

# Artists & Music

## Blue Note Subsid Debuts As Home For World-Pop

BY CHRIS MORRIS

LOS ANGELES—Blue Note Records has inaugurated a New York-based subsidiary label, Metro Blue, to serve as a repository for unique, pop-oriented musicians from around the world,



MONTE

including acts from EMI's international roster. The label kicks off Oct. 18 with the release of "Rose And Charcoal," a new album by Brazilian vocalist Marisa Monte, whose previous albums were issued on Blue Note's World Pacific imprint. Also due on that date is arranger Bob Belden's "When Doves Cry," a jazz-skewed album of material penned by Prince, featuring appearances by such Blue Note and Manhattan artists as vocalist Cassandra Wilson, pianist-vocalist Holly Cole, and



saxophonist Everette Harp.

The establishment of Metro Blue follows a successful year for parent Blue Note, which scored a gold record with English jazz/hip-hop band US3's "Hand On The Torch" and drew major critical attention for singer Wilson's distinctive work.

Capitol president/CEO Gary Gersh says, "What I think Metro Blue can be is a lifestyle kind of label, along the lines of a Nonesuch... [It] can provide a real opportunity to bring in music from our affiliates from around the world, stuff that wouldn't ordinarily get heard here in America, and create its own cachet with a large segment of the buying public."

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## Rwanda Relief Efforts Reach Near-Band Aid Proportions

BY PAUL SEXTON

LONDON—In a scale reconstruction of Bob Geldof's Band Aid mission of a decade ago, a legion of musicians are gathering for two separate records and a concert to raise money for war- and disease-riven refugees in the African country of Rwanda.

Already released as a single here on EastWest is a version of the Judds' "Love Can Build A Bridge," featuring the Children For Rwanda Choir, a 52-member ensemble of schoolchildren backed by artists such as ex-Police drummer Stewart Copeland, Big Country's Mark Brzezicki, and studio sidemen including Chucho Merchan and Danny Cummings, known for their work with Dave Stewart and Dire Straits, respectively.

The track was produced and arranged by Bob Sargeant from an idea by Avril MacRory, head of programming for BBC Television. Following its Aug. 29 release, the single was featured on BBC TV's flagship pop countdown show, "Top Of The Pops," helping it enter the U.K. singles chart this week at No. 57.

EastWest managing director Max Hole admits that some compassion fatigue may still exist with regard to charity records, but adds, "All the pictures everybody's seen on television are so intense, you can't fail to be moved by them. Hopefully, the size of the problem will overcome the fatigue."

A second Rwanda charity single, featuring versions of Marvin Gaye's

"What's Going On" and Australian star John Farnham's "You're The Voice" by a group of artists known as Music Relief, was recorded Sept. 2-5 at Whitfield Street Studios in London's West End. The project was overseen by seasoned English hit-makers Mark King of Level 42 and Nik Kershaw.

A label for the release was uncon-

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## November Seeks David Broza Breakthrough 'Second Street' Draws On Rock, Spanish Music, Poetry

BY JIM BESSMAN

NEW YORK—The game plan is for November Records to take several albums and slowly build David Broza's career over the next five years. The ultimate goal: taking the unique, Israeli-born artist from his international base to the U.S. marketplace.

"Second Street," Broza's second album for the label, arrives Sept. 20 and should help speed the process.

"The single 'When A Man Holds A Woman' is just fantastic," says Kim Alexander, acting PD at Philadelphia album alternative station WXPB-FM, where Broza has become a fixture.

"We played his last album, 'Time Of Trains,' pretty heavily, and the response from listeners was great," Alexander says. "He's like 'the old XPN friend' at this point—we have him on every time he's in Philly, when

## London Suede Ready For The World? Sony Looks To Topple U.S. Radio Barrier

This article was prepared by Craig Rosen in Los Angeles and Dominic Pride in London.

With the October 25 release of the London Suede's "dog man star," Columbia Records faces the challenge of attempting to expand the British band's audience at a time when anti-Anglo sentiment is running high at American modern rock radio.

Says XTRA (91X) San Diego PD Mike Halloran, "Two years ago it was a completely different story, but there's limited success for English pop right now. Americans are interested in American bands."

Columbia VP of marketing, East Coast, Jay Krugman says he is well aware of the obstacles. "Certainly, today the environment is less favorable to any sort of British invasion," he



LONDON SUEDE

says. "But if you listen to the album and combine it with the band's live performances, it wouldn't be perceived as an uphill battle."

To complicate matters, the band parted company with guitarist

Bernard Butler and had to change its name to the London Suede in the U.S., because another act known as Suede has rights to the name in America (Billboard, Dec. 25, 1993).

Despite the adversity, London Suede frontman Brett Anderson is optimistic that the band will eventually find success in the U.S., even if he isn't quite sure what to make of America's lack of interest in U.K. acts. "I don't think music should have anything to do with what country you come from," Anderson says. "There's good bands from America and good bands from England, and there's shit bands from America and shit bands from England."

Yet the gulf between European and North American tastes is well illustrated by the different reactions with

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**Blues Brothers.** Ron Goldstein, left, president/CEO of Private Music, and Isaac Tigrett, founder/CEO of House Of Blues Entertainment Inc., announce the two companies' new joint venture, House Of Blues Music Company. Private Music will be responsible for sales and marketing, promotion, creative services, and business affairs; House Of Blues will handle artist signings and recording. Both companies will handle publicity. Initial projects include recordings by "Monster" Mike Welch, Becky Barksdale, and an Albert King collection of 27 previously unreleased songs. The joint venture is funded by BMG.

## LiPuma Brings Creative Touch To GRP Helm

BY PAUL VERNA

NEW YORK—Multi-dimensional record executive Tommy LiPuma expects to be wearing his creative hat when he takes the reins of contemporary-jazz powerhouse GRP Records from current president Larry Rosen.

LiPuma, most recently senior VP of A&R at Elektra Records, will assume the presidency of GRP in November, according to a statement from MCA Music Entertainment, GRP's parent company. Rosen will become chairman emeritus of GRP, while the label's other co-founder, Dave Grusin, will continue in his current role as creative consultant.

Commenting on the appointment, MCA Music Entertainment Group chairman/CEO Al Teller calls LiPuma "that truly rare individual—a creative force and award-winning producer who is at the same time a highly respected music executive and industry leader [who has] helped to expand the audience for jazz around the world."

Citing LiPuma's success with such stars as George Benson, Miles Davis, David Sanborn, Anita Baker, and Natalie Cole, Rosen adds that LiPuma is "the ideal candidate to take GRP to the next plateau."

Asked in which direction he plans to steer the label, LiPuma says, "I don't have any specific, utopian view of the way I would like this [label] to be at this juncture." However, he says he is interested in U.K. acid-jazz, and in finding "fresh young talent."

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LIPUMA



BROZA

we usually have artists on once. But he's so riveting when he plays live.

"His shows have gotten bigger and bigger here, and the next one's at the Theater of Living Arts, which we're sponsoring. So his growth is pretty amazing, and this album will make him even bigger."

Alexander's report jibes with November president Jamie Biddle's vision for Broza.

"He's an adult artist at a time when the album alternative format is just emerging," says Biddle. "We took him there last year with 'Time Of Trains' and had great success building a base for him. Since then, he's become a key artist for the adult rock

format—we hope to take the next step with this one."

"Second Street" is actually the 13th album in Broza's 15-year recording career, and his third release in the U.S. (an earlier EMI album received only limited release). His other albums are on his own RGB Records label in Israel, and include the most recent "Elements Of Love."

"They're all in the same vein, though 'Second Street' brings me back to what I started out doing originally—rock'n'roll," says Broza, who plays guitar in an aggressive rock style on a classical Spanish, nylon-stringed acoustic instrument made by Segovia's guitar builders.

"When I started, I was electric, and over the years I changed to a Spanish classical guitar," he says. "Now I try to combine its softness with an edge,"

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