SONGWRITERS' ASSOCIATION

FEB. 1980 ▫ NEWSLETTER

Meetings

Remember that our members' meetings are held every other Wednesday at the Musicians' Union, 65 Wellington Street, Windsor at 7.30 p.m. February's gatherings are on the 6th and 20th; in March the dates to remember are the 5th and 19th. Special notices of meetings will no longer be sent.

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES: R. BRANDSMA «» TEL. 88 4126

EDITORIAL

Our Association is going from strength to strength. Membership has increased 100% since December and continues to grow. But keep spreading the word that new members are always welcome.

They will benefit from the services that we offer them and we will gain from their varied interests, areas of expertise and differing musical directions.

Thank you for your response in sending contributions. Letters, articles, queries, cartoons - ANYTHING will be received with sheer delight at this stage of the game!

Vyt.

Contributions: Send them to V. Karazija, P.O. Box 122, Montrose, Vic. 3765.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined us up to the date of publication. We welcome them to the Association.

L. Anthony
H.L. Cartridge
R. Clarke
D. Cohen
D. Cunningham
G. Gibson
E. Handfield
J. D'Arcy-Hickey
J. Howe
J. Martin-Hundley
Rev. E. Johnston
A. Karazija
L. Lakis
M. Lindsey
L. Pearl
W. MacGregor
R. Patton
V. Royer
W. Townshend
R. Zimmer

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR ....

We closed 1979 with a B.B.Q. - social gathering at the Albert Park Lake. It was nice to see such a good turn - out and everyone had a good time. Hopefully it was the first of many more to come.

By the time you get this newsletter we shall already be into 1980. However, I should still like to wish all of you a happy and successful New Year.

They say that happiness comes with success, so lets try to become successful with our songs, then we'll all be happy. Let us try to improve our songs, so that they may be accepted by the Australian music industry for promoting on the Australian market, and let us really get our Association going so that we can help each other to improve our songs and reach our success.

In other words, let's make 1980 the year of the Songwriters' Association.

Tom Louch

SERVICES

A range of services is currently being offered to our members. This list will be expanded as resources permit.

- Demos: Recorded on the most modern multi-track equipment with skilled engineers and musicians at prices much lower than elsewhere.
- Manuscripts: From lead sheets to full arrangements by a M.A.G.A. member. These can be prepared from your own tapes, cassettes or rough manuscripts from just $15 per song.
- Collaboration Sessions: Lyric writers can get together with composers for the mutual benefit of both.
- Legal Advice: Members can receive free legal advice on matters pertaining to their works.
- Tape Library: A library of members' original songs has been established and will be available to interested parties such as record companies and producers.
- Airplay: Your songs can be broadcast on our Association program on 3CR.
- News Information: This bulletin will be circulated every month - FREE to all members.

DEMO SERVICE

One of the services offered to members is a good, cheap demo tape service. Anyone wishing to submit songs to recording studios, publishers, artists or to enter contests must realise that it is essential to present the song so that people will want to listen to it. You must remember that you want to 'sell' your song and like anything else you want to sell, the better the presentation, the better your chance of selling it.

Today we face a lot of competition from Groups who write their own songs as well as from other personalities who are in a position to PUSH their own songs; if we want to get in on the act we must try even harder than most to come up with the sort of songs which people will want to spend money on.

A tape made at home will, if the melody and lyrics are very catchy, be recognized for its potential, however, today many people do not have the time for interpretation and a finished product is therefore more likely to appeal to the people in the music business. If you feel that your song is worth buying then it is in your own interest to present it professionally. Our Vice Chairman, Mr. Rudi Brandsma, has had many years experience in producing demo tapes as well as being a professional arranger and a member of the Music Arrangers' Guild of Australia. He also has achieved considerable success in the recording industry. Rudi heads our demo department and from as little as $60 can arrange and record a complete demo tape for you. When submitting your own tapes to Rudi for the production of a demo-ta please also send a copy of your lyrics and a manuscript. Should you wish to have a manuscript written by our demo tape department please inform Rudi accordingly.

ON COPYRIGHT

by RON PATTON

WHAT IS COPYRIGHT ?

Copyright in relation to a musical work is the exclusive right which its owner has over its use and his entitlement to rely on the law to prevent others from using his work without his authority and payment of appropriate compensation to him.

Among the things defined in the Australian Copyright Act as being the exclusive right of the owner to control are:-

1. The reproduction of his work in material form, i.e. the making of a record.
2. The publication of the work, i.e. the issue of sheet music copies to the public.
3. The performance of the work in public, i.e. in a restaurant, cinema or concert hall, etc.
4. The broadcast of the work, i.e. by radio or television stations.

Section 31 of the Act sets out in full the nature of the exclusive right which a copyright owner possesses in his work and anyone wishing to make use of a copyright work in circumstances which may infringe the copyright of the owner should consult his solicitor for advice.

HOW IS IT OBTAINED ?

Copyright in a work applies automatically under Australian law to all original works written by a "qualified" person, i.e. a person born in Australia or ordinarily resident here.

Since the benefit of the Australian copyright legislation has also been extended to the nationals of countries who are parties to the important international copyright conventions, a writer in most countries of the world has his works protected in Australia under the local Copyright Act.

The only formality to apply is the use of the symbol (c), the year date of publication and the copyright owner's name. This procedure is essential in those territories which are party only to the Universal Copyright Convention such as the United States of America, since otherwise an Australian copyright owner would prejudice his right to enforce copyright under United States law.

MARKETING YOUR SONG

1. Make a presentable 'demo tape'. No more than three songs per tape.
2. Please mark your name and address on each tape or, preferably, speak this information on to your tape - at the beginning of the tape.
3. A manuscript clearly written.
4. Enclose a stamped self addressed envelope for return of your submitted items.
5. Do not write long letters to publishers or recording companies. Keep the note short.
6. Send copies only of manuscripts and lyrics. Print your name, address and full details of the copyright owners and telephone number clearly on these.
7. If your song has been written with a particular singer in mind send it to his/her Manager or recording studio and mention the singer's name.
8. Remember a commercial song should not last longer than three minutes, as radio stations prefer 3 minute tracks.
9. Remember you want to sell your song. Keep the package neat, clean and presentable.
10. Do not expect advice or even comments from publishers if your song has been rejected. Just keep trying with other songs!

CLASSIFIEDS

For those of you who are seeking collaboration partners, below are a few names of members who are anxious to make contact, - so don't be shy, write or phone and get the ball - or rather 'Music' rolling.

This section is open to all members free of charge. Commercial insertions are charged at the rate of 20¢ per word.

COMPOSER requires lyricist: Russell Zimmer wishes to hear from lyricists. Telephone: 791 6233 (b/h) or 704 6528 (home).

CO-WRITER required: Ring Mark Klaveren on 754 5044.

LYRICIST requires composer: Johnny Conway (90 6902) country music song-writer, guitarist/singer welcomes collaboration with music writer re: songs, jingles etc.

LYRICIST requires composer: The material I write covers practically the whole spectrum of popular music i.e. male vocal, female vocal, modern ballads, MOR ballads and Australian ballads. I feel that a musican/composer must work with the lyricist. Interested? Winifred MacGregor, 122 Foam Street, Rosebud. 3939.

LYRICIST who is looking for musicians: Tony Newberg would like to hear from you. Contact him at 2 Chester Street, East Bentleigh, 3165 or telephone 759 0219.

TROMBONE for Sale: Not really, but if you did have, you could advertise it here.

& NOW THE NEWS...

We're on the Air!

Well, almost. Our half-hour program should be starting shortly and original works should be submitted to Rudi Brandsma without delay. Tapes should be of good quality, as the technical requirements of the radio station are for a high quality master tape.

It will be necessary for the Executive Committee to execute judgement as to which works to use for the first tape. However, all suitable works will get a hearing. Contact Rudi (88 4126) if you have any queries.

Treasure Chest

We are always being told that publishers, record companies, producers and all those others that control our destiny are looking for original material. The problem is that only established writers tend to even get a hearing!

Now a solution may be at hand. We have established a central library to be used as a clearing house for songs. Works will be classified according to broad categories and played to interested parties.

See Rudi to discuss tape requirements for this "treasure chest" of our little gems!

"It's not what you know....."

Lilli Lakis and Johnny Conway are working on promotion and advertising for the Association. It is essential to have contacts in this game, so if you know anyone in radio, television, newspapers, let them know.

Have a word to them at meetings, drop them a line at Box 250, Mordialloc, 3195, or ring Johnny on 90 6902.

STOP PRESS ... SONGS NEEDED BY:

- "OREGON" - CASH BACKMAN'S BACKING GROUP IS LOOKING FOR ORIGINAL MATERIAL. GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
- "SAGE" WANTS MATERIAL - SUBMIT THIS TO RUDY BRANDSMA WHO WILL THEN PASS IT ON.
- SAMMI JONES REQUIRES ANY GOOD MATERIAL THAT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS "PLEASANT POP" - CAN YOU HELP? SEE RUDY!
- VARTAN MARDIROSSIAN IS AFTER SONGS IN THE SAME IDIOM. AGAIN, RUDY IS THE ONE TO SEE.

RUDY RECOMMENDZ