

Webb Forms Two Firms

LOS ANGELES — Writer-arranger Jim Webb (he penned "Up, Up And Away," the Fifth Dimension's recent hit on the Soul City label) has formed a music publishing firm and a production firm to handle his various interests. Canopy Music will represent him in publishing and under his Canopy Productions banner he will produce records for Dunhill. William F. Williams has been made vice-president of both companies, which have just opened up offices at 449 S. Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills, California. Webb is currently in London producing and arranging actor Richard Harris' first album for Columbia.

Hermits, Who & Troggs To Visit U.S. Soon

NEW YORK—Negotiations for upcoming visits to America by three English acts, Herman's Hermits, the Who and the Troggs, were concluded last week in New York between Danny Betesh, president of Kennedy Street Enterprises, the English firm which handles these acts, and Frank Barsalona, head of Premier Talent Associates, the American agency.

Herman's Hermits will return to the U.S. on December 26, flying directly to Miami where they will guest on "The Jackie Gleason Show," for airing in January. During their trip, the Hermits will discuss plans for their next summer tour, while Herman (Peter Noone) will confer on an upcoming TV special.

The Who, who returned to Britain last week following their American tour (while they were here, their current Decca single, "I Can See For Miles" hit the top ten), are scheduled to come back to America on February 20 for a five week tour of colleges and concerts. Prior to their return, Decca will issue a new album, titled "The Who Sellout."

The Troggs, whose latest Fontana single is "Love Is All Around" will come in for a tour opening March 22 through April 21. The Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco is likely to be included on their itinerary. There is also the possibility of some dates with The Who.

Barsalona and Betesh also discussed the likelihood of bringing The Herd and Freddie and the Dreamers to the U.S.—The Herd for some Spring dates on the West Coast, and Freddie and the Dreamers for night club engagements in the same season.

Italian 'Clown' Master Acquired By Spiral Disk

NEW YORK—Spiral Records has acquired and released the master of "Clown Town" by the Italian orchestra the Piccolino Pop Strings.

This instrumental cover of the Donna Lee release is currently being shipped to deejays and distributors across the country. Tune is a Gladys Shelley composition.

First Pressing Of Col's Mahler Symphonies Sold Out

NEW YORK — Although originally labeled a "limited edition," the Leonard Bernstein deluxe set of "The Nine Symphonies of Gustav Mahler" has been sold out and Columbia Records is now busy pressing new sets to meet the demand for the 14-LP edition.

Within a month of its release, the manufacturer has shipped nearly 2,000 sets of the packaging which includes a special bonus recording titled

Columbia Masterworks To Promote Bernstein Albums In Connection With TV'er

NEW YORK—On Christmas Day, December 25, at 5 P.M., E.S.T., the CBS Television Network will telecast the first of four Young People's Concerts given by Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. It is estimated that the special program, "A Musical Salute to Vienna in 3/4 Time," will be seen by over 12 million viewers.

Columbia Masterworks' four successful albums in Leonard Bernstein's series of Young People's recordings will receive special promotion in connection with the television program. The albums are: Prokofiev's "Peter And The Wolf" (narrated by Leonard Bernstein) and Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite"; Saint-Saëns' "The Carnival Of The Animals" and Britten's "The Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra"; "Leonard Bernstein Conducts For Young People," which features Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" and other children's favorites; and "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," which also contains three other works popular with young people.

To spotlight these four albums, Columbia has prepared special 300-line ad mats, which will be sent to dealers for insertion on the television pages of local newspapers. This special promotion, under the direction of R. Peter Munves, director of classical merchandising, will take place during the peak sales season for classical records.

Other Young People's Concerts are scheduled for January 28, March 12 and March 31.

Dirt Band Drops Ork-Rock Gets Back To Nitty Gritty

NEW YORK—The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Liberty Records stars to be seen shortly on the Mike Douglas Show as well as the new "At The Bitter End" program hosted by Fred Weintraub, returned to California last week to play a series of club engagements and to complete a third Liberty LP, which will feature a de-emphasis of "orchestra rock."

According to the team's banjo stylist John McEuen, the group, which has attempted a contemporary sound employing amplification and electronics, will now diminish these embellishments in their music "in favor of a more pure old-time jug band sound, which is our whole thing in live performance anyway." The new album, to be finished soon (15), will reflect this change.

Upon completion of their schedule of current assignments in the East, the group flew to San Francisco for a return engagement starting last Friday (1) at San Francisco's Fillmore Auditorium. Following final LP sessions, the group will play The Ashgrove in Los Angeles 15 to 23 December, and will round out the year with a date (26 to 31) at Glendale's famed Ice House Club.

Coincidentally with the musical rethink project, the group announced the addition of Chris Darrow to the ensemble to replace Bruce Kunkel, who has left to form a new group. Darrow, a 23-year-old ex-teacher and until recently a member of the California rock group the Kaleidoscope, sings and plays mandolin, guitar, clarinet, and harmonica.

"Gustav Mahler Remembered," and a 36-page booklet with essays and appreciations of Mahler's music.

The collection, featured prominently in Columbia's "Holiday Happening" newspaper supplement and holiday campaign, is suggested to retail at \$100. It is also to receive extensive advertising in local newspapers in the next few weeks.

Bell's TV Special Sparks 2 Casals & Marlboro LPs

NEW YORK—This month's upcoming Bell Telephone Hour television special has sparked the release of two Columbia Masterworks LP's featuring music taped at the Marlboro Music Festival last summer.

The telephone company spectacular, "Casals at Marlboro," is to be viewed by an estimated audience of 12 million, and a large tie-in campaign has already been mapped by the label. Included in the merchandising and advertising plans are 300-line ad mats highlighting the albums whose excerpts will appear on the show for insertion on the TV page of local newspapers by dealers; and the shipment of LP's to newspaper television reviewers to promote the special. Window streamers for in-store use and a label affixed to the LP's reading "Seen & Heard on the Bell Telephone Hour Special, 'Casals at Marlboro'" will also highlight the drive. A complete catalog with illustrations of "Music from Marlboro" recordings will be inserted in both albums spotlighted. The Columbia sales force will also receive a sales-presentation brochure with album-cover reproductions in full color and details of the promotion.

The two new LP's which will highlight the Music at Marlboro drive are Pablo Casals' "Casals Conducts Mozart" with the Haffner and Jupiter Symphonies (his first recording of these works) and Rudolph Serkin, pianist, performing Schubert's "Trout" Quintet. Both were taped at the summer music fest in Marlboro, Vt.

H. P. Lovecraft Developing Sound While On Road Tour

NEW YORK—H. P. Lovecraft, a recently popularized Philips rock act formed eight months ago in Chicago, arrived to play the Scene in New York as part of a 6-week tour that has also included Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Cleveland. They will return to Chicago for the Christmas holidays.

In the words of the group's leader, George Edwards, "Right now, music is our prime concern." They use basically original material and try to keep the sound plastic of changing in an effort to "cover as many fields as possible." H. P. Lovecraft's sound comes from experimental music in addition to elements from such forms as Jazz, folk, and the classics. The

Musical Shakespeare To Open Off-Broadway

NEW YORK—"Love And Let Love," an original musical romance based on William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" announces its Off-Broadway premiere on Jan. 2nd, 1968 at the Sheridan Square Playhouse, NYC. Score features more than 15 songs with music by Stanley Jay Gelber and lyrics by John Lollo and Don Christopher. Adapted and directed by Lollo, "Love And Let Love" stars Tony Hendra and Nic Ullett with Michael O'Sullivan, Barbara Ann Teer, John Cunningham, Virginia Vestoff and Joseph Sicari.

The original cast album will be released on Columbia Records, and Sam Fox Publishing Company will market the music. Previews begin on December 22nd at reduced prices with special student discounts being offered.

RCA Fields 11 Artists In L.A. Spanish Salute

NEW YORK—Latin American artists were presented to Southern Calif. residents at the 1st "Festival Latino" held at L.A.'s Great Western Exhibit Center. The festival began on Dec. 8.

Among the 11 RCA Victor artists headlining the show were such names as: Jose Feliciano, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Miguel Aceves Mejia, Maria Victoria, Pedro Vargas, Amalia Mendoza, Iwelda Miller, Armando Manzanero, Sonia La Unica, Alejandro Algara, and Mar Antonio Muniz. All of these artists, but Jose Feliciano, are with RCA Victor Mexicana.

Created to benefit the area's 1,500,000 residents of Spanish descent, the festival was initiated by KMEX-TV as a wide base public service. L.A. Mayor Sam Yorty, Congressman Ed Roybal, and George Brown, the business community, and the area's churches aided in launching the festival.

Coordinating the RCA Victor entertainment package are J. Y. Burgess, vice president of commercial sales; Lee Schapiro, manager of domestic records—international sales; and Bertha Solorio, of the promo and sales dept. of the L.A. RCA Victor Distributing Corp.

group feels that road trips help them to develop their sound, pointing out, "We got ideas at the Fillmore that we didn't have in Chicago."

Philips' current H. P. Lovecraft single features the 6-minute "White Ship" track off the "H. P. Lovecraft" LP. The other side of the single features an edited version of "White Ship" running 2:55.

An interesting tale lies in the group's having selected H. P. Lovecraft as a name. It happened like this: The group (at this time nameless) noticed that Chicago indie producer George Badonsky's publishing firm is named "Dunwich Horror," they asked "Why?" and I were told that "Dunwich Horror" is the title of a story by H. P. Lovecraft. The name of the group was adopted shortly thereafter.

Here It Is

John Thomas, Veep recording artist, presents his latest release to Norm Weiser, vice president and manager of west coast operations for UA's music companies. The release is "Lonely Man." Looking on are: Charles Goldberg (left), west coast regional sales manager for United Artists Records, and Brian Lord (right), Hart Distributors' promo man.



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