

THE TOP MUSIC FROM FESTIVAL RECORDS NEW ZEALAND

home of the independents

Brendan Power
Headless Chickens **3Ds**
Hallelujah Picassos
Push Push
Charlotte Sometimes
JPS Experience
Ngaire
MC OJ & the Rhythm Slave
David Kilgour These
Moana Wilding Ways
& the Moa Hunters
Head Like A Hole



THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD

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New Zealand



INTERNATIONAL

TALENT ROUNDUP

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picked up for distribution by First Warning, through BMG.

PUSH PUSH

If last year belonged to any band in New Zealand it was Push Push, an energetic, hard-working Auckland five-piece that topped the charts for six straight weeks with its debut single "Trippin'."

The song, "a three-chord thrash inspired by the Ramones," according to lead singer Mickey Havoc, became an instant classic and led to the top 10 follow-up "Song 27."

Formed at a local high school on Auckland's North Shore, Push Push underwent small lineup changes early on, acquired regular gigs at the Powerstation, and then quickly eclipsed much of the fashionable hard-rock set.

The debut album released three months ago, "A Trillion Shades Of Happy" (Tall Poppy, distributed through Festival), brought all the elements together. Included were the two singles, a third top 10 hit in "What My Baby Likes," and a cover of the Chills' "Love My Leather Jacket." Push Push has also been successful in Australia, where "Trippin'" went top 30.

HOI POLLOI

Founded eight years ago, the four-piece Hoi Polloi started life in earnest when singer Jenny Gullen joined the band four years ago. With her powerful style, which has often invited comparisons with Melissa Etheridge, Gullen has developed into a compelling front woman for a band that specializes in commercial rock with a Christian message. Hoi Polloi has also secured significant opening spots for international artists such as Amy Grant and scored the coup of being signed to Reunion in the U.S.

It was in a Nashville club where the hard-rocking band met up with representatives from Reunion and the subsequent album for the label, recorded at Auckland's Airforce Studios and in Nashville, allows it to make an entry into the commercial mainstream.

"That's where the tougher judges are," says singer/songwriter Gullen. "What we're seeing now, I believe, is a new openness to spiritual issues."

SHONA LAING

The irony of singer/songwriter Shona Laing being potentially one of New Zealand's biggest export commodities isn't lost on anyone—

certainly not Laing herself.

After all, here is a woman whose current Sony New Zealand album "New On Earth" is her seventh in a career that stretches back 20 years to her first hit, "1905."

The in-between years have seen Laing working in England, fronting for the Manfred Mann band and enjoying chart hits in Europe and Australia with her "Soviet Snow" and "Glad I'm Not A Kennedy" singles.

Epic in the U.S. has picked up "New On Earth" and will release it in Britain and America the first week in August.

GRAHAM REID

New Zealand: The Market At A Glance

Population: 3.45 million.

Estimated retail market 1991: \$113.7 million (in 1990, \$111.8 million).

Unit single sales (including cassette singles): 1991, 962,000 (in 1990, 853,000).

Vinyl LPs: 140,000 (398,000).

Cassettes: 3,615,000 (3,945 million).

CDs: 2,354,000 (1,881 million).

Music videos: 106,000 (117,000).

Platinum albums 1991/92 (sales of 20,000): "Piano By Candlelight, Vol. 3," Carl Doy; "Woodface," Crowded House.

Gold albums 1991/92 (sales of 10,000): "Moonlight Sax 2," Brian Smith; "Heart To Heart," Kiri Te Kanawa and Malcolm McNeill; "Honeychild," Jenny Morris; "Standing Ovation," Rob Guest; "Legends Alive," Gray Bartlett and others; "Something Beginning With C," the Exponents; "A Trillion Shades Of Happy," Push Push. Platinum singles (sales of 10,000): none.

Gold singles 1991/92 (sales of 5,000): "Tears On My Pillow," the Parker Project; "Why Does Love Do This To Me," the Exponents; "Song 27," Push Push; "Who Loves Who The Most," the Exponents; "Cruise Control," Headless Chickens; "Side By Side," Barry Crump & Scotty.

Information from the Recording Industry Assn. of New Zealand (RIANZ), May 1992.

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New Zealand record company/recording studio seeks international affiliation.

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