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Year-End Report

An overview of news from 2005

As we look forward to 2006 and hope for more exciting and prosperous times in the new year, we should take time to reflect on the year coming to a close. This week we look back at some of the news that took place in the A&R Worldwide realm in 2005.

Our industry must continually evolve, but without sacrificing either our passion for music and artists or our focus on building a sense of community with our listeners and music consumers. We must also remind ourselves we are the masters of technology, not the other way around.

I wish a very healthy and safe holiday season to you and your loved ones, no matter where in the world they may be. Cheerio!

January-June

Talented U.K. singer-songwriter **Cass** inks a worldwide deal with Universal/Island Records Group Managing Director **Nick Gatfield**. Cass' debut is helmed by world-famous producer **Rollo Armstrong** (Dido, Faithless) ... Hotly tipped Liverpool, England-based trio **The Dead 60s** sign a U.S. deal with Epic Records and a rep deal with New York-based Q Prime Management. The group signed with Deltasonic (tied in with Sony U.K.) in 2004.

After a short, fierce bidding war, Australian artist **Kate Elsworth** signs a major-label deal with Polydor/Universal Music in London. Elsworth relocates to London and begins recording her debut album. Elsworth, who signed with Australia's Legit Music in 2003, has worked with such European producers and writers as **Ignorants** (Craig David), **Amthor** (Jennifer Lopez, Janet Jackson) and **Felix Howard** (Sugarbabes, Kylie Minogue). For more information on Elsworth, contact Legit Music's **Andrew Hawkins**.

The Finnish Metal Expo, the first-ever professional metal event in Finland, is held Jan. 28-29 at the Cable Factory in Helsinki. Some of the featured artists for the specialized instrument workshops are members of **Children Of Bodom**, **Godspilage**, **Sinergy** and **Kotipelto**.

Former BMG Australia Managing Director **Ed St. John** becomes Chairman/CEO of Warner Music Australia, replacing **Shaun James**, who exited Warner in summer 2004 to join the TV industry ... Sony BMG Entertainment Australia Chairman/CEO **Denis Handlin** becomes a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the music business and his philanthropic efforts.

At a meeting hosted by independent-music organization IMPALA, leading independent companies and associations from across the globe launch a worldwide music coalition to leverage their collective strength. Founding members of the coalition include the American Association of Independent Music, the Association of Independent Music (U.K.), the Association of

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Independent Record Labels (Australia), ABMI (Brazil), the Canadian Independent Record Production Association, the DUP (Denmark), FONO (Norway), Independent Music New Zealand, the UFI (Spain), the UPFI (France), the VUT (Germany) and the SOM (Sweden). For more information, contact IMPALA Deputy Secretary General Helen Smith.

Warner Chappell Chairman/CEO **Les Bider** steps down. Bider had been Chairman of the Warner Music Group publishing company since the 1987 merger of Warner Bros. Music and Warner Chappell Music.

R&R YEAR IN REVIEW

Former Artemis Records Chairman/CEO **Danny Goldberg** takes on a new post as CEO of Talk radio network Air America. Goldberg, a former senior executive at Warner Bros., Atlantic and Mercury Records who co-founded Modern Records in 1974, is on the board of directors of the New York Civil Liberties Union and is President of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California.

CNN Live's **Larry King**, BBC Radio 2 head of music **Colin Martin**, BBC Radio 1 head of Music **Alex Jones-Donnelly**, KCRW/Santa Monica, CA music chief **Nic Harcourt**, KDLD & KDLE (Indie 103.1)/Los Angeles PD **Michael Steele**, Electronic Arts worldwide head of music **Steve Schnur**, Triple J Radio Australia Project Manager **Rob Scott**, Napster Chairman/CEO **Chris Gorog**, Clear Channel Entertainment Worldwide Chairman/CEO **Brian Becker**, Chrysalis Music Group U.S.A. President **Kenny MacPherson**, Recording Academy President **Neil Portnow**, then-co-Chairman/co-CEO Atlantic Records Group/Lava Records President **Jason Flom**, Atlantic Records Group co-Chair-



IN A 'HEAP' OF TROUBLE Seen here during a recent broadcast of the syndicated Passport Approved radio program are (l-r) A&R Worldwide Exec. VP/Creative & Media Sat Bisla, RCA/Victor recording artist Imogen Heap and A&R Worldwide Sr. Director/Creative & Media Mike Savage.

man/CEO **Craig Kallman**, Sanctuary Group Worldwide Chairman **Rod Smallwood**, KCRW and KROQ/Los Angeles air talent **Jason Bentley** (music supervisor for the Matrix trilogy), Agency Group Worldwide CEO **Neil Warnock**, International Talent Booking U.K. Managing Director **Barry Dickins**, DKD Group Chairman **Donald K. Tarlton**, XM Satellite Radio Chief Programming Officer **Lee Abrams**, MySpace.com co-founder/President **Tom Anderson** and 500 other key, forward-thinking international music and media executives are confirmed for the inaugural MUSEXPO, set for May 1-4 in West Hollywood, CA.

July-December

The U.K. music industry launches a music-services office in Beijing to support the export and development of music-business services and repertoire, with the music-services division headed by **Stuart Watson**. The office is backed by the Association of Independent Music and U.K. Trade & Investment.

Universal Music International Chairman/CEO **Jorgen Larsen** hands off his duties to Universal Music U.K. & Ireland Chairman/CEO **Lucian Grainge**. Rumors had been circulating for weeks that Grainge was going to take on greater responsibilities at UMG. Larsen stays on board as UMI Chairman Emeritus.

Export Music Sweden appoints **Anders Hjelmtorp** its new Exec. Director, replacing **Christer Lundbland**, who exits after five years to become Exec. Director of distribution company CDA ... Warner Bros. Sr. VP/A&R **Perry Watts-Russell** signs East Coast-based outfit **The Film** to a recording deal. The band is managed by Hand Held Management's **Kevin Held**.

Steve Moir announces that he is no longer with Moir/Marie Entertainment and has formed his own company, Moir Entertainment ... Lizard King Records' exclusive long-term deal with Warner Music Group's East West Records is finalized in New York. The venture was negotiated with Lizard King co-founder **Martin Heath**, who had recently split from label co-founder **Dominic Hardisty**. Lizard King taps in to East West's sales, marketing and distribution network while retaining independence on the A&R front.

MySpace.com parent InterMix Media is acquired by **Rupert Murdoch's** News Corp. for \$520 million. Los Angeles-based InterMix controls more than 30 websites attracting 27 million monthly visitors. In May 2005, MySpace users viewed nearly 4 billion pages. InterMix is set to

be absorbed into Fox's new interactive media division.

Sir Harry Cowell announces the launch of Private & Confidential Music Ltd. with business partner producer-songwriter **Ben Robbins**. The new, investor-funded company incorporates music publishing, production, management, a record label and recording studios.

Columbia Records adds **Maria Egan** and **Benjamin Simone** as A&R Managers. Egan was formerly with Netwerk in New York and Simone arrives from the Creative Director post at Deston Songs Music Publishing & Management.

Also joining the Columbia crew is former S-Curve Exec. VP **Steve Yegelwel**, as Sr. VP/A&R. Former Atlantic Records A&R exec **Nick Casinelli** also takes on A&R duties at Columbia, as do **Maureen Kenny** (ex-Universal Records Assoc. Director/A&R) and **Beka Callaway** (most recently Assoc. Director/Writer-Publisher Relations for BMI).

RCA VP/A&R **Matt Marshall** inks Southern California-based outfit **Test Your Reflex**. Marshall is a highly respected U.S. A&R executive whose signings include Modest Mouse and Tenacious D ... EMI Records A&R Manager **Matt Edwards** is promoted to head of A&R at the U.K. major. Edwards' signings include LCD Soundsystem and The Concretes.

Sony BMG Sr. VP/Worldwide A&R **Martin Dodd** announces the launch of 20-20 Entertainment, a joint venture between himself and the label. Former Sony U.K. A&R executive **Ricardo Fernandez** joins 20-20 as Director/A&R, also overseeing general operations. Also joining 20-20 is **Tara Shaw**, formerly based at Sony in London. Fernandez and Shaw report directly to Dodd.

EMI North America Chairman/CEO **David Munns** appoints industry veteran **Jason Flom** Chairman/CEO of Virgin Records U.S.

MIDEM, the world's largest music-market trade fair, will celebrate its 40th anniversary in Cannes, France in 2006. MIDEM will take place Jan. 22-26 and for the first time will spotlight a global A&R and radio platform, organized in association with A&R Worldwide.

Send your unsigned or signed releases to:

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