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Court Order Restrains Music West On Lynch Titles

A SUPERIOR COURT judge in Marin County, Calif., issued a restraining order Sept. 20 to block San Rafael, Calif.'s **Music West Records** from selling and distributing product by its most successful artist, gold-certified instrumentalist **Ray Lynch**.

The move comes three months after the artist—whose "Sky Of Mind," "Deep Breakfast," and "No Blue Thing" albums have sold more than 1.6 million units—sought to void his contract with Music West over the alleged nonpayment of royalties.

Despite Lynch's claims, Music West had, until recently, said that its relationship with the artist was not terminated and that it retained the legal rights to manufacture, sell, and ship his product.

But the Sept. 20 order by Judge **William H. Stephens** changes all that. His declaration states that Lynch met his burden of proof in

showing a "reasonable probability that [Music West] breached the contract and [Lynch] validly terminated the contract." It further restrains and enjoins Music West from "soliciting orders, taking orders, filling and distributing orders, and collecting any payments for new orders of any Ray Lynch product."

The artist's San Rafael-based **Ray Lynch Productions** owns his



by Deborah Russell

entire catalog, including 100% of the master recordings and all publishing and copyrights. The company currently is establishing a base of independent distribution.

Citing the advice of their attorneys, neither Music West president **Allan Kaplan** nor Lynch's manager, **Kathleen Lynch**, would comment regarding the court order.

Meanwhile, **Melanie Jordin** and **Steve Yanovsky**, who, respectively, manage Music West artists **Jim Chappell** and **Oystein Sevag**, express concern about their own artists' futures with Music West due to a number of internal changes at the label.

ESSENTIALLY YOURS: Relativ-

JUSTIN'S DOING JUST FINE, THANKS

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better manners, etc."

Another important change under way at Justin is computerization. "We just went up in our sales department Friday [Sept. 27]," said Monig. "We'll go on line for inventory control next month."

He said the computer system will allow him to "cut down on the number of people doing inventory; those people will be doing something else." But he added, "I'm not sure

ity Records is gearing up for the Oct. 22 release of "T. Rex: The Essential Collection." The three-CD/cassette package boasts 40 tracks, including the previously unreleased acoustic versions of "Jeepster," "Spaceball Ricochet," and "Mystic Lady." The package includes a 36-page booklet, featuring commentary by **Tony Visconti** and **Ira Robbins**. Also, New York/Torance, Calif.-based **Relativity** will release the 19-song "T. Rex: The Essential Video Collection," featuring performances of "Bang A Gong (Get It On)" and "Telegram Sam" . . . **Jefferson Airplane** founder/archivist **Marty Balin** is recording his debut album for **WGA Records**, the newly formed record division of **Hancock, N.H.-based CD Review** magazine. Balin will recut such Airplane classics as "Volunteers" and "It's No Secret" for the WGA release. The label is also just out with a **Spirit** maxi-CD, which contains a new version of "Nature's Way," featuring **Sarah Fleetwood**, as well as three additional tracks and a lengthy interview with noted DJ **Harvey Wharfield** . . . **Hollywood, Calif.-based Restless Records** is now home to psychobilly cult stars the **Cramps**. "Look Mom, No Head" is slated for Nov. 15 release. **Iggy Pop** contributes vocals on a Cramps cover of the **Flower Children's** "Miniskirt Blues."

NEW COMPANIES: Publicist **Kat Stratton** and entertainment attor-

ney **Larry White** have launched Atlanta-based **Blue Cat Productions**, a public relations firm specializing in blues and country music.

DISTRIBUTION UPDATE: New York's **ISP Records** has pacted for distribution with fellow New Yorker **Quark Records**. The first release from ISP is "Yo! What's Up" by **Ivory Soul** . . . **Aubandale, Mass.-based Taang! Records** has signed an exclusive distribution deal with New York's **Caroline Records**.

WHO'S ON FIRST: **Kenny Altman**, who recently left Music West, has resurfaced as director of promotion at **Sausalito, Calif.'s Real Music** . . . **Diana Lemchak** recently was promoted to executive VP at New York's **Warlock Records**. She had been director of national sales and distribution . . . Atlanta's **Ichiban** has hired **Ernest J. Davis** as director of radio promotions.



Saving The Earth. Country star **John Denver** displays a T-shirt designed by **Beltsville, Md.-based Kemp Mill Music**. Kemp Mill has instituted recycling programs at its 34 stores, warehouse, and office headquarters. Denver was given the shirt backstage at his Sept. 21 concert at **Wolf Trap Farm Park** in **Vienna, Va.**

RETAIL TRACK

(Continued from preceding page)

house label, **One World International**, which will license music from overseas imprints and distribute it in the U.S.

The new financing comes from an investor group based in **Hong Kong**, which **Spinosa** declines to identify. "We are primarily involved in distributing labels, so now we will expand into the Asian market," he says.

Among the labels that **One World** now imports and distributes in the U.S. are **Caprice**, **Musidisc**, **BMG Hong Kong** and **Italy, CAM, CBS International, Accord**, and **Berlitz**. The company is also negotiating to distribute **Delphine**, a French label that issues **MOR** product, **Spinosa** says.

This column was written by **Geoff Mayfield**, with assistance from **Ed Christman**.



House Guest. Russian pianist **Nikolai Petrov** visits with staffers at **Harmony House Classical** in **Royal Oak, Mich.**, to promote his new **Art & Electronics** release of **Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique."** Shown, from left, are **Harmony House** employee **Linda Hassell**; **Petrov**; former second assistant manager **Mona DeQuis**; and second assistant manager **Kristin Miller**.