



## EMI's Six Months Profits Up 36%

LONDON — Profits of Electric and Musical Industries soared by 36% in the first six months of the fiscal year.

Chairman Sir Joseph Lockwood reported that they rose from £7,431,000 to £10,126,000 in the half-year to December 31.

The contribution to profits from Associated British Picture Corporation, which EMI acquired at the end of January this year, amounted to only £250,000 from the first interim dividend due to EMI on its holdings of 4,000,000 held in the early part of 1968. Behind this best-ever half-time figures is a 32% increase in sales, spearheaded by a tremendous thrust in North America. There the value of sales leapt by 61% to £35 million. In the U. K. there was a 26% rise to £23.3 million. Overall the half-year's sales total of £83.7 million compares with £63.3 million for the same period last year.

## Arc Goes Public

TORONTO — Arc Sound with a group of associated companies have filed a preliminary prospectus with the Ontario Securities Commission to go public under a holding company called Arc Home Entertainment Diversified Ltd.

The announcement came from Phil Anderson, president of Arc Sound Ltd. Shares amounting to 175,000 are to be offered at \$2.75 per share with an additional 25,000 shares being subscribed by employees of Arc at \$2.47 per share. Should this prospectus be approved it could net Arc Home Entertainment \$500,000.00

David Fry, Fraser and Company Limited of Toronto, is underwriting the issue.

Arc is planning to increase its program of establishing Canadian talent, of which they have been prominent in over the past ten years. Much more emphasis will be placed on world wide recognition of songwriters through locally produced sessions.

Tony DiMaria, top producer for Arc is now concentrating on ultra-quality productions of material written by Brian Russell, considered one of Canada's top writers of pop and folk material.

Arc is well established in the musical instrument business and the distribution of impulse-priced LPs, the latter having created a sizeable market for their country and pop artists.

## First German Sides For Ames

NEW YORK — RCA's Ed Ames has just completed his first foreign-language recordings in Los Angeles.

Under the direction of Wolf Kabitisky, German record producer, he has recorded four sides in German, "Uns're Kleine Welt," "Ohne Dich," "Ich Hol'dich Aus Der Einsamkeit," and "Wann Beginnt Der Tag."

Primarily geared for the German market, the recordings will be made available to all RCA companies and affiliates around the world who have the appropriate outlets to utilize the product.

Ames speaks French, Italian, German, Spanish and Hebrew in addition to English. Plans to record him in other languages are currently underway.

## Initial Euro Trek For Chambers Bros.

HOLLYWOOD — The Chambers Brothers, whose first Columbia LP "The Time Has Come" just received RIAA certification for one million sales, left last week (3) for their first European tour. The first in the series of concerts and T.V. guestings began in Copenhagen on March 8 then the group appear in Stockholm on March 11, Duesseldorf on March 17, Hamburg on March 20, Frankfurt on March 23. The tour winds up in London on March 22 where the Chambers Brothers will guest on the BBC T.V. "Lulu Show," "Top of the Pops," "Color Me Pop," and will give two performances at London's largest rock hall — The Round House.

## Columbia Canada Offers Brit. Blues Line

TORONTO — Columbia Records recently bowed its new line of Blue Horizon, considered one of the top British Blues lines on the market. Bill Eaton, national promotion for Columbia, reports "excellent" initial reaction to all five releases. These include Duster Bennett's "Smiling Like I'm Happy," "When You Feel The Feeling You Was Feeling" by Champion Jack Dupree, Curtis Jones' "Now Resident In Europe," "Presenting The Country Blues" by Roosevelt Holts and "O. K. Ken" by Chicken Shack.

Although not considered top fare for the jazz purist, it's felt that the marriage of amplified sounds and pure

## Ralfini Taking Post As Head Of WB/7 Arts In United Kingdom

NEW YORK — Ian Ralfini has been named managing director of Warner Bros./Seven Arts newly formed United Kingdom subsidiary record and publishing companies. Ralfini, who will headquarter in London, takes over his new post April 1. Ralfini, meanwhile will continue in his similar job with MGM Records until he winds up current business with that company.

Upon reporting to Warner Seven Records, Ralfini will be reporting directly to company's international vice president Phil Rose and W-Seven Music Division vice president George Lee. Responsibilities of his new post will include making all

staff appointments and decisions — some of which will be forthcoming in the near future.

"Our association with Ian goes back several years," said Mike Maitland, President, "in fact, we have looked forward to the day when we would be in a position to take advantage of Ian's wealth of experience, both with our catalogue and others. His efforts on behalf of our repertoire during his tenure at Pye, right up to his current important position in our industry, bears witness to the validity of his reputation in the U. K. market."

The new managing director intends to develop an exploitation staff as soon as practical, with a full complement of personnel geared for June 30th. This date coincides with the termination of Pye's licensing agreement with W7. Maitland added that W-7 Records is in the midst of concluding a press-distribution deal with Pye.

"We have watched the maneuvers of the other emerging independent companies in U. K. and hopefully, we can learn from them. It is our intent to develop a ruggedly aggressive, A&R oriented, promotion-conscious operation, one which will exemplify the very things that have been responsible for our world wide success. Most important, in coordinating such efforts, particularly with respect to A&R and local talent development, Ian, in effect, will represent an extension of our New York and West Coast recording activities with commensurate authority."

## Northern Songs Profits Increase

LONDON — Profits of at least £1,000,000 for the year are forecast compared with £932,000 last year for Northern Songs, the £3,000,000 group owning more than 160 copyrights on songs by Beatles John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison.

News of better-than-expected figures to come is announced along with a half-time dividend of 36%, 10 points more than last year's interim. Profits at half-time are, however, lower by £58,000 at £345,000. A full report on the Lawrence Wright repertoire acquisition — the company paid £812,500 for this collection of songs featuring famous "oldies" like Among My Souvenirs — is promised soon from the company's accountants.

## Sandpipers On Tour

A&M recording artists The Sandpipers are on their first European concert tour, beginning March 1. The group planed to London where they will appear on three top television shows including "Lulu," "Dee Time" and "The Julie Felix Show." The Sandpipers will then travel to Amsterdam where they will be appearing at the Grand Gala de Disc for three days, beginning March 5. The group will then travel to Stockholm and Madrid for additional television shows. On March 12, The Sandpipers will appear on the Berlin Record Gala television show. The Sandpipers recently appeared at the San Remo Music Festival where they introduced their single record, "Quando M'innamoro." The next single, "Kum-Ba-Ya" b/w "Lo Mucho te Quiero," will be released in all countries they will be visiting within the next week. The Sandpipers include Mike Piano, Jim Brady and Richard Shoff.

jazz will succeed and perhaps open a bright new future for jazz. Several of the unbelievers among jazz jocks have apparently come over to the amplification of jazz and are passing their enthusiasm along to their listeners.

The Blue Horizon label, initially in the Epic fold, was apparently unveiled with their new logo so as to create a wholly new image for British Blues, of which Blue Horizon would appear to have the cream of the crop. These well established U. S. artists were cut in London and created an island-wide demand for their product. Some of the backing given these artists is supplied by top instrumentalists of the UK.

## Bano Renews w/ EMI Italiana

MILAN — Al Bano has signed a new long-term agreement with EMI Italiana, according to Stephen Gottlieb, general manager of the company. One of his initial assignments under the new deal is a visit to France (March 5-9) as part of his disk push in that country. He'll appear on two TV shows, "Midi Magazine" and "Televisionnaires," and do a series of radio broadcasts. After his "Mattino" smash, Bano is also preparing a new tune he'll present in the next edition of "Disco Per L'Estate" (A Record for the Summer). "Mattino" and "Vechio Sam" have just been released by Bano in Spanish versions.

## Stig Anderson Expands

NORWAY — Stig Anderson, head of Sweden Music AB, and a number of other publishing houses, reports that he is planning to open local offices in Oslo and Copenhagen around May 1.

In Oslo, Jorg-Fr. Ellertsen will handle the Stig Anderson companies, while head of the Danish operations will be Jorgen Mortensen.

The Danish and Norwegian offices will not only deal with the publishing field. Anderson's record label Polar will also be handled by these companies. The latter is expanding due to just signed contracts between Polar and Jad Records and Beacon Record, among other things.

## Compo Is Steady's Distrib In Canada

MONTREAL — Compo of Canada has just concluded an agreement whereby it will represent the Steady label in Canada. Steady, a new division of ITCC, the tape cartridge producer, recently purchased the Little Darlin' label.

## Lulu To Present England's Entry In Eurovision

LONDON — With a total of 56,476 votes, "Boom Bang a Bang", penned by Peter Warme and Alan Moorhouse and published by Chappell & Co. Ltd. is the song with which Lulu will represent Britain in the Eurovision Song Contest in Madrid on March 29th. EMI rush-released the single on Columbia.

### Irish Entry

The Irish entry for the Eurovision Song Contest is "Wages of Love," penned by Michael Reade and published by April Music. CBS issued the single in the U. K.

The local Swedish Song Festival took place in Swedish TV Saturday, March 1. As usual a jury members in eleven spots all over Sweden had one vote each, with the curious result that after the first voting, two tunes both received 31 points. At a new voting all eleven juries had to vote between the two songs only, with the result that "Judy, min van" (Judy, My Friend), performed by Tommy Korberg got 54 votes against "Hej Clown" (Hey, Clown), performed by Jan Malmstjo, which got 45 votes.

The winning song is written by Britt Lindeborg to music composed by British-born Roger Wallis. It will represent Sweden at the forthcoming Eurovision Song Festival in Madrid, Spain.

A local Norwegian Song Festival took place in a Norwegian TV show here March 1. Again Arne Bendiksen was the man behind the winning tune, "Oj, Oj, Oj, sa glad jeg skal bli", performed by Kirsti Sparboe.

The winning song will represent Norway at the Eurovision Song Festival, but it is not yet known if the same artist will perform it there.