

## VIVA TALENT

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Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, and Colombia.

That leaves Victor Manuel, new to the label on which he recently debuted with the album "Que Te Puedo Dar." His performing duties with his wife Ana Belen prevent his leaving Spain for the summer, but the album has already been released in most American markets. Not to be forgotten is his last LP, "La Puerta De Alcalça," one of the greatest successes in the Mexican territory during 1987.

WEA took a while in establishing its national catalog after installing itself in Spain, but has recently flung itself with a passion into new talent discovery. Beginning with their present No. 1 Miguel Bosé, they've built a new and fruitful musical personality. "We first needed to consolidate ourselves into the market with the great quantity of international product that our company has," explains WEA's MD Saul Tagarro, "but after gaining our share of the market we've begun to release and create our own artists, instead of going into contracting artists from other companies."

Miguel's second album with WEA has been released all over the world just like any international album issued by the company. Entitled "XXX," it was recorded in England with production by Larry Mansfield. With important sales in Italy and Mexico, the album is about to be released in France after good acceptance of the single "Lay Down On Me," and with an ambitious promotional tour underway in Canada, the U.S., England, Belgium, Holland, and Germany—the future's looking bright.

Other less internationally promoted groups include the trio La Union, now on their third album which has sold 50,000 copies in Mexico after their promotional activities in American countries. Also Alex & Cristina, a fresh new duo that got great reaction in Spain to their song "Chass, Y Aparezco A Tu Lado," have just had this first work released in Argentina, Mexico, and Venezuela with great expectations for its success. Angeles Del Infierno, a heavy metal group with three LPs released, has surpassed the 120,000 LP sales tally—impressive for a non-Anglo-Saxon metal act. Apart from these groups, Cris, Circulo Vicioso, Los Móviles, and La Dama Se Esconde, are awaiting international release.

Manolo Diaz, CBS-Spain's MD, believes that his company is paying close attention to the national artists that form their team. "Before we had over 40 national acts and it was impossible to support them all in a consistent manner. Now we have only 19, and the results are much better because we can make the best out of each of them."

Without renouncing the traditional American markets, CBS-Spain has begun to direct its releases toward Europe. The first was Luis Cobos with his adaption of classical opera themes in his "Capriccio italiano." This type of instrumental production beats the language barrier and so has been released and accepted in several European countries—gold in Finland and Portugal, an important success in Holland, it's recently been released in the U.S. "Luis Cobos," says Diaz, "is our most international artist at this time because, besides class and potential, he has that special charisma that makes an artist really great."

"We're basically interested in achieving a Spanish sound with world-wide projection. That's why we support the release in all of Europe and some American countries of such Spanish products as Azúcar Moreno," adds Diaz about two gypsy sisters who make music with flamenco roots and artistry within a pop format. Their latest album "Piel De Melocoton" has been simultaneously released in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, England, and Brazil with surprising results and without catering to the theoretic tastes of such a diverse

public. Tijeritas is a similar case, accepted with enthusiasm in Venezuela and Germany.

The enormous success of Ana Belen, along with that of her husband Victor Manuel, is being prolonged by her newest album. For the first time in a long time, husband and wife are momentarily working in different companies, although they are still collaborating artistically. Ana Belen's album has already been released in Venezuela and Mexico. Vicky Larraz habitually records simultaneously in English and Spanish, and has had her second solo album "Siete Noches Sin Ti" released throughout Latin America and the English version, "Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind," in Holland.

Los Rebeldes, a typical rockabilly-with-a-Spanish-twist group, have developed strongly and released their album "Más Allá Del Bien Y Del Mal" in all of the Spanish-speaking territories. The album's song "Mediterraneo" was one of Spain's greatest hits this summer.

PolyGram's catalog includes two of the world's best guitarists: Paco de Lucia and Manolo Sanlúcar, formerly antagonists in different companies who have now joined forces in a common strategy for the definitive conquest of the world record market by the Spanish guitar. Each of Paco de Lucia's albums is edited all over the world, as will be the case with Manolo Sanlúcar's latest, "Tauromagia." Each will also do a 1988 solo tour through the five continents.

"For some time we have consecrated, perhaps excessively, the classic names in our repertory," affirms Mariano de Zuñiga, president of PolyGram-Spain, "but our interest in new pop and rock music being done in Spain is demonstrated by our new signings of groups and young soloists, without becoming careless about our ballad line." For this reason, along with the preponderance of guitar, PolyGram has a



Ma. Dolores Pradera

line up on such disparate popular figures as Sara Montiel and Miguel Rios. Sara Montiel has released "Purísima Sara," her first album in over seven years, appearing in all of Latin America, the U.S., and France, and is set for release in several European countries within the next few weeks. Miguel Rios isn't the first Spanish rocker to conquer America, but his recent Mexican tour has made him one of the biggest Spanish stars on that continent. "We admire the work of artists like Miguel Rios," adds Mariano de Zuñiga, "who work, rehearse, and force themselves continually, although they are at the top of the charts."

Taking advantage of American youth's new interest in Spanish pop and rock, PolyGram has also released Nacha Pop's latest album, taped during a 1987 tour through Mexico and Peru and is also betting on the Sevillian quartet, Tornos Mancebos, who are soon to visit Venezuela where their only album has been released as well as in Peru and Mexico.

Virgin-Spain must be true to the beginnings of its mother company in England and its most international group, La Fura Dels Baus, has done a world tour over the past few months, performing in Belgium, Holland, Germany, and representing Spain at the Philadelphia Input television competition.

At the same time some of the company's other soloists and groups like Adán García, Besos Rabiosos, and P.V.P. are being released in Venezuela and Ecuador. Viceversa, the group that for a long time backed up Joaquin Sabina, is now on their own and seeing their second album "Reina De Copas" released in Mexico, Argentina, and Venezuela.

Since the start of the '80s, the Spanish record industry has seen the popping up of dozens of small companies, some having only two or three releases. Among them there are three that have become of national importance and are now beginning the move toward international exploitation. Grabaciones Accidentales (GASA) is the creator of the Dun-

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