

MEXICAN TEARS

King Clave's Cry Songs Bring Orfeon Label Joy

By MARV FISHER

MEXICO CITY—King Clave's three smash singles and accompanying LPs, with all titles having some reference to cry, are making Discos Orfeon laugh—all the way to the bank.

His sales, along with other label artists, will help to contribute to more than an 8 million unit sales peak for the company by the end of the current calendar year. It marks a quadrupling of the business since 1972.

Orfeon president Rogerio Azcarra reports that the upcoming third LP by Clave will be the first time the label will have full world rights on the product. The other two excluded New York, Santo Domingo and a few other places. Litigation, to straighten out the exact contractual obligations, is in progress. Clave's total sales, specifically on the three singles—"Los Hombres No Deben Llorar," "Mi Corazon Lloro," "Us-ted Mi Dejo Llorando" ("Men Don't

Have To Cry," "My Heart Cries," "You Leave Me Crying")—have reached more than 700,000. Azcarra says they are still climbing solidly.

In addition to Clave, the label's other hot performers include Lupita D'Alessio, Mariachi "Silvestre" Vargas and El Tren on a national scale, and Carl Douglas internationally. Clave, also from outside Mexico's borders, is from Argentina.

D'Alessio's latest, "Mundo De Ju-guete," taken from TV soap opera of the same name, has just gone past the 100,000 mark for singles and over 25,000 in LP sales. El Tren's "La Battalla Del Cinco De Mayo" has bettered 125,000 singles and is now exceeding 20,000 in LP turnover. Vargas' LP has exceeded 175,000, while Douglas' "Kung Fu," master acquired through Pye in England, has jumped over the 75,000 line for singles, 30,000 for LPs. Azcarra adds the latter is "very big" when one considers it is with English lyrics.

Combined with the sales of the aforementioned and others, which comprise a lot of Norteno product, Orfeon has started repackaging some 200 LPs from the catalog. Included in the packages are artists of days gone by who carry a lot of clout with the Mexican public—Jorge Negrete, Pedro Infante and Tonia La Negra.

Orfeon picks up additional revenue via its publishing house under the same name plus 50 percent interests in two others, PHAM and EMMI.

Mexicans Combine Efforts To Push Their Own Music

MEXICO CITY—Very little Mexican music is piped into restaurants and hotels where tourists dwell.

Consequently, a combine of people and disk companies have banded together to create a catalog of songs under the label of Discos Audion. The music will be offered to outlets for national use and for export.

Spearheading the drive for a parade of lush, well-orchestrated tunes to be marketed shortly is Miguel Pous, an executive of SACM (Sociedad of Authors and Composers of Mexico) and one of the most prolific arranger-conductor-composers extant. When queried recently as to why such pretty music from the pens of Mexicans does not get the exposure it should, Pous replied, "Because they (the MOR executives) say the material doesn't exist."

Pous signifies it is not the start of any anti-foreign music campaign. "It is simply a matter that when visitors are biding their time in lobbies or settling down for a luncheon or dinner," he continued, "they rarely hear the good music that originates from my country."

"I have great respect for the songs that come from the U.S., Europe or anywhere else in the world. But there certainly should be a better balance, especially in our own backyard."

In his crusade to muster the interest necessary to launch a continuing flow of ear-catching sweet instrumentals, Pous got together with Carlos Gomez Barrera, another distinguished composer and general director of SACM and financial advisor Gilberto Navarro.

Ultimately, the three, apart from their executive duties at the composers' society, incorporated the physical and financial assistance of Discos Coro, Discos Cisne, Disco Rex and DCM (Discos Cartuchos De Mexico).

Earlier this year, they began the recordings which have brought them to a total of six albums now in the

Chelsea Inks Ex-Tremelo

LONDON—Chelsea has signed the former lead singer of the Tremeloes, Chip Hawkes, for an initial two singles contract. This is the first signing that European head of Chelsea, Mike Beaton, has made—and it will be followed by another signing within the month.

Beaton says: "I would just like people to realize that Chelsea is a fully-fledged company, not just relying on U.S. product. Since Christmas I have been listening to tapes of different artists and the one from Chip was the best I came across. I'm not able to give long-term contracts but am on the lookout for good acts at home and in Europe."

First Hawkes single is self-penned and is called "Friend Of A Friend."

can. They will do four more before the end of July, at which time the product will begin to be marketed.

Pous says that after the initial 10, another 10 will be done before the end of this year or by early 1976. At the conclusion of the first 20, choral groups and interpretations by various pop singers will be included in the repertoire.

Currently, word is awaited as to the outcome of negotiations for the European distribution of the catalog by Deutsche-Grammophon.

Among those contributing arrangements are Mario Ruiz Armengol and Chu Chu Zarzosa.

The four companies participating are providing everything from tapes to studio space to the graphics. Federico Riojas is coordinating the costs as Andion's treasurer.

Budget for the completed LPs range from \$7,000 to \$20,000.

A SUCCESS

First Yugo Rock Opera

BELGRADE—The first all-Yugoslavian rock opera has been successfully presented in Zagreb's Vatroslav Lisinski concert hall. Titled "Gubec Beg," it is based on the story of the Croatian peoples' rebellion, led by Matija Gubec, against cruel landlords in the 16th century.

The story was written by Ivica Krajac, with music by Karlo Metikos and Miljenko Prohaska. Cost of the production was around \$100,000 but the group of enthusiasts involved managed to settle the financial problems with the help of the Komedja theater in Zagreb, a theater noted for staging musicals. Its manager, Vlado Stefancic, is the "Gubec Beg" director.

Planning and preparation for the show went on for two years. But the eventual success exceeded all expectations of the creators Karlo Metikos and Ivica Krajac. Each performance in the 2,000-seat hall sold out and the 24 contracted shows means that all expenses have been covered. Now there is great interest in "Gubec Beg" in top Yugoslav centers and there are plans to take the production to the Soviet Union.

Twenty of the 50 roles in the show are for singers. The Gubec Beg part is played by young music student Branko Blace; popular rock singer Josipa Lisac plays the girl Jana, and

AWB Reps Named

LONDON—The Average White Band is to be represented exclusively in Europe by Good Earth Artistes of Museum House, Museum Street, London WC1. The deal was concluded last week in the U.S. and it is expected the band will undertake a European tour in August and September, including at least one top U.K. date.

pop singer Miro Ungar is also in the cast. The orchestra is made up of 38 classically trained musicians, helped out by a rock group rhythm section. Conductor is Miljenko Prohaska, who handled all the musical arrangements.

Now the Jugotron record company is preparing the three-record original cast album set which will be on the market soon.

Certainly this artistic effort deserves the praise lavished upon it, for it is fully original and blends well modern theater expression with modern music and national folklore, all set in historical Croatian legends.

Private Stock Disco Single

LONDON—Private Stock has produced a special two-speed single exclusively for discotheques. The record features two versions of "Swearin' To God" by Frankie Valli, followup to his recent hit "My Eyes Adored You."

The 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm side, labeled "disco version," carried a 10-minute plus version of the song, lifted in full from Valli's debut Private Stock album. The 45-rpm side features an edited (four minutes) version, as available on commercial pressings.

Private Stock rush-released the commercial pressing of "Swearin' To God" last week. Tamla Motown released a Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons single on the same day, brought forward by two weeks from the original date. This one, on Mowest, is "Catch The Rainchild," a track from the group's "Chameleon" album, recorded in 1972 and reissued.



ORGAN PRIESTESS—Rhoda Scott, pictured here, named "High Priestess of the Organ" by the French people, returns to New York from Paris on June 30 to play at the Newport Jazz Festival. In France, she records for Barclay and is known as the "barefoot organist," too, because she wears no shoes when she plays the Hammond organ. Born in New Jersey, and married to her French manager, Raoul St. Yves, Ms Scott is also to play in three European jazz festivals including Helsinki in Finland and Sepot in Yugoslavia.

From The Music Capitals Of The World

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Munich Records has acquired the rights of the U.S. blues label Delmark and now plans release of albums by **Earl Hines**, **Magic Sam** and **Junior Wells**. . . . Top producer Hans van Hemert producing the new **Ekseption** album, the group previously being produced by **Tony Vos** but now seek a more commercial basic sound. Phonogram producer van Hemert is helping build an international career for Dutch band **American Gypsy**.

The **Binangs**, the only Dutch group with a "dirty" sound, have high sales hopes for their album "Genuine Bull" in the U.K., Scandinavia, France and Germany. It was produced by **Steve Verroca**. The **Dr. Feelgood** band plans to record some of the songs from the album, and the Binangs are supporting act to **Link Wray** on an European tour this autumn. . . . **Cherrie Vangelder-Smith** has signed a deal with the Basart recording company, and a new group, **Cherrie**, has been formed, to be backed by heavy promotion once the debut album is released.

Patricia Paay has left the group **Heart** and is planning a solo album, recorded in the U.K., for **Bovema-EMI**, with **Cockney Rebel's Steve Harley** helping on production. Harley previously worked on a single of **Yvonne Paay**, sister of Patricia and a close friend of Harley. . . . The group **Heart** has changed its name to **Limousine** and its label from **Bovema-EMI** to **Ariola**.

A 30,000 crowd for the Whitmonday festival featuring **Nazareth**, **Kevin Coyne**, **Alan Stivell**, **Sailor**, the **Jack Bruce Band** and Dutch band **Red, White 'n Blue**. . . . Boogie pianist **Rob Hoeke** managed to complete a new album, with **Hein van der Gaag**, despite a car accident last year in which he lost two fingers. The album is called "Fingerprints." . . . **VIP Records Haarlem** signed a recording deal with newly formed Dutch blues band **Blue-Eyed Bluesband**, with a single and album due this month from the group formed by four former members of **Binangs**.

Singer **Albert West** planning an album with his CBS colleague **Albert Hammond**, but despite a lot of trans-Atlantic phone calls no final plans have been made. . . . Record company **Inelco** officially opened new offices on the **Johan Muyskenweg 22** in Amsterdam. They have been installed there for almost a year but with no official opening ceremony. Before, the three divisions of **Inelco** were in different parts of Am-

sterdam, but now electronics, records, hardware and stock are all under one roof.

Pop team the **Buffoons** have signed with **ariola**, a company building up a strong stable of local talent. First **Buffoons** single is "Listen To My Song," a composition by hit-writing Stockholm team **Will Luinga**, **Eddy Owens** and **Dick Bakker**. . . . **Polydor Holland** has followed **Polydor U.K.** into a deal on the U.S. **Capricorn** label, with album releases from **Percy Sledge** and the **Allman Brothers**. . . . **Pierre van der Linden** has left pop group **Trace** and rejoined **Focus** because of the departure of **Colin Allen**. He is replaced in **Trace** by English musician **Ian Mosely** and the group tours Europe this summer with **Wishbone Ash**.

The Dutch Pop Music Foundation wants financial aid from the state of \$300,000, to be used to provide work for unemployed musicians, to stimulate noncommercial musical forms and to build a center with recording facilities for special concerts and meetings. Their aim is to make the center of value at social, cultural, educational and informative levels. **FRANS VAN DER BEEK**

PARIS

The **Il Etait Une Fois** group which has sold over 1 million singles has made its first album for **Pathe Marconi**, title being "Ils Vecurent Heureux." . . . **Frank Sinatra** to inaugurate the **Sporting Club Monte Carlo** season. . . . The 1975 **Albi Music Festival** to be held in that city from July 25 to Aug. 12, and at the same time young musicians wanting to improve their skills may attend special courses there.

Alice Donat was awarded the **Performing Rights Society Prize** for the best song composed here in 1974. It was "Chez Moi," recorded by **Serge Lama** for **Philips**. Last woman to win the prize was **Edith Piaf** for "La Vie En Rose." . . . Still something of a secret it is rumored that a chain of disk stores similar to **Harlequin** in the U.K. is to open in France at the end of this year.

The **French National Disk Syndicate** has drawn the attention of the government to the fact that the new **Value Added Tax** increase in the U.K. did not include disks and that there for the first time records were not considered a luxury commodity. The **Syndicate** also published a **VAT** list showing the U.K. rate at 8 percent is lowest and the French at 33.3 percent the highest.

HENRY KAHN