

Thompson

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is a pivotal member of our senior management team, and, as he returns to the world of promotion, we have every confidence in his ability to bring that same leadership, knowledge and expertise to his new role."

Before joining Island Def Jam Thompson spent 11 years at Elektra, the first five as Sr. VP/Promotion and the last six as VP/GM. He began his career in 1985 at Chrysalis Records and was VP/Top 40 Promotion in 1991 when he left to become Sr. VP/Promotion at SBK Records. From there, he headed to EMI as VP/Promotion, where he stayed until moving to Elektra.

"I welcome this challenging new opportunity and the vote of confidence from [IDJMG Chairman] L.A. [Reid], [Def Jam President/CEO] Jay-Z and Steve [Bartels]," Thompson said. "It is exciting to be involved again with my first love, promotion, and to continue the great accomplishments the staff has achieved thus far. I look forward to being able to play a significant role in bringing the company to its next level of success."

Concurrently, Island Def Jam Sr. VP/Sales **Mitch Imber** has been upped to Sr. VP/Sales & Marketing. He'll oversee the label group's sales, marketing, production and strategic marketing departments and the administrative



ARDENTLY TALENTED Jann Arden recently stopped by the CHFI/Toronto studios to treat listeners to a private performance in celebration of the release of her self-titled album. Seen here in the midst of the festivities are (l-r) Arden and CHFI midday goddess Michelle Butterly.

function of the creative services department.

"L.A. Reid, Shawn Carter [a.k.a. Jay-Z] and I look forward to Mitch's experience and insight pushing our artist-intensive sales and strategic marketing campaigns to higher levels of success," said Bartels, to whom Imber reports. "Mitch's leadership abilities will ensure that IDJ remains at the forefront of the music industry."

Imber started his music-industry career in 1991 as PolyGram Dis-

tribution's Sales Manager and became Universal Special Markets/Polymedia VP/Sales in 1997. He joined Island Def Jam in 1997 as VP/Sales.

"Rarely in the history of the music business has there been an opportunity to work for such artistically successful executives as Reid, Bartels and Carter," said Imber. "I am honored to be given the opportunity to help create and execute the vision for our artists, and I enthusiastically embrace this new challenge."

McGee

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new level of passion and success to the entire WLS team."

Most recently a consultant for special projects at Oregon-based Talk Radio Network, McGee had a programming career that has included stints at WDBO/Orlando, KTRS/St. Louis and now-defunct Oldies KBZT (K-Best 95)/San Diego. His broadcast career also included a stretch as GM at KIOA-AM & FM/Des Moines.

Nominated as News/Talk Programmer of the Year in 2004 by the readers of **R&R**, McGee was also on hand at the 2005 **R&R** Talk Radio Seminar to accept an **R&R** Industry Achievement Award on behalf of WDBO for News/Talk Station of the Year for markets 26-plus.

"Joining WLS is a dream come true for me," McGee said. "Almost my entire life, I've lived within the signal of 'The Big 89,' and I have always followed its evolution with great interest. Now it's my great honor to join John Gallagher and the team at WLS to help continue that evolution with a franchise uniquely designed to serve Chicagoland well into the future."

"A big highlight will be the opportunity to work with some of the

people I respect and admire most in our business. I am truly honored to become part of ABC Radio's elite corps of broadcasters."

Puglise

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thinking broadcasters, and I couldn't be happier about joining this talented group and helping them to realize their personal and professional goals."

Puglise became VP/GM of WILM, WDSB, WRDX & WWTX/Wilmington and WDOV/Dover, DE, which is managed out of CC/Wilmington, in 1998. He previously held various Clear Channel sales-management positions.

CHRONICLE

BIRTHS

• After **MidNite OM Sam Thompson**, wife Fiona, son Dominic Caleb, May 17.

CONDOLENCES

• Songwriter **Wayne Perry**, 55, May 15.
 • Bluegrass pioneer **Jimmy Martin**, 77, May 14.
 • Rama Communications Chief Engineer **Steven Delay**, 52, May 11.
 • WENG/Sarasota, FL News Director and morning host **Frank Benny**, 67, May 9.

Cumulus

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sincerely regret their decision to leave Interep. While we never like to lose a client, I should point out that Cumulus represented approximately 4% of Interep's total commission revenue in 2004. We are confident that we will replace this billing with additional clients in the near future."

Dickey first announced his displeasure with Interep's performance during Cumulus' May 3 Q2 earnings conference call. At the time he said Cumulus was considering several options, including taking its national sales operations in-house, integrating some of its own systems into Interep's operations or switching rep firms altogether.

Additional reporting by Adam Jacobson.

Radio

• **DAVID KEISER** joins WSB-AM/Atlanta as LSM. He was previously GSM of KSHE/St. Louis.

• **JORGE ABREGO** joins KMXE/Los Angeles as co-Local Sales Manager, working alongside Jose Luis Ramirez. Abrego was previously President/CEO of Geo Media Services.

• **NADIA BEHRING**, who spent five years as Marketing Director for the now-defunct FNX Radio Network in

New England, is named Marketing Director of WBEN/Philadelphia.

• **MEI YOUNG** is named Promotions Director/middayer at WGVX, WGVY & WGVZ/Minneapolis. She previously spent 16 years at clustermate KQRS.

• **STEVE HAY** rises from Asst. Promotions Director to Promotions Director at KCXX/Riverside, which also hires **ANNETTE WADE**, formerly of KFXN, KSTE & KUMX/New Orleans, as Marketing Director.

UPDATE

Dillard Adds PD Duties At Solid Gospel Net

Salem Communications has given **Vance Dillard** additional duties as PD of its **Solid Gospel Network**. He will continue to serve as PD of Salem Music Network's Today's Christian Music Network and the Word In Praise Network.

SMN GM Michael Miller said, "Vance is a tremendous leader who has directed strong growth for Today's Christian Music Network and the Word In Praise Network. Affiliates of the Solid Gospel Network have much to be excited about."

Dillard joined the company in 2003 and has more than 25 years of broadcast experience. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s he worked in the AC format in several markets, including Tampa. In 1988 he joined Jacor Communications, working at WLW/Cincinnati, then became PD of AC WLTM (The Peach)/Atlanta, eventually becoming Jacor's Corporate AC Brand Manager. Dillard joined Clear Channel following its 1996 merger with Jacor and in 2000 took on a role overseeing the AC stations owned by South Central Communications.

In related news, Solid Gospel Network afternoon driver **Greg Goodman** moves to the midday shift and adds Production Director duties, while weekend talent **Jeremy Sweat** moves to afternoons. Over at Today's Christian Music Network, nighttimer **Suzanne Thunder** segues to mid-days.

Fitzgerald Upped To ABC News Radio Dir./Ops

ABC News Radio has promoted Sr. Producer **Jeff Fitzgerald** to the newly created position of Director/Operations. He will oversee a range of new initiatives for the network while remaining involved in ABC News Radio's editorial coverage.

Fitzgerald joined ABC News Radio in 1995 in a technical-support position for the network's coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial and since then has held multiple production and editorial positions, including technical supervisor for long-form anchored event coverage and producer for *Perspective*, ABC News Radio's weekly public-affairs program. He most recently oversaw production at the networks as Associate Producer and then Sr. Producer.

"Jeff has worked tirelessly to identify and implement operational improvements at ABC News Radio," said ABC News Radio VP/GM Steve Jones, to whom Fitzgerald will report. "His technical abilities and journalistic experience make him an important member of our management team."



Fitzgerald

SoCal Trimulcast Counters 'Jack' With 'Jill'

Amaturo Group's three class A's at 92.7 MHz surrounding the Los Angeles metropolitan area — **KELT/Adelanto**, **KLIT/Fountain Valley** and **KMLT/Thousand Oaks, CA** — have dropped their "Lite 92.7" trimulcast to try a new take on the AC format as "92.7 Jill FM."

Amaturo is modeling KELT, KLIT & KMLT after the many "Jack" and "Bob" eclectic Adult Hits stations that have popped up across North America in the last couple of years. KELT, KLIT & KMLT PD George Johns thinks it's the perfect time to do the same concept for women, as "Jack" and "Bob" are male-targeted offerings.

Johns is known for developing the nation's first successful AC station, taking KVIL/Dallas to ratings triumphs in the 1970s. Amaturo head Joe Amaturo is known as the founder of KMJQ/Houston and was the first owner in the U.S. to sign on to the "Format 41" AC format, during the 1980s. Additionally, Country KFRG/Riverside was launched under Amaturo's ownership.

"Jill is ready for America, and America is ready for Jill," Amaturo said. "Syndication plans are coming together, with Fairwest's Reg Johns and Magnet Media Partners' Barry Smith on the team to supply the image, music, promos, sales presentations and market research to Jill stations across the U.S. and Canada."

KELT, KLIT & KMLT cover northern San Bernardino County, Orange County and eastern Ventura County, respectively.

