

## Ross, Spierer Open Indie Production Co. Through IMC Office

HOLLYWOOD — Songwriter/producers Beverly Ross and Christopher Spierer have formed Black River Circus Productions, an indie production company which will be administered by International Management Combine.

Black River will produce both IMC's and other acts. First artist for the company is The Black River Circus, a contemporary rock group. Distribution for Circus' first product is currently being negotiated.

The new production company will also house two publishing companies: Black River Circus (ASCAP) and Beverly Music (BMI), in addition to a commercial music wing.

Both Miss Ross and Spierer have wide experience in the music field. Miss Ross entered the industry as a 16-year-old and the writer of the hit song "Lollipop." During the next few years she wrote a number of other hits including "Candy Man" (the Roy Orbison hit), "The Girl of My Best Friend" (Elvis Presley), "Re-Mem-Mem-Ber When" (The Earls) and "Dixieland Rock," from the soundtrack of Presley's "King Creole." For the past year, she's been working with Buddah and co-producing material for the label including a series of TV and radio commercials.

Spierer has been a lead singer/writer/producer for several groups during the past few years and has worked with such acts as Neil Diamond, Bobby Goldsboro, Bob Seeger System and the Reflections. Spierer also toured with The Living End ("I Need a Lot of Lovin'") in both the U. S. and in Europe.

Spierer and Miss Ross are transplanted New Yorkers who will headquarter at IMC's Hollywood offices. First step in expanding the amount of talent in the production wing will be via "open auditions."

## Nat Jones Dies

NEW YORK — Nat Jones, vocal coach, accompanist, arranger and composer, died here last week (20) at Flower Fifth Hospital of cancer at the age of 42. Jones helped develop the careers of such artists as Leslie Uggams and Diahann Carroll. Lately, he had been engaged in indie production. He also accompanied such performers as Anthony Newley and Sylvia Sims. Survivors include his wife, Geraldine, and a son, Nat Jones, Jr. Funeral services were set for this Monday (25) at St. Stephan's at 144 West 228 St. in New York at 10 A.M.

## DAG Assoc.—HARE Management Firm

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — DAG Associates Ltd. — HARE with offices in the Inter-mac Bldg., 2541 Monroe Ave., Rochester NY are specializing in the professional entertainment field. DAG Associates Ltd. is a booking and management agency for entertainers. David A. Galen, President, handles the business management, including promotion and booking.

Roger B. Hoff — HARE (Hoff Associate Representing Entertainment) specializes in scouting new entertainers, working with and developing new groups, and personal management of the groups signed with DAG Associates Ltd. Together DAG Associates Ltd. and HARE are a complete booking and management agency.

## Beethoven 'Ode' Re-Write Cut By Marco On Thunderbird

NEW YORK — A re-write of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" from his Ninth Symphony appears on the Thunderbird label through a vocal by Ray Marco, as produced by Jimmy Wisner. The Marco version is called "Somehow We've Made the Morning" and was culled from an LP of the same name. Thunderbird operates out of Buffalo, New York.

# Set Roster Of Newport Jazz Artists

NEWPORT, R.I. — The completed schedule of artists for the 1970 Newport Jazz Festival July 10, 11, 12 at Festival Field, Newport, Rhode Island has been announced. The Friday night concert — the Schlitz Salute to Louis — is a New Orleans Tribute to Louis Armstrong. Featured will be Armstrong himself, Mahalia Jackson, and the largest contingent of New Orleans musicians ever presented outside the Crescent City — the Preservation Hall Band with Billie and Dede Pierce, Jim Robinson, Willie Humphrey and soloists Punch Miller, Percy Humphrey, and Cap'n John Handy, the New Orleans Classic Ragtime Orchestra with musician-scholar Bill Russell on violin, and the Eureka Brass Band. Guest trumpeters paying tribute to Louis will be Dizzy Gillespie, Bobby Hackett, Wild Bill Davison, Jimmy Owens, Ray Nance, and Joe Newman.

## New SSS Releases

NASHVILLE — The Shelby Singleton Corporation has a number of singles and LP's due for May release. These include David Allen Coe's "Penitentiary Blues" and Bergen White's "For Women Only" on the SSS International label; The Gentrys' album, "Gentrys" and Johnny Cash's "The Legend" on Sun International and "Heather Black" for Wet Soul.

New Plantation singles will include Jeannie C. Riley's "Duty Not Desire," and Robbie Hardin's "The Service." Other LP's currently planned include ones by Linda Martell for Plantation, George Perkins and Betty LaVette on Silver Fox, Calvin Levy on Blue Fox and a Sun Int'l LP featuring one side each of Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis.

## Capitol Campaign Set For 'Pufnstuf' Track

HOLLYWOOD — Capitol Records, Inc., plans a massive merchandising campaign built around the release of its soundtrack album from the forthcoming Universal motion picture "Pufnstuf."

A comprehensive press kit containing a mobile display, counter merchandiser to accommodate 25 albums, posters, streamers and numerous other assorted display materials will be furnished to accounts. An extensive print and radio ad campaign is also set, as well as special in-store promotion programs involving Capitol personnel.

"Pufnstuf," based on the television series of the same name, will have its world premiere June 3 in San Antonio, Texas. The film stars Jack Wild, who has an exclusive recording contract with Capitol.

The Saturday evening concert will feature Ike and Tina Turner, Nina Simone, Herbie Mann, Kenny Burrell, and Dizzy Gillespie with his quintet and guest tenor Don Byas, appearing in America for the first time in two decades. Four violinists will be presented — Stephane Grappelli, Jean-Luc Ponty, Joe Venuti, and Ray Nance.

An innovation on Saturday afternoon will be six hours of jazz starting at noon, all for the general admission price of \$4.00. At noon there will be three unamplified workshops running simultaneously on small stages: a drum workshop with Tony Williams, Art Blakey, Chico Hamilton, and Elvin Jones; a trumpet workshop with Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Joe Newman, and Jimmy Owens; and a violin workshop with Nance, Venuti, Ponty, and Grappelli. At 3 P. M. there will be a concert on the main stage with the Sadao Watanabe Quartet, the Gary Burton Quartet with guest Keith Jarrett, the Chico Hamilton Quintet, the Tony Williams Lifetime, and the Elvin Jones Trio. The Sunday afternoon concert will feature Bill Cosby with his new band, "Badfoot Brown and the Bunions Bradford Marching and Funeral Band". Making her Newport debut will be singer Roberta Flack. Rounding out the program will be a jam session with blues guitarists Albert King, T-Bone Walker, and Shuggie Otis.

The festival concludes Sunday evening with a program featuring Ella Fitzgerald, Buddy Rich and his Orchestra, the Les McCann Trio, the Eddie Harris Quintet, the Cannonball Adderley Quintet, and Leon Thomas with his quartet.

## National General Hopping

HOLLYWOOD — First soundtrack from the Buddah-distributed National General label, "The Grasshopper," has just gone into release backed by an all-out effort from both the disk and film branches of the company. Two cuts from the album, Bobby Russell's "As Far As I'm Concerned" and a performance by the Brooklyn Bridge have been released as singles.

A mass consumer merchandising campaign, including radio and TV time buys will back the film and soundtrack. Flick opened in Chicago and San Francisco last week, and is scheduled for openings in several additional major markets this week.

## E. B. Marks U.S. Rights On 'Away'

NEW YORK — E. B. Marks exercises the U.S. rights to "If You Go Away," the Jacques Brel-Rod McKuen song. Song was incorrectly identified as to its U.S. outlet in a recent story involving a U.S. rep deal between Chappell Music and Intersong.

## Congress Sets 1st Push On Elton John

HOLLYWOOD — A substantial exploitation campaign has been set by Congress Records to back the American debut of singer/writer Elton John, already a major figure on the Continent. Russ Regan, Uni Records vice president and general manager, has just returned from a series of conferences with the Dick James Organization in London relative to the initial release of John's product in the U. S.

John, and his writing partner Bernie Taupin, have been responsible for two hit singles, "Lady Samantha" and "It's Me That You Need." "Samantha" and "Your Song," have been recorded here by Three Dog Night, with the latter getting a Cilla Black reading as well. In addition, Silver Metre included a quartet of John-Taupin songs on their first LP for National General.

Regan noted that a substantial budget has been allocated to provide for thorough saturation on John's newly released single, "Border Song," in addition to the deluxe album package due in July. A Uni artists relations staffer soon embarks on a tour in which he will conduct a series of Elton John 'seminars' with the label's field men, via a stereo slide presentation. "I have instructed our marketing department to bring home this product," said Regan. "Obviously we feel strongly about it, therefore we intend to back it to the hilt."

## Music Performance Honors To Jessel And Simon

NEW YORK — George Jessel and playwright Neil Simon have been cited by the Music and Performing Arts Lodge of B'nai B'rith to receive its annual awards which will be presented on Saturday Evening, June 13, 1970 at the Lodge's Sixth Annual Awards Dinner-Dance to be held in the Trianon Ballroom of the New York Hilton.

Jessel, who recently returned from his seventh trip to Viet Nam will receive the Humanitarian Award, while Simon, who is currently represented by three hits on Broadway, will receive the Creative Achievement Award.

The black-tie affair, will also feature comic Jackie Mason, who headlines the entertainment portion of the evening, along with songstress Marilyn Michaels. Music for the evening will be provided by the Paul Livert Orchestra.

Tickets for the affair are available at \$50.00 per person, through chairman Stan Marshall (JU 2-7711) or co-chairman Ken Rosenblum (JU 2-6885); advertising journal information can be obtained from Journal chairman, George Levy (361-7211).

## Stone To WB

NEW YORK — Stuart Stone, a buyer for RCA Records for 13 years, has left RCA to join Warner Brothers in New York.

## Cavallaro To GWP

NEW YORK — Pianist Carmen Cavallaro has left Decca Records after 20 years and signed a three-year pact with GWP label. Cavallaro's contract calls for one album and an unlimited amount of singles through 1972.

Jerry Purcell, president of the label, said the pianist's initial release for GWP would be an album of contemporary songs scheduled for this summer.

## New Houston One-Stop

HOUSTON — Margie's One Stop has officially opened in Houston. It is owned by Margie Kunkel, former singles buyer for United Record Distributors. Location is 2005 Polk.



GOLDEN PAWS — Dunhill ABC's Jay Lasker presents gold album number four to Steppenwolf for their "live" LP. The group (l. to r.) George Biondo, the new bass-man, Goldy McJohn, John Kay, Jerry Edmonton, and Larry Byrom, receive their award while resting in L. A. between tours.