.

## UPCOMING ALBUM RELEASES

### November 9

George Jones—*Live*—Asylum  
The Mavericks—*Super Colossal Smash Hits Of The 90's,  
The Best Of The Mavericks*—Mercury  
Faith Hill—*Breathe*—Warner Bros.

### November 23

Tyler England—Title TBA—Capitol  
Keith Harling—*Bring It On*—Giant  
Reba McEntire—*So Good Together*—MCA  
Garth Brooks—*Garth Brooks & The Magic of Christmas*—  
Capitol

### December 14

Chad Austin—*All My Dreams*—Asylum

## TOP OF THE CHRISTIAN CHARTS CHRISTIAN HIT RADIO

"Get Down" • Audio Adrenaline • Forefront

### INSPIRATIONAL

"Be Still And Know" • Steven Curtis Chapman • Sparrow

### ADULT CONTEMPORARY

"Run To You" • Twila Paris • Sparrow

### ROCK

"Underdog" • Audio Adrenaline • Forefront

### GOSPEL SALES

*Mountain High Valley Low* • Yolanda Adams • Elektra

### CHRISTIAN SALES

*Speechless* • Steven Curtis Chapman • Sparrow

### GENERAL MARKET ALBUM SALES

*Voice Of An Angel* • Charlotte Church • SNYC

Source: CCM Update 10/11/99. Reprinted by permission.

CD Radio, the satellite-to-car radio broadcaster, has announced an exclusive agreement to add National Public Radio's *Car Talk* to the CD Radio program lineup. CD Radio will not only broadcast the weekly show on one of its two NPR-produced channels but will develop the show's extensive archives of past programs for use on several of CD Radio's non-music entertainment channels...

EMTEC Pro Media, Inc., North American sales and marketing group for BASF-brand recording products has awarded three grants totaling \$30,000 to help preserve America's musical heritage. The in-kind grants valued at \$10,000 each will go to the Country Music Hall of Fame, the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, and the Louis Armstrong Archives at Queens College...



Willie Nelson

**Nelson, Roy Orbison, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Tammy Wynette and Emmylou Harris...**

The 6th Annual Country in the Rockies event hosted by BMI is set for February 9-13 in Crested Butte, Colorado. Celebrities already confirmed include **Delbert McClinton, Chely Wright, Aaron Baker and Robert Earl Keen.** 615-401-2771...

Comanche Sound Studio and Hometown Mortgage Services have joined together to make finance options available to the studio's clients. 615-316-0160...

Emerald Entertainment recently celebrated the grand opening of Emerald Building Two. Located at 28 Music Square E., Building Two features a new digital audio post suite and the newly remodeled Masterfonics Mastering Suites 1 and 2...

Liquid Audio, Diamond Disc Audio, and theorchard.com have signed on as sponsor for Indie Music Week, scheduled for November 10-13 in Nashville. 615-860-4084...

## LABEL NEWS

Tri Chord Records, an independent label, has opened in Nashville. **Bill Glenn** serves as President with **Dena DiVito** as VP of Artist Development and **Steve Miller** as General Manager. **Marty Raybon** is the first artist on the roster. In addition to the label, Tri Chord also includes a publishing division, Tri Chord Music...

## PUBLISHING NEWS

Universal Music Group's worldwide publishing operations have now completed a name change and are now known as the Universal

Music Publishing Group. In the U.S. the new ASCAP company is Universal Music Corp.; the new BMI company is Songs of Universal, and the new SESAC company is Universal Tunes. Existing publishing catalogs have been given a "Universal" prefix, i.e. Universal-MCA, Universal-Island. Universal's first global meeting of the new publishing division was held recently in Newport Beach, California...

**Melissa Varallo** of Harley Music Group recently entered into an independent song-plugging arrangement with **Jimmy Scott, Kim Patton Johnston, and John Greenebaum.** 615-352-2787...

**Lori Loving**, President of music publishing administration business The Loving Company, has announced these recent signings: **Amy Grant, Grant Girls Music; Gary Chapman, Locally Owned Music; Jeff King, Dry Valley Music; Roscoe Meek, Right In The Notes; and Thad Beaty** with Bouleetos Music...

## ARTIST NEWS

Thanks to the recent release of *Patsy Cline Duets*, **Patsy Cline** becomes the fourth artist to appear on *Billboard's* country chart in the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s. Other artists that have accomplished this honor are **Elvis Presley, George Jones and Brenda Lee...**



Patsy Cline

**Alan Jackson** is CMT's November Showcase Artist...

**Jessica Andrews** was recently honored by her home county with the first-ever Carroll County Outstanding Youth Achievement Award in recognition of talent and national prominence in the music business. Actress **Dixie Carter-Holbrook** was also honored...

**Diamond Rio, Loretta Lynn, Martina McBride, Lorrie Morgan, Marty Stuart, Trace Adkins, John Berry, Jo Dee Messina and Brad Paisley** were among the stars performing during the Grand Ole Opry's 74th Birthday Bash held October 15-16...

**Marty Stuart** is being featured in a one-hour video for the "Experience The Music" project in Seattle, WA. The museum, opening in 2000, is devoted to the history of music and has a special focus on guitars, which will feature the perspectives of Stuart, **Chet Atkins**, and other guitar greats...



Merle Haggard

**Merle Haggard's** autobiography *My House Of Memories*, was released October 14...

**SHedAISY** recently made their Grand Ole Opry debut...

**Gene Autry** was honored recently with a stretch of Los Angeles freeway named The Gene Autry Memorial Interchange...

Janie Fricke has provided scholarships at her alma mater, Indiana University, to benefit gifted students in the School of Music...

### BOOKING/TOURING NEWS

LeAnn Rimes will tour Europe in May, followed by 30-40 headlining U.S. dates beginning in June...

Shane Minor will join labelmate Shania Twain on the final leg of her North American tour. The first show kicks off November 14 in Irving Texas and will wrap up December 5 in West Palm Beach, Florida...

### BENEFIT NEWS

Faith Hill has designed an original Christmas card that will benefit the Starlight Children's Foundation. Also contributing cards art are Mike Myers, Rosie O'Donnell, Bette Midler and Drew Barrymore. Hill's "snow-family caroling card" is available by calling 1-877-316-STAR...



Neal McCoy

Neal McCoy, Charley Pride, Lorrie Morgan, Kevin Sharp and B.J. Thomas joined athletes Karl Malone, Nolan Ryan, and Danny Darwin for a recent benefit concert, golf tournament and auction that raised \$200,000 for the East

Texas Angel Network (ETAN). Chartered in the spring of 1995 by McCoy and his wife Melinda, ETAN provides financial assistance for medical treatments and related costs to families with children suffering from serious diseases...

Vince Gill recently teamed up with radio station Froggy 94 to raise money for the Memphis chapter of Make-A-Wish Foundation. His guitar was auctioned off for \$20,000...

Those interested in making contributions to North Carolina Flood Victims can send donations to Sandy Neese c/o Mercury Records, 66 Music Square W., Nashville, TN 37203...

### TV/FILM NEWS

CMT recently premiered a new weekly series that reveals the behind-the-scenes happenings on the sets of music videos. *Face The Music* features country music stars in a fast-paced 30-minute program telling their own stories about what really happened as their videos were being made...

TNN and Eyemark Entertainment have teamed up to launch *18 Wheels Of Justice*, a new weekly action drama starring Lucky Vanous, Billy Dee Williams and G. Gordon Liddy. Country artists and their music will be featured on the program. Gary Allan is set to star in the show's premiere, scheduled for January 2000...

Roy Clark will join the children of Conway Twitty, Faron Young, Roger Miller, Marty Robbins, Tammy Wynette and Hank

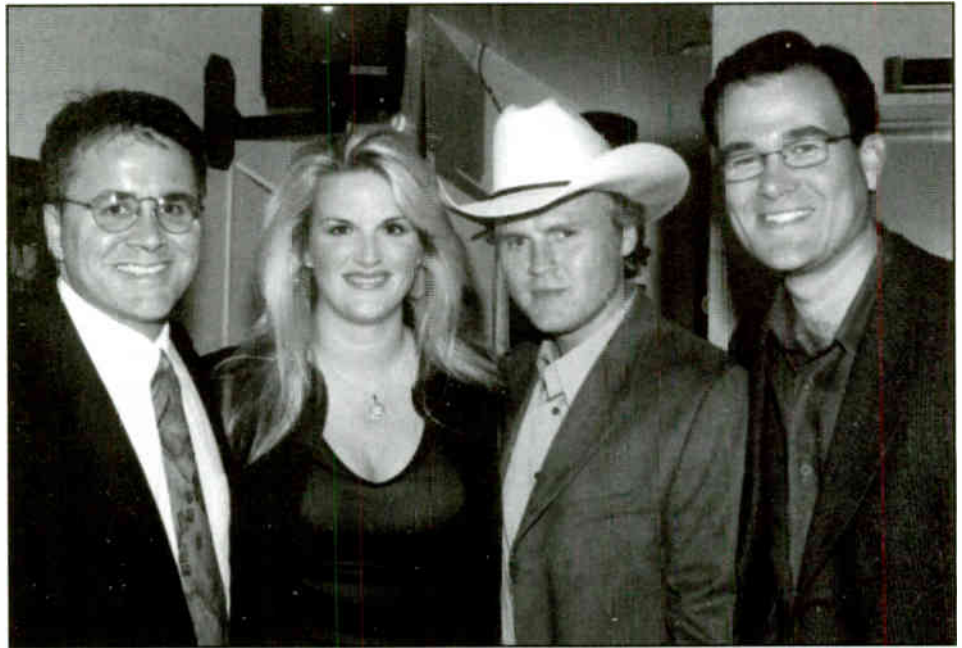


PHOTO OP(RY)—Virgin recording artist Jerry Kilgore made his Grand Ole Opry debut recently. Congratulating him backstage are L-R: Grand Ole Opry GM Pete Fisher, Opry member Trisha Yearwood, Kilgore, and Grand Ole Opry Group President Steve Buchanan. Photo: Alan Mayor

Williams to perform their parent's classic recordings during *Country's Family Reunion & The Young Uns*, set to air November 20 on TNN...

Thom Bresh will be featured on the soundtrack and as an extra in the upcoming feature film *Mi Amigos*...

### CHRISTIAN NEWS

101.1 FM "The One" Nashville recently became the first commercial station in the market devoted solely to adult contemporary Christian music. Replacing all-jazz programming, "The One" is owned by AMFM Inc...

In a move to bring stronger visibility to Christian radio airplay, the Christian Music Trade Association is currently test marketing Broadcast Data Systems (BDS) technology in 20 to 25 radio markets in hopes of generating label support for a BDS-generated Christian AC radio chart. Results of the tests, as well as the future for the proposed chart, will be announced by the end of the year...

Former Benson artist Michael O'Brien has signed on as an official member of NewSong. O'Brien replaces Russ Lee, who departed the group earlier this year to pursue a solo career...

Lutheran Hour Ministries' weekly television talk show, *On Main Street*, recently received its first Emmy Award for the episode, *Forgiving The Unforgivable*, featuring Debbie Morris, author of "Forgiving Dead Man Walking"...

Jeff Moseley has launched M2.0 Communications, an independent label. The Nashville-based label, which has inked a deal with Word Distribution, has signed former Warner Alliance act Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir as its first artist...



Jeff Moseley

Provident Music Group and EMI Christian Music Group staff members joined as the largest corporate team to participate in the Leukemia Society "Light The Night" Benefit Walk held recently in Brentwood. Over \$50,000 was raised to fight

against Leukemia and other related diseases...

William J. Reynolds recently received an ASCAP Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award for his five decade contribution to church and gospel music. \*

## Turnstiles

Country and western music historian Dorothy Horstman passed away September 13 of lung cancer...

Adam Stein, 20, died on October 11 after a sports related injury. Stein, son of Burt and Sanna Stein, was a student at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. In lieu of flowers, memorials and donations may be sent to the Downtown YMCA "We Build People" program at 900 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203, attention Jeff Jowdy.



# Ballet Tights, A Heatwave and ProTools

Like him or not, Garth Brooks continues to tweak people's curiosity. I hadn't heard his new Chris Gaines project when a girl in the office made a comment about him sporting ballet tights in one pic within the covers of the CD pack. That I had to see. I knew my young buddy John Bell, Jr. had recently scored a copy and I proceeded to borrow it from him. I saw the picture. No comment. But I also listened to the album and have to say that I really liked what I heard. Hey, he's a millionaire and he's having fun, more power to him. He brought that fun to **Seventeen Grand** for two weeks in September for the television special videotaped in August and aired on September 28th on NBC. Jim Baird engineered the project on the Euphonix CX3000 with the help of assistants Bobby Morse and Chris Scherbak. "I'd never worked on the Euphonix before," said Baird, "We had two 48-track digital machines locked together with video. The Euphonix has 96 automated inputs so it was ideal for this project"...River Road rushes over to the Virgin label and worked on mixes at **The Castle** with producers Trey Bruce

and Justin Niebank, who also engineered along with Bob Horn...Arista's Siberian Heatwave warmed up for their new project at **Creative Recording** with Brent Maher producing and engineering along with Philip Scoggins...Paul Worley and Martina McBride produced her latest mixes for RCA at the **Money Pit** with Clarke Schleicher at the boards...And Producer Dick Williams mixed it up at **Recording Arts** for Warner Brothers' Anita Cochran with engineers John Jaszcz and Grant Greene.

In equipment news, **Antarctica** recently installed a ProTools 24-bit, 32 channel system with an expanded ProControl console. They also added Dynaudio Acoustics studio monitors driven by a Crown Reference 1 amplifier and a Roland V-Drum kit to their tracking studio and installed a GML Noise Filter to their Audio Restoration room...**Dark Horse** purchased three Otari Radar II's and made Jane Crowley their new Office Administrator. Emerald Sound has hired two new staffers, Jason Breckling and Scott Kidd. See ya next month!

## Artist Producer Engineer Label Project

### 615 MUSIC

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
ABC-TV "The View"	Barnhill/Wachtler	Mark Meyer	-	promo
WCIU-TV	"	"	-	station image
HGTV	"	Kent Madison	-	"Design @ 9"
SAT. 1 Berlin Germany	Snider/Wachtler	"	-	title theme
HGTV	Rutherford/Wachtler	"	-	"Kitty B"

### ANTARCTICA

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
Robert Hart	Robert Hart	Mike Griffith	Still Working	demos
Ryan Murphy	Ryan Murphy	"	"	"
Will Nance	Will Nance	"	"	"
Abra Moore	Jay Joyce	"	Arista	od's
Kim's Fable	Beasley/Griffith	"	-	album
Bush	K.D. Bush	John Treveltham	Keep It Wicked	"

### AUDIO PRODUCTIONS

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
Keith Urban	Tim Riley	Travis Turk	Capitol	Starliners
Trace Adkins	"	Jim Reylund	"	"
Nanci Griffith	Richard Wooten	Bob Borquez	Elektra	BBC interviews
Montgomery-Gentry	Westwood One Ent.	"	Sony	Cntry/Cntdown
Brad Paisley	"	"	Arista	"
Steve Wariner	"	"	Capitol	"

### THE CASTLE

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
River Road	Bruce/Niebank	Niebank/Horn	Virgin	mix
Charity	Mark Heimermann	Rabbins/Costa	Gravity	"
Toni Catlin	Preston Sullivan	Mike Janas	-	od's
Sharif Iman	Frank Rogers	Mills Logan	EMI	"
Winter Garden	Steve Zaccane	Mike Janas	-	master
Millennium Chorus	Greg Nelson	Deaton/Chen	-	od's
Music Partners	J.C. Meyer	Mike Janas	-	od's/mix
Riley Armstrong	Armstrong/Stuart	Swihart/Spinner/Bowmer/Purcell	Flicker	od's/mix
Jennifer Knapp	Mark Stuart	Aaron Swihart	Gatee	od's
Song demos	Russell/O'Brien	Mike Griffith	Tower 1	mix

### CREATIVE RECORDING

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
Bruce Robison	Frank Liddell	Paul Scaife	Carnival	-
Billy Yates	Jan Mabe	Rudin/Logan	EMI	-
Siberian Heatwave	Brent Maher	Maher/Scoggins	Arista	-
Paid In Full	Woody Wright	Wright/Scaife	Springhouse	-
Dogs On The Roof	Davis/Hale	Mills Logan	-	-

## Artist Producer Engineer Label Project

### DARK HORSE

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
The Judds	Gary Nicholson	Derek Bason	Mercury	od's
Kirk Whalum	Kirk Whalum	Ed Simanton	-	trax
Terri Clark	Stewart Smith	Jim Dineen	Mercury	"
Martina McBride	Paul Reeves	Mike Poole	Tangible Vision	mix
John Wesley Harding	Joe Baldridge	Joe Baldridge	Hollywood	"
Jennifer Knapp	Mark Stewart	Aaron Swihart	Gotee	od's

### EMERALD SOUND

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
Collin Raye	John Hobbs	Seay/Saylor/Fowler/Ditt	Sony Wander	trax/od's
James Prosser	Connan/Wilson	Sherrill/Piske/Rowe	Warner Bras.	trax/od's
George Strait	Tony Brown	Justin Niebank	MCA	Vocal comps
Faith Hill	Dann Huff	Balding/Hogen	Warner Bras.	Trax/od's
Kincaid	Howell/Lamar	Fowler/Ditt	Warner Bras.	Trax/od's
Patty Loveless	Emory Gordy Jr.	Martin/Frigo	Epic	od's

### ISLAND BOUND

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
Steven Dale Jones	-	Bart Busch	-	demos
Dr. Dan	David Z.	David Z./J. Kovell	Terminus	od's
Roger Cook	-	Adam Hatley	-	demos
Jeff Wood	-	Mike Poole	-	"
Scott Jones	Anthony Smith	Busch/Hatley	-	vocals
Gary Cotton	-	Adam Hatley	-	demos

### THE MONEY PIT

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
The Players	Hobbs/Bayers/Mason/Rhodes/Franklin	Hellerman/Hochler	-	trax
Carolyn Dawn Johnson	Paul Worley	Clarke Schleicher	Arista	od's
Martina McBride	Warley/McBride	"	RCA	mix

### RECORDING ARTS

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
Shaded Red	Jonathan Roberts	Alvard/Johnson	Cadence	mix
Anita Cochran	Dick Williams	Jaszcz/Greene	Warner Bras.	"
FFH	Scott Williams	Salvo/Greene/VOID	Essential	"

### SCRUGGS

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
Starstruck	Col Sweat	Richard Barrow	-	demos
EMI	Chet Biggers	"	-	"
Billy Troy	Troy/Moore	"	OMS	album
Jash Graves	"	"	"	"
Jake Matthews	Steve Fishell	Mike Poole	-	demos
Secret Garden	Wayland Patton	Dennis Ritchie	-	"



Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
<b>SEVENTEEN GRAND</b>				
Garth Brooks	Garth Brooks	Jim Baird	Capitol	mix/od's/TV
Martina McBride	McBride/Worley	Mike Poole	RCA	od's/Chrstm
.38 Special	Ben Fowler	Ben Fowler	-	mix/od's
Allison Moorer	Kenny Greenberg	Don Smith	MCA	"
Take 6	Jake Niceley	Jake Niceley	Wamer Bros.	5.1 mix
Dolly Parton	Steve Buckingham	Gary Paczosa	Sugar Hill	mix for CMA's
Al Denson	Robert White Johnson	Gary Dales	Spring Hill	trax
<b>STARSTRUCK</b>				
Millennium Chorus	Greg Nelson	Deaton/Chan	-	od's/mix
Tim Rushlow	David Malloy	Beamish/Kresco	Atlantic	mix
Kortney Kayle	"	"	Lytic St.	"
Offsides	Josh Lea	"	Wamer Bros.	"
Reba McEntire	Brown/Reba	Lewis/Rodriguez	MCA	od's
Jennifer Hanson	Mark Spiro	Bason/McConkey	-	mix
Nikki Hassman	Adam Anders	Shipley/Chan	-	"
Faith Hill	Byron Gollimore	Shipley/Rodriguez	Wamer Bros.	"
Faith Hill	Dan Huff	"	"	"
Reba/Jose&Dural	Brown/Mello	Marcantonio/Rodriguez	MCA	od's
Reba/Jose&Dural	"	Balding/Chan	"	mix

Artist	Producer	Engineer	Label	Project
<b>STUDIO 19</b>				
Jameson Clark	-	Dave Matthews	BMG	demo
Shane Teeters	Shane Teeters	"	Marathon Key	"
Annie Roboff	Annie Roboff	"	Almo Irving	"
Jennifer Kimball	Jennifer Kimball	"	EMI	"
The Stephens Sisters	Richie Owens	"	Rounder	album
Wayne Tester	Wayne Tester	"	Disney	demo
IDA	Michael Waddell	Jim Pace	Waddell	album
Patsy's Attic	Pace/Arntz	"	Ordeal	album
Jon E. Conley	Jon E. Conley	"	Kent Sweetheart	demo
John Rotch	John Rotch	Dave Matthews	Almo Irving	"
Craig Wiseman	Craig Wiseman	"	"	"
<b>STUDIO 20</b>				
Marie Bellet	Larry Rogers	Larry Rogers	Elm Street	album
IDA	Michael Waddell	Jim Pace	Waddell Mgmt.	demo
Robin Palmer	Steve May	"	Ministry Now	gospel
Jeff Cobble	Pace/Arntz	"	-	guitar proj.
ABS Productions	Billy Adair	John York	ABS	jingle
Tammy Cochran	Anthony Martin	Jim Cotton	Sony	pre-prod. demo
Various	Various/Eric Homer	Homer/Pace	Makin' Tracks	song



ONE-ON-ONE ON WESTWOOD ONE—Westwood One President of Programming Ed Salamon (L) recently welcomed Randy Travis to New York to promote his new album *A Man Ain't Made Of Stone*.



EVERYTHING IS GRAND—Dolly Parton and Garth Brooks recently recorded at Nashville's Seventeen Grand Recording. Pictured L-R: Parton, Seventeen Grand's Tanya Neales, Brooks.



A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS—Reba McEntire recently participated with over 60 artists in Huntsman Entertainment's *Live From Nashville* at Oceanway Studio on Music Row. Pictured (seated L-R) Laurie DeYoung, WPOC; Reba; (standing L-R) Gary Dixon-KASE, Carrie Sapp, KASE; Alan Sledge, KNIX CMA Large Market Station of the Year; Tim Hattrick, KNIX; Sheila Silverstein, WPOC; Willy D. Loon, KNIX; Suzy Martin, KNIX; Kay Thomas, WKHK; Ron Huntsman, President Huntsman Entertainment; Rick Campbell, WKHK; Rob Mason, KASE; Chris Barber, KNIX; W. Steven Martin, KNIX CMA Personality of the Year. Photo: Karen Will Rogers

[continued from page 7]

as EQ and playlist editors pictured above) that make it worth considering. WinAmp is a fully featured shareware program, so it is also a good choice for those on a budget.

**MacAST (formerly MacAmp)**  
**OS: Macintosh OS 7.5**  
**Price: shareware (\$25 registration)**  
**URL: www.macast.com**

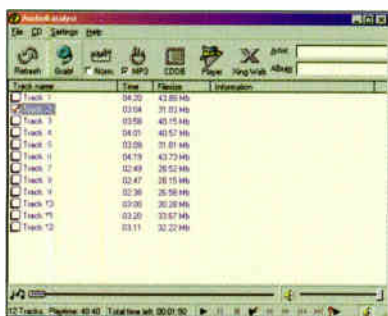


Likewise, MacAst is included in this list because MacAmp is the most popular Macintosh MP3 player. Like WinAmp, MacAst does not have ripping/encoding capabilities, so a stand-alone ripper/encoder will be needed to generate MP3s. Again, advanced users will like the extra features MacAst has to offer them.

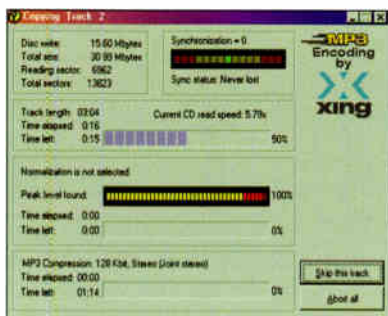
### CONNECT THE DOTS

So you have made a totally objective decision and selected one of the all-in-one utilities listed above. There is nothing tricky about the installation process, just install the software as you would any other. For most of us, that means clicking "yes" and "ok" whenever asked a question. Once installation is complete, stick an audio CD into your CD-ROM drive and launch the ripper/encoder program (AudioCatalyst, in this case).

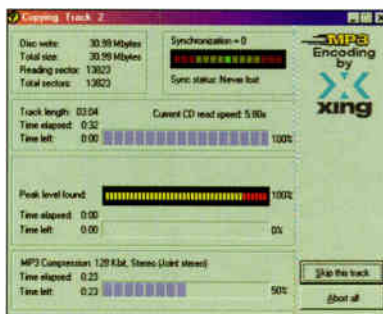
Your screen most likely looks something like this.



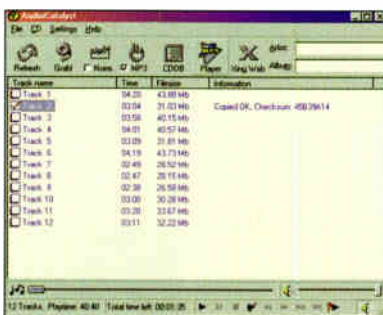
Select the track of the CD you wish to make into an MP3 (you can select them all, if you wish), and click the "Grab" button. The program rips the audio CD...



...and then encodes the file into MP3.



The program will then tell you that the MP3 was copied OK by providing a Checksum.



You can now play the MP3 by clicking the "Player" button in the ripper/encoder. The buttons on the MP3 player look and operate similar to a CD player. The Play List Editor allows you to string MP3s together so that you can listen to one right after the other.

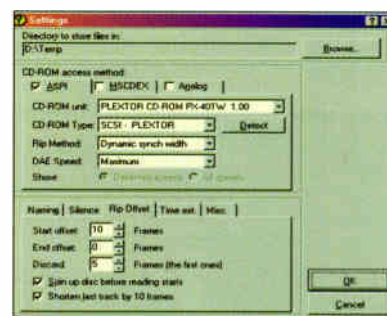


One final interesting thing you can do to your MP3 is give it an ID tag so it doesn't have to go by the mundane name of "Track 2" any longer. Once the ID tag is established, you never have to wonder about what you are listening to again.



The default settings on these software programs are usually pretty close to where they need to be. However, I have always had to change at least one thing on every computer I have installed ripper/encoder software on—it's called "rip offset." Without going into too much detail about why this needs to be changed, the rip offset tells the computer to ignore the first few pieces of information it receives from the CD-ROM drive. Doing this eliminates a "pop" that the CD-ROM drive is likely to create when reading the audio CD.

If you hear a "pop" after creating your first MP3, access the "General Settings" menu. Simply eliminate a few frames of audio until the "pop" disappears. Telling the computer to spin-up the CD-ROM drive before reading the audio may help, also.



### CUT THE CHORD

So now you have this neat little file on your computer that you can play any time you want. It sounds just like a CD, only you don't need your CD player to listen to it. It's...nice, but probably seems somewhat innocuous. At this point you may be wondering what the hubbub was about in the first place.

The turmoil over MP3s surfaced when they freed themselves from desktop computers. Earlier this year, Diamond Multimedia introduced the Rio. The Rio wasn't the first portable MP3 player, but it was the first to be marketed by a corporation as large as Diamond Multimedia. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) attempted to prevent Diamond Multimedia from selling the device until copyright safeguards were in place, but ultimately lost the case. Diamond countered the RIAA, and once everyone agreed to disagree, they settled their differences out of court.

The result of all this legal squabbling is that there are now more than two-dozen hardware MP3 players available to the consumer. They range from rack-sized home stereo units to in-dash car units and walk-man-sized portables. Portable MP3 players are the least expensive and most popular.

Here are a few things you should look for in a portable MP3 player:

- **Memory**—More memory equals more music. As a general rule, 1 MB of memory equals 1 minute of music. Therefore, 32 MB should be the acceptable minimum. Also look for players with memory expansion capabilities.
- **Transfer Rate**—The speed at which MP3s get out of the computer and into the portable player. The higher the transfer rate, the less time you spend waiting. USB ports are the fastest, followed by parallel ports. Avoid serial ports at all costs, unless you relish waiting on your computer.
- **Features**—EQ controls, a built-in FM radio, an organizer, and high quality headphones are just a few of the bells and whistles that some MP3 players offer. Decide which features are important to you.
- **Software**—Some portable players come bundled with great ripper/encoder software. If your portable player doesn't have good software, you may find yourself purchasing some.
- **Signal-To-Noise Ratio**—This tells you how loud the music is in relation to the "background" noise or "hiss." The higher this number, the better. Avoid a signal-to-noise ratio of less than 80 dB.
- **Design**—The great thing about portable MP3 players is their small size and durability. Some players compromise function for form. Magnesium-cased units are generally regarded to be more durable than their plastic-cased counterparts.

## NOTABLE PORTABLES

Now that you know some of the things to look for, here's an overview of some of the best handheld MP3 players. (Note: Prices were not available for all models.)



**Creative Labs  
Nomad 64MB**  
OS: Windows 95/98  
Price: \$224  
URL:  
[www.creativelabs.com](http://www.creativelabs.com)

Creative Labs is no newcomer to the multimedia realm, so it's no surprise that the Nomad is a solid package. The Nomad comes with several unique features, including an FM tuner, voice recording capabilities, and an equalizer. It also recharges its batteries while files are being transferred through its parallel port cradle. The Nomad has 32 MB of memory internally and an additional 32 MB of memory in the expandable SmartMedia memory slot. A full-featured version of MusicMatch is included, and the Nomad's

audio manager has drawn high praise from many users. This player is assembled in a classy magnesium case.



**Diamond Multimedia Rio  
PMP500 USB**  
OS: Windows 95/98,  
Macintosh  
Price: \$269.95  
URL: [www.diamondmm.com](http://www.diamondmm.com)

The company that started the portable MP3 player revolution less than a year ago has already followed-up with a second-generation portable player, available in December. The Rio 500 sports more memory (64 MB), a USB port connection (a blessing for Macintosh users), and a trio of colors (metallic gray, translucent teal and translucent purple).



**Diamond Multimedia Rio  
PMP300**  
OS: Windows 95/98  
Price: \$119 (after \$50  
rebate)  
URL: [www.diamondmm.com](http://www.diamondmm.com)

The Rio 500's older sibling, the 300, is still available at a reduced price. The Rio 300 has less memory (32 MB), a parallel port, and several color variations (including camouflage). All Rios come bundled with MusicMatch Jukebox LE and Diamond Multimedia's own version of an audio manager.



**Eiger Labs MPMAN F20**  
OS: Windows 95/98  
Price: \$200  
URL: [www.eigerlabs.com](http://www.eigerlabs.com)

It is a little-known fact the MPMAN was actually the first portable MP3 player. The F20 is the second generation player from Eiger Labs, and is the only portable MP3 player to have a MegaBass EQ setting.



**i2Go eGo**  
OS: Windows 95/98,  
Macintosh  
Price: \$269 (64 MB),  
\$349 (96 MB)  
URL: [www.i2go.com](http://www.i2go.com)

This device is really nifty. Brand new on the market, the eGo is touted as "the portable for your hip or for your car," which makes one think it is pretty big. However, its physical dimensions are not much bigger than other portable players in this class. The distinguishing characteristic of the eGo is the

compact Flash II memory. Flash II memory is compatible with the new IBM microdrive (see sidebar). With two Flash II memory slots, the iGo could conceivably store 680 MB of MP3s—that's over 12 hours of CD quality music. From the factory, you get your choice of a 96 MB or 64 MB Flash RAM card. In addition to its headphone and line-output jacks, the eGo has a built-in speaker.



**I-Jam MP3 Player**  
OS: Windows 95/98,  
Macintosh  
Price: \$219.95  
URL: [www.ijamworld.com](http://www.ijamworld.com)

The I-Jam wants to be your workout buddy. A durable neoprene shell covers the smallest of the portable MP3 players. This player does not have any built in memory. Instead, it comes with two SanDisk MultiMedia cards that fit in the SanDisk memory slot. Each 16 MB card costs about \$20.00, and the unit comes with a memory card drive which plugs into your parallel port on the computer (a USB memory card drive will be now available). The I-Jam therefore requires an additional step in the MP3 process—loading MP3s onto the SanDisk cards before loading the cards into portable player. This player also has the most elaborate EQ and an FM tuner.



**Pontis MPlayer3**  
OS: Windows 95/98,  
Macintosh  
Price: \$190  
URL: [www.mplayer3.com](http://www.mplayer3.com)

About the only thing the Pontis MPlayer3 has going for it is that it is Macintosh and Linux compatible. It's the biggest, slowest (thanks to its serial port connection), and has virtually no memory (16MB). It also appears to be the least durable of all the players reviewed, with sliding doors for the batteries and memory cards.



**RFC Distribution jazPiper  
MV32P**  
OS: Windows 95/98  
Price: \$189  
URL: [www.jazpiper.nl](http://www.jazpiper.nl)

The jazPiper includes a built-in organizer that can store up to 250 names and phone numbers. It contains 32 MB of memory (expandable to 64 MB with the addition of SmartMedia). It also contains the most fully featured voice recorder and an equalizer with four preset levels. However, bundled software is somewhat skimpy—an unregistered version of Cowan Jet-Audio which must be registered to rip/encode more than one track at a time.



**Sensory Science Rave  
MP2100**  
OS: Windows 95/98  
Price: \$299.95  
URL: [www.sensoryscience.com](http://www.sensoryscience.com)

The Rave attempts to distinguish itself from the competition by including an elaborate built-in electronic organizer. The organizer can store up to 4,000 telephone numbers and has built-in voice recording capability. It is also the only portable MP3 player to include a truly high quality set of Sennheiser earphones. The 64 MB Rave connects via parallel port and comes bundled with AudioCatalyst and FreeAmp.



**Samsung Yepp (B Series)**  
OS: Windows 95/98  
Price: not available at press time  
URL: [samsungelectronics.com](http://samsungelectronics.com)

Samsung is hoping that the Yepp will help launch its own encryption system (SecuMAX), which was designed to eliminate piracy. The Yepp also stores and plays MP3 files with its 32MB of memory. Other Yepp Series players (the Yepp D and the Yepp E) have voice recording and radio tuner capabilities.



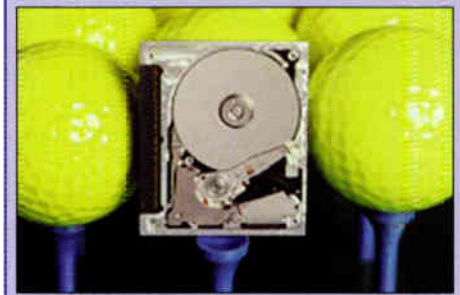
**Casio E-100**  
OS: Windows 95/98  
Price: \$449  
URL: [www.casio.com](http://www.casio.com)

The Casio E-100 is not a dedicated MP3 player. Some players strive to be a player first and an organizer second, but the E-100 is a Personal Information Manager (PIM) first and an MP3 player second. Nonetheless, it is currently the only PIM capable of playing MP3s. This feature is derived from the fact that it is the only PIM with a headphone jack. The E-100 runs Windows CE, which is stripped down version of the Windows 95/98 interface. It also has voice recording capability. The E-100 is the largest gadget (5.11" x 3.26" x .78") and the most expensive, but it is undoubtedly the most powerful. If you want to free your MP3s from your desk, but can't justify spending \$200 for a portable player alone, the E-100 may be your best option.

### WHAT'S NEXT

As with all things electronic, digital music compression is constantly transforming. When it goes on sale in December, the Diamond Rio 500PMP will support the newly developed Secure Digital Music Initiative format (SDMI) in addition to MP3s. Diamond has already stated that its next generation of MP3 players will support the IBM microdrive (see sidebar). Watch for other manufacturers to follow suit with more memory and playback capabilities.

Which digital music format (MP3, SDMI, LiquidAudio, SecuMax) ultimately prevails is somewhat irrelevant. All digital audio works pretty much the same way, and all digital audio can be manipulated rather easily. It isn't hard to get involved in the "revolution." Once you discover how easy it is, you might even find that you enjoy being a revolutionary.



### Mighty Mini

*No, that's not trick photography, those are real golf balls next to the new IBM microdrive. It comes in two configurations—a 170MB version and a 340 MB version. The microdrive uses an adapter to fit into PC Card Type II slots, or it can fit into Compact Flash+ Type II slots that are becoming increasingly common among handheld devices. Numerous companies have pledged support for the microdrive, including: Diamond Multimedia, Kodak, Clarion, Nikon, Minolta, Samsung, and Sanyo. Global Positioning Systems (GPS), wearable PCs, and personal audio players are all expected to be practical applications of this amazing technology.*



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# It's A Wide, Wide World; Jack Ingram Calls Out

The world wide web continues to expand the horizons of musicians and music lovers in every genre. It seems every day another four or five web sites are launched for the melodically inclined. There's Napster — [www.napster.com/](http://www.napster.com/) — a veritable ABC of MP3 and a scary look at "the future of MP3 music through a virtual trading community." If you're one of those concerned with the proliferation of free MP3's, check out this one.

Another site for fringe dwellers/shoppers: Essential Media — [www.essentialmedia.com/](http://www.essentialmedia.com/) A guide to the "best" of alternative culture in print, sound, video.

And then there's my favorite new site—though it can be a bit confusing to navigate—an internet radio network: [www.gogaga.com](http://www.gogaga.com). You can tune in to a variety of homespun radio formats, including world beat ([www.eardrum.com](http://www.eardrum.com)), ska/reggae ([www.dubwire.com](http://www.dubwire.com)); and my favorite, [www.twangbox.com](http://www.twangbox.com); classic country bluegrass, rockabilly and more. We'll be looking at issues surrounding independent music and the net in the months to come. In the meantime...

## OVERTONES

- JazzGarage has created an alternative way to release, publish and market original jazz music to a worldwide audience in MP3 format. Musicians publish their original jazz compositions and members download music on a cost-per-tune basis. JazzGarage is the first music publishing entity that allows musicians to upload their music for free and directly benefit musicians with a 50% share of the member download fees. Members can sample at no cost, and download original jazz music arranged by genre, geographic origin and artist at 70¢ per song.



Membership is free. [www.jazzgarage.com](http://www.jazzgarage.com).

- Garageband.com, a new internet site created by musicians for musicians and music fans was launched late last month. Its goal is to identify, cultivate and sign emerging artists. Co-founders of the site include Jerry Harrison, producer and former member of Talking Heads; Tom Zito, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur; and Dr. Amanda Lathroum Welsh, former head of research for Netcenter.

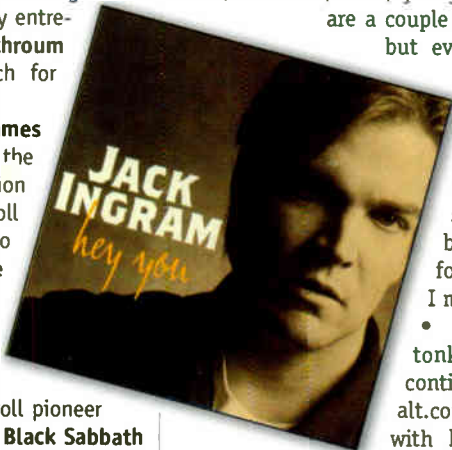
- Bonnie Raitt, Lou Reed, James Taylor and Eric Clapton head up the list of 15 nominees for induction next year into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Also nominated were: Queen, The O'Jays; soul performer Solomon Burke; Earth, Wind & Fire; doo-wop groups the Flamingos and the Moonglows; the Lovin' Spoonful; Steely Dan; rock 'n' roll pioneer Ritchie Valens; heavy metal act Black Sabbath and Aerosmith.

- Demon Records, under the Edsel imprint, is reissuing material originally recorded and/or released by Crazy Cajun Records, the Houston-based label run by Huey Meaux. Crazy Cajun was active from the early '60s into the '80s and acts who recorded there are a veritable Who's Who of Gulf Coast artists including Dr. John, Floyd Tillman, Ronnie Milsap, T-Bone Walker, Doug Kershaw, Clifton Chenier, Delbert McClinton and Sonny Landreth. 615-356-4684.

## RECORDVIEWS

- Arachnophobes beware; there's an eight-legged monster being released in Nashville. Okay, so there are just four legs; those of Athens, Tennessee native Marc Malone

and Kentuckian Shayne Owens, known as **A Stump Full Of Granddaddies**. This is category-defying duo, but that is not to say there isn't a sound. **Mister Supersonic** (DaCapo Music) is upbeat, sometimes zany, always interesting. A unique amalgam of roots, pop, hillbilly, punk, funk, rock...oh, heck, you get the idea. There



are a couple of "serious" songs but even those—"You're Gone (Windy)," are fun or, as in "Peaceful Water" and "Never Gonna Feel The Same," simply lovely ballads. Watch out for these critters, I mean, guys.

- Texas honky tonker Jack Ingram continues to carry the alt.country.rock banner with his latest release, **Hey You** (Lucky Dog).

Ingram's got songwriting heart and musical grit that falls somewhere between Merle Haggard and Steve Earle. On this Lucky Dog debut, Ingram either wrote or co-wrote 11 of the 12 tunes, sharing credit with such stellar roots writers as Bruce Robison, Todd Snider and Jim Lauderdale. The litmus test for me is how it plays at home. I found myself walking around the house snapping my fingers, grooving, and meandering back into the music room for the tunes that suggest a more tender aire—those are wonderful and sometimes surprising. But Ingram's power is clearly in the rockers thanks in large part to his razor sharp team, the Beat Up Ford Band. The power house honky tonkers include "How Many Days," "Barbie Doll" and "Mustang Burn," a revved-up number that reportedly caused at least one Music Row publicist to get a speeding ticket. So maybe you should *not* listen while driving. But by all means, listen. \*

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David Ross

## SUBSCRIBER ALERT

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Dear Readers,

It's no secret that technology is having an ever-growing impact upon our lives—especially with respect to the distribution of news. When *Music Row* began publishing almost 20 years ago, we lived in a pre-FAX, pre-cellular world which had yet to hear the term e-mail. Today, news is delivered via a dazzling array of instant and nearly-instant gateways. To remain competitive, publications must continue to find ways to connect readers with breaking news as quickly as possible.

With this mission in mind, *Music Row's* upcoming 20th birthday seems the perfect time to boldly reorganize our publication to better serve you, our readers. While it's premature to completely introduce our plans, we intend to utilize both print *and* electronic systems to deliver the comprehensive blend of news, interviews, candid reviews, trend analysis and industry directories that *Music Row* readers have come to enjoy and expect.

All readers will benefit from the upcoming changes, but those with e-mail or a dedicated fax will get the electronic news first. (A dedicated fax machine is always on and has its own phone line).

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Please take a few moments to send us your vital stats and help us do our very best to keep you in the information highway passing lane. Readers are the one absolutely essential ingredient that *Music Row* can never do without—we appreciate and value your support.

Sincerely,

David M. Ross, Publisher



**HONORING THE FATHER OF MUSIC ROW**—Nationally renowned artist Gary Earnest Smith has created a life-size bronze sculpture of legendary Owen Bradley. The statue was recently unveiled at a ceremony in his honor at Owen Bradley Park.

## INDUSTRY EVENTS CALENDAR

### November

- 8—Ask-A-Pro with Pat Higdon**, Songwriters  
Guild of America, Nashville, TN 615 329-1782
- 10-13—Music Industry Summit**, Loew's  
Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, TN 615-860-4084
- 23—Skating Goes Country**, Gaylord  
Entertainment Center, Nashville, TN,  
615-269-0856

### January

- 6-9—The 2000 International CES—Your  
Source for Workstyle and Lifestyle  
Technology**, Las Vegas, NV, 703-907-7664

### February

- 9-12—Country In The Rockies**, Crested Butte,  
CO, 615-401-2771
- 27-March 1—NARM 2000 Convention**,  
Marriott Rivercenter and Riverwalk Hotels,  
San Antonio, TX, 856-596-2221

### March

- 1-4—Growth Through Sharing In The New  
Millennium, CRS 2000**, Nashville  
Convention Center, Nashville, TN,  
615-327-4487
- 29-April 2—7th Annual Cowboy Poetry  
And Music Festival**, Santa Claris, CA  
661-255-4314

### April

- 3-8—Tin Pan South 2000**, Nashville, TN
- 20—31st Annual Dove Awards**, The Grand  
Ole Opry, Nashville, TN

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# "I'm waiting for the one-minute Alan Jackson live version."

"Oh, man. Some of these songs just don't cut it," frets WBCT's **Doug Montgomery**. With the exception of the week's only new release, "Smile" by **Lonestar**, there isn't much cause for collective optimism on the *SongPower Index*. Comparing the week's scores with SPI research reveals only one song—Lonestar again—has a lock on even reaching the top 40. Only two returning songs exhibit any positive momentum. Still, absent our panel's agreement on definitive hits, individual reporters do find plenty to like. And they all seem to agree on Lonestar's single, which has a better than average (56%) shot at the top five, based on its SPI of 8.38.



Lonestar

"BNA has found the perfect way to follow up an eight-week No. 1 single," says **Lance Houston** at WTXT. "This is a flat out stone cold smash," agrees **KEEY's Gregg Swedberg**. "What a brilliant play on BNA's part to follow up a major No. 1 with another that likely will be. Lonestar will be at a whole new level after this one is done. Just the thing for the Fall book. Easily the best song in the batch." **Karen Williams** at WCOW says, "I predict another hit for Lonestar! *Lonely Grill* is a great album. too." **KBUL's Tom Jordan** wonders if a change of pace might be in order. "Great song," he says, "but is this the right time to follow a song like 'Amazed' with another ballad that isn't as strong? We'll definitely play it, but I think an uptempo would have been better at this point to keep the momentum moving." **WSTH's Ted Turner** has no problem with BNA's song selection. "We fired up the phones by using this as the pick it or kick it song of the week. The phones lit up more for this song than any song we've ever used. Could be bigger than 'Amazed.'" **KGEE's Boomer Kingston** adds, "Our listeners are smiling for this one with instant hot phones." **Kelly Thompson** at KXKC says, "Perfect follow up to this year's strongest ballad. Wonder what John Rich is doing now?"



Aaron Tippin

**Lee Ann Womack's** "Don't Tell Me" slips from last week's mid-sevens score, while **Aaron Tippin** posts the slightest of gains (.01) with "What This Country Needs." **WCAC's Dave Steele** is a believer. "What this

## THE SONGPOWER INDEX

predicting new single success

MONDAY • OCTOBER 18, 1999 • #152				
SPI THIS WEEK	SPI LAST WEEK	ARTIST/TITLE/LABEL (# of reports)	ADD FACTOR	PASSION
8.38	•	LONESTAR/Smile/BNA (40)	4.28	4.10
7.00	7.46	LEE ANN WOMACK/Don't Tell Me/MCA (38)	3.71	3.29
6.81	6.80	AARON TIPPIN/What This Country Needs/Lyric Street (36)	3.39	3.42
6.44	7.04	GEORGE JONES/Cold Hard Truth/Asylum (34)	3.09	3.35
5.97	5.79	SHERRIÉ AUSTIN/Little Bird/Arista (37)	3.05	2.92
5.58	5.65	SHANA PETRONE/Something Real/Epic (38)	2.79	2.79
5.49	6.06	KEITH HARLING/Bring It On/Giant (37)	2.73	2.76
5.48	5.54	SUSAN ASHTON/Closer/Capitol (31)	2.74	2.74
5.38	5.38	BRYAN WHITE/God Gave Me You/Asylum (39)	2.79	2.59
5.24	5.79	MAVERICKS/Here Comes My Baby/Mercury (38)	2.50	2.74
4.17	4.74	OAK RIDGE BOYS/Ain't No Short Way Home/Platinum (36)	2.00	2.17

SPI = Add Factor + Passion. Songs ranked by SPI points. Ties ranked according to highest Add Factor Average.

country needs is more male listeners to the format," he says. "Aaron will certainly give my country what it needs." **Jordan** concurs, "Aaron Tippin is exactly what this country station needs." **KRRV's Scott Bryant**, however, taps the word play to Tippin's detriment. "What this country needs are better written songs than this one." **Kingston's** cryptic quote is, "Mom once said if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." **Thompson** is listening to the opinions that count, "Trust me, play this song. My phones haven't stopped since spin one, and it has been my most requested song eight days in a row. Males and females are calling for Tippin." **WFMB's Mark Phillips** closes with yet another twist on the song title. "What this country needs is more songs that sound like this," he says. "We added it a week ago and it's getting requests."

"Cold Hard Truth" drops more than half a point this week for **George Jones**. "The Cold Hard Truth is, how many 'country pds' will actually play this on their station?" asks **Jordan**. "I will. We are country and this is what it's all about...being able to play a rockin' Shania and George on the same station." **Swedberg** smirks, "I'm waiting for the one-minute Alan Jackson live version."



Sherrié Austin

The SPI number for "Little Bird" indicates obvious mixed feelings among programmers for the **Sherrié Austin** tune. "This song grabbed my attention from the first listen," says **Bryant**

affirmatively. "Has hit written all over it." **Houston**, however, says, "I think there are much better cuts on the Sherrié Austin album than the current single."

**Keith Harling's** "Bring It On" drops for the second week in a row. **KSOP's Debby Turpin** is on the bandwagon, though. "Cool, haunting song. Keith's vocals are killer." **Houston** agrees with the latter, but not the former. "I'm very impressed with the much improved sound of Keith's voice on this single, but the song is in the average department."

"God Gave Me You" holds steady this week for **Bryan White**. "Best thing I've heard from him in a long time," cheers **Houston**. "It's nice to have Bryan back doing what really got him rolling." In the "what's he really saying" department, **Swedberg** offers, "Well, it's much better than the last one."

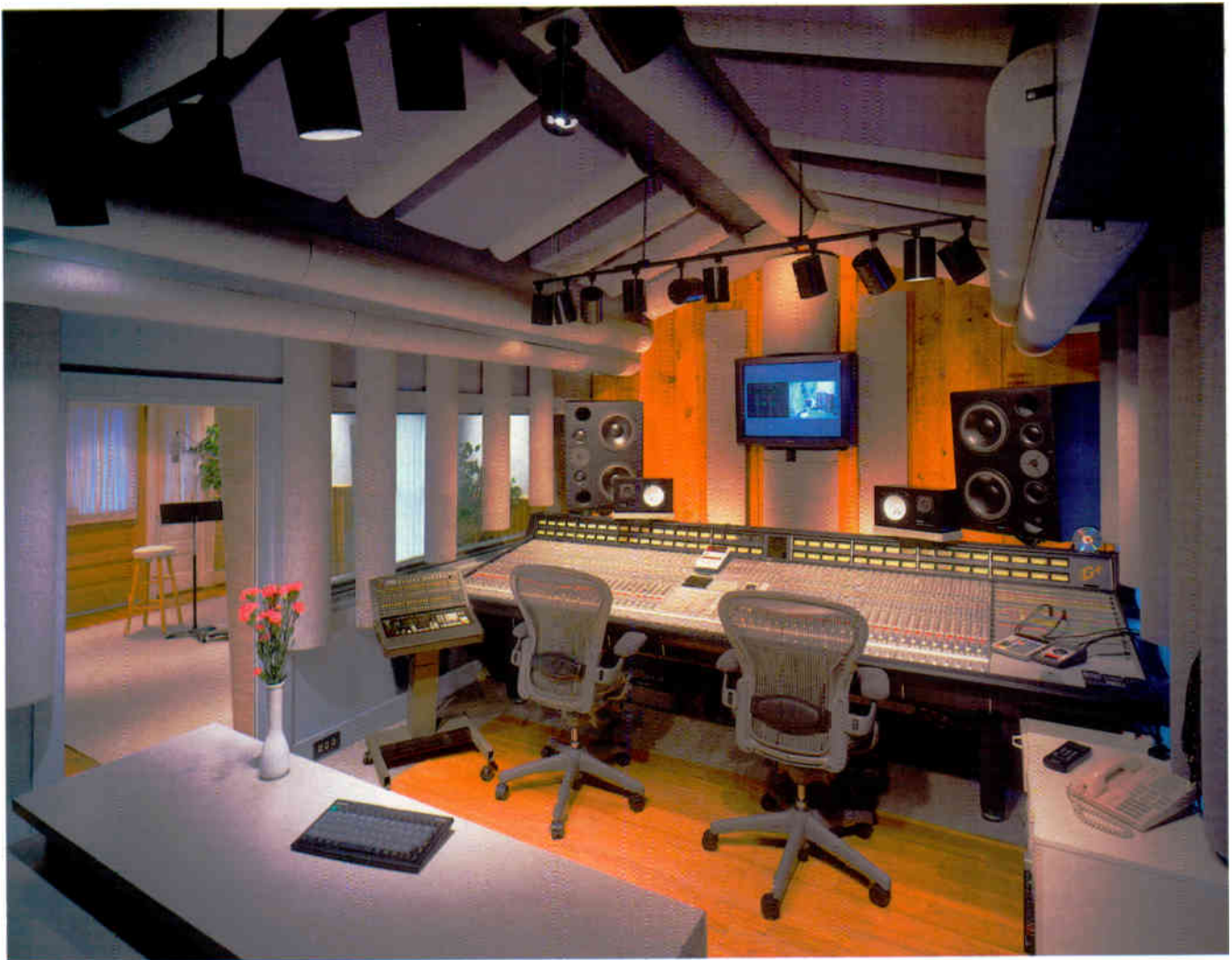
—Chuck Aly

### SPI Online Scores

As of noon October 1, here are the fan-voted scores for songs appearing on SPI Online, courtesy of CountryCool.com.

6.77	The Mavericks	"Here Comes My Baby"
6.75	Lee Ann Womack	"Don't Tell Me"
6.27	Tim McGraw	"My Best Friend"
6.26	Jo Dee Messina	"Because You Love Me"
6.15	Sherrié Austin	"Little Bird"
6.12	Bryan White	"God Gave Me You"
6.08	Keith Harling	"Bring It On"
6.04	Shana Petrone	"Something Real"
6.04	Aaron Tippin	"What This Country Needs"
5.77	Steve Holy	"Don't Make Me Beg"
5.61	George Jones	"Cold Hard Truth"
5.54	Travis Tritt	"Move It On Over"
5.06	Alabama	"Small Stuff"
4.95	Chris LeDoux	"Stampede"
4.86	Oak Ridge Boys	"Ain't No Short Way Home"

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