



Slim Dusty Inks Huge EMI Deal

VICTORIA — Australia's king of country music has signed an exclusive worldwide contract for the highest fee ever paid to an Australian recording artist by EMI (Australia) Ltd.

In a recording career spanning nearly 30 years Slim Dusty, MBE, has achieved a total of 37 gold and two platinum records. (Platinum is awarded for wholesale sales in excess of one million dollars.) With Slim it seems that "records" are made to be broken and he now has more gold and platinum records than any other Australian artist. His latest album, "Lights On The Hill," has been awarded five gold discs in just 20 weeks of release. In 1972 Slim was given the first Eddy award, presented by the Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations of Australia for the best country single of the year.

Since the inception of the Tamworth/Australian country music awards in 1973, Slim has ranked high in the contests. In 1976 he will again be on stage for the presentation. In the Australian music world Slim Dusty is a legend, having recorded 31 albums and 133 singles.

The photo shows Slim Dusty (right) signing his new agreement with John Kuipers, EMI's Australian chief.

OTRA VEZ, POR FAVOR — Freddy Fender recently returned from a flash promotional campaign through Mexico (see **Cash Box** international section Feb. 21.) During his visit he had little time out for trace publication photographs so the enterprising staff at ABC/Dot Records, on whose label Fender performs, pulled a still shot to illustrate Freddy's appearance on the popular Mexico City television show "Siempre En Domingo" ("Always On Sunday"). Fender is pictured here with Raul Velazco, host of the show which involved the artist in seven hours of taping for three separate segments. As part of his five-day media blitz of Mexico, Freddy also taped several radio interviews (for "Capital Radio," "Exitos," "La Pantera" and "Radio Uno") and did a benefit performance for the D.A.R. organization (Dar Ayudar Recordar — To Give To Help To Remember) with profits going to the Children's Polio Center in Acapulco.

CBS Signs Harmonium

MONTREAL — Following one of the toughest contract bids ever witnessed in Canada, CBS Disques — a division of CBS Records of Canada Ltd. — has been successful in contracting Harmonium to the label within days of their name being announced as nominees for two Juno awards in the 1976 selections.

Previously signed to Quality Records with a contract that expired in October 1975, a number of major labels contacted the group for possible contractual deals. According to CBS Disques director John Williams, the pact was finalized February 12 following a fierce battle with bidding that was described as "frantic" by one person involved.

Harmonium, a completely French-Canadian entity at present, recorded two albums under the Quality contract, the last being "Les Cinq Saisons," certified gold by the Canadian Record Industry Association recently.

Williams, responsible for the CBS Quebec arm of the company, has been responsible for a number of major signings for the label out of that province; the best known internationally being Michel Pagliaro. Others include Aut'Chose, Raquel, Beau Regard-Violetti & Ste. Claire, in addition to distribution rights for the Nobel line in Canada figureheaded by Quebec teenage superstar Rene Simard.

Juno Nominations Topped By Randy Bachman, BTO (5) 19 Categories Comprise 90 Candidates

TORONTO — Nominations for the 1976 Juno awards, set for March 15 in this city, have been announced by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

A total of 90 nominations have been selected, spread over 19 separate categories. All but two of the categories are restricted to domestic artists, producers and engineers. A "best selling" international album and single, based on sales performance only, fulfills international

obligations in what is primarily a Canadian music award program, designed to produce and promote a star system in this country.

Bachman-Turner Overdrive lead the way with five nominations, two held by leader Randy Bachman; immediately following with four nominations each are Murray McLauchlan, Beau Dommage, April Wine, Paul Anka and Hagood Hardy.

The Stampeders, Harmonium, Home-made Theatre and Sylvia Tyson hold three nominations each.

The votes cast by the 600-member academy will decide the outcome. Membership is drawn from member artists, musicians, producers, broadcasters, managers, record company personnel and others employed in fringe areas associated with the Canadian recording industry.

The awards are scheduled for national broadcast on the CBC-TV network with John Allan Cameron hosting the event. Confirmed to perform so far are Blood, Sweat & Tears with David Clayton-Thomas, Carrol Baker, Hagood Hardy, Bachman-Turner Overdrive (on videotape), Valdy, Dan Hill and Quebec superact Rene Simard.

Anne Murray Plans 30-Day Canada Tour

LOS ANGELES — Anne Murray has booked thirty straight days of Canadian touring to commence May 1 in Red Deer, Alberta and conclude in Melville, Saskatchewan. Before kicking off the road trip, Ms. Murray will record another album for Capitol Records in April with Tom Catalano producing. Catalano also produced her current album "Together."



GOLD FLOYD — Und gesundheit! Ja, Roger Waters and Rick Wright interrupted their recording duties for their latest Pink Floyd LP long enough to receive a gold record presented to them for sales of 250,000 in Germany. Although the record itself was not identified in this release, the people in this picture are accounted for. Left to right: Helmut Fest, general manager a&r international (EMI-Electrola); Waters and Wright (Pink Floyd); and Klaus Werner, manager, export division (EMI-Electrola).

Thunderbird, Power Swap Pact With Polydor, RCA

LONDON — Thunderbird Records signed a marketing, manufacturing and distribution pact with Polydor International for the world excluding the U.K., U.S. and Japan. The deal was initiated at MIDEM, between Polydor's director of popular music Mike Hales and Thunderbird executives Chris Hutchins and Mick Green. Commenting on the deal Hales stated, "The Thunderbird artists who will appear on the Polydor label have international potential and, backed by vigorous label management, they will enjoy widespread success." The agreement is initially for two years. First release on the Polydor label will be from the group Champagne with their Eurovision entry "A Love For All Seasons," written by songwriters Wayne Bickerton and Tony Waddington. Thunderbird has a similar agreement with CBS in the U.K.

but have yet to conclude a deal for the U.S. and Japan.

In a separate venture, the London-based Power Exchange label has signed a three-year marketing, pressing and distributing deal with RCA Records in Canada. The deal was negotiated by Power Exchange managing directors Paul Robinson and Barry Authors, and Ed Preston, RCA Canada's president, and national sales manager Andy Nagy in Toronto. First release under the pact will be from Kristine, with a single titled "Devil Woman" and an album, "I'm A Song." Power Exchange has also renewed its deal with the Philadelphia-based Virtue label. The deal is for product for the rest of the world for release on the Power Exchange label excluding North America. The deal was negotiated with Frank Virtue of Virtue Records.

Chappell Music Staff Changes

LONDON — Numerous staff appointments have been announced at Chappell Music by executive vice chairman Steve Gottlieb. Bob Lake has become financial controller, previously at South African publishers Gallo Music as financial manager. Pran Gohil has been appointed manager of the special projects division, which includes the theater department, recorded music library and the hire library service center. Gohil was previously with Phonogram International in the Far East. Mary Jennings has joined the company as manager of the publicity and pr department, coming from Contour Records. All will report directly to Gottlieb.

Following the recent acquisition of Transatlantic Records by the Granada Television Network, Granada is to launch its own label through Transatlantic. The label will feature recordings derived from Granada TV programs. First release on the new venture will be an album, "The International Pop Proms," which is a new program to be networked every Saturday night. The show, which will feature Les Reed and star Johnny Mathis, Catarina Valente, Alan Price, Gilbert O'Sullivan and Vicky Leandros, will be one hour long, running for an initial period of seven weeks. The series will be titled The International Pop Proms, and the album will be released on the Granada label in early March. Reed is a prolific songwriter and has just had one of his copyrights, "There's A Kind Of Hush," re-released as a single by the Carpenters on A&M.

David Essex has just produced a single entitled "Leaving It All Up To You" by Steve Colyer who until recently was promotion manager at CBS Records. Essex has also released a new single of his own, a self-penned composition, "City Lights."

Magnet Music has renewed its sub-publishing contract with Castle Music in Australia and New Zealand. The deal was renegotiated by Magnet managing director Michael Levy and Castle Music's Frank Donleavy.