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# A&R Worldwide 2006

**Kicking off the new year with the latest news, music and more**

**A** very happy, healthy and prosperous welcome back to everyone for 2006! This year is slated to be very exciting for the worldwide music and media industries. New technologies, competitive media, the globalization of creative content and great talent will continue to give consumers many options for entertainment.

However, the fuel that drives radio, new media and the recording, touring and publishing businesses is music. We can expect 2006 to be a stellar year for exceptional new artists and fresh new ideas and programming concepts. This week I highlight some of the latest news and some of the exciting things we can expect from A&R Worldwide and beyond in 2006.

## R&R At MIDEM

R&R, in association with A&R Worldwide, will co-present the inaugural Global Radio Forum at MIDEM ([www.midem.com](http://www.midem.com)), the world's largest music-market trade fair, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in Cannes, France in 2006.

MIDEM will take place Jan. 22-26 and will attract more than 12,000 leading music and media professionals from over 80 countries worldwide, with a larger number than usual of U.S.-based companies and delegates participating.

R&R's very own VP/Editorial & Music Operations, Cyndee Maxwell, will moderate the Global Radio Forum on Tuesday, Jan. 24, with a distinguished group of proactive international broadcasters renowned for helping support and break new artists, including KDLD (Indie 103.1)/Los Angeles PD Michael Steele, BBC Radio 2 U.K. head of music Colin Martin, XM Satellite Radio Sr. VP/Chief Programming Officer Lee Abrams and Yahoo! Music head of artist and label relations Jay Frank.

There will also be a special "mini-keynote" with KCRW/Santa Monica, CA head of music Nic Harcourt, moderated by A&R Worldwide.

A&R Worldwide will also present MIDEM's first-ever Global A&R Forum, with Warner Mu-

labels and what artists and managers hoping to secure deals should be prepared to do before signing a recording contract.

## Spirit To Rep Fairwood Publishing

New York-based independent publisher Spirit Music Group announces the signing of an exclusive North American administration deal with Fairwood Music Ltd. Fairwood is home to a diverse, globally acclaimed collection of more than 6,000 titles spanning rock, reggae and dance.

Established in 1987, Fairwood is one of the premier U.K.-based independents, having developed a roster that includes works by Mike Hedges, Barrington Levy, Jose Carreras, Pol Brennan, The Clash and Average White Band. The company most recently signed U.K. dance sensations Shapeshifters.

Included in the deal is Chris Blackwell's Blue Mountain Music, a catalog containing the complete works of reggae superstar Bob Marley, as well as the primary work of such influential songwriters as Barry Reynolds and Gavin Friday and respected writer-artists Free, Grace Jones, Julia Fordham, James, Baaba Maal and Earlimart.

## Executive Changes

- Steve Lunt, VP/A&R for Jive Records, has left his longtime post and joined Atlantic Records as VP/A&R. Lunt has a distinguished history in A&R, in particular working with such pop acts as Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync and Aaron Carter.

- Jeff Fenster has been officially announced as Sr. VP/A&R at Zomba Music Group. He'll re-

port to Zomba Label Group Sr. VP Peter Thea and will be based in New York City. Fenster was most recently VP/A&R at Arista Records in New York and before that was head of A&R at Island Def Jam Records.

- Former Island Records U.K. A&R executive Ferdy Unger-Hamilton has announced his new Managing Director position with U.K. major Virgin Records. Ferdy helped sign Keane to Island Records U.K. and also ran Go! Beat U.K., a prominent independent within the Polygram label group in the early '90s.

- Look for Parlophone Records U.K. A&R ace Dan Keeling to make an announcement of his new position with another U.K. major in the coming days. Keeling is well-known throughout U.K. and international A&R circles for his signing of and A&R responsibilities for multiplatinum-selling act Coldplay.

- Warner Music New Zealand hired Ashley Page as its new A&R Manager several weeks ago. Page will be based out of the label's Auckland headquarters.



**The Silence**

## Sound Bites

- Zomba Publishing U.K. recently signed London-based artist Jamie T to a publishing deal. Jamie is described as an urban poet along the lines of Billy Bragg and Mike Skinner (The Streets). Jamie was signed to Virgin Records in the U.K. earlier last year and has been touring with other Thames-beat reprobates The Mystery Jets.



**Selasee**

- Selasee (pronounced "sell-LAH-see"), a world music-reggae artist from Ghana, has been selected to perform as one of the handful of buzz acts at MIDEM.

Selasee and his band are among only eight acts chosen for this high-profile performance. Selasee, who now resides in Boulder, CO, is releasing his debut album, *Run*, through Canadian independent label Running Dream.

The album features the single "Run," which has already been generating tastemaker radio support and was recently featured in the new Electronic Arts multiplatinum-selling videogame *FIFA 2006*. For more information on Selasee, visit [www.selasee.com](http://www.selasee.com).

- Norwegian artist Kate Havnevik is putting the finishing touches on her yet-to-be titled debut album. The unsigned artist has already had her music placed in TV shows like *The OC* and *West Wing*. Havnevik has been working with producers Carmen Rizzo (Jem, Depeche Mode) and Guy Sigsworth (Björk, Madonna, Annie Lennox).

## Bands On The Buzz

- Look out for unsigned U.K. band Ox in 2006. The outfit is the brainchild of U.K. singer-guitarist Jim Oxborrow, who formed the band and released the self-produced, six-song *Blood EP* overseas, to critical acclaim, in January 2005 through indie label Co-Pop.

Ox have played live for BBC Radio 1, recorded live sessions for BBC Radio 2 and Juice FM and are stacking up positive reviews left and right.

James Deligpole of the *Sunday Telegraph* writes, "I'm quite surprised by how little I've read so far about this Brighton outfit because they sound to me like a dead certainty to be the next Keane/Travis/Snow Patrol/Coldplay." Ox's website is [www.oxworld.co.uk](http://www.oxworld.co.uk).

- The Silence are an Orange County, CA-based quintet whose relentless DIY attitude over the past few years has helped them establish a strong local and national fan base. Nonstop touring in support of bands like Story Of The Year, A Static Lullaby, Face To Face, and Chemical Romance, Goldfinger, Strung Out and Acceptance has created an incredible level of awareness for this unsigned band.

They've got over 455,000 plays on *PureVolume*, they have over 21,000 "friends" on MySpace, and they had an "Artist of the Week" feature on XM Satellite Radio's Unsigned channel — all without major-label support.

Fans of the aforementioned bands will immediately take a liking to The Silence's *Out of the Darkness LP*. "Falling Faster" is one of the standout tracks. Check out [www.thesilencemusic.com](http://www.thesilencemusic.com) for additional information.

- South London-based quartet The Capes have been generating some strong radio support stateside — not bad for a band that has barely impacted the U.K. radar. The Capes' blend of The Kaiser Chiefs' energy with the attitude of The Clash makes them one of the acts to watch globally in 2006.

The Capes have received support from BBC Radio 1 and 6 Music DJ Steve Lamacq, as well as tastemaker support on KROQ/Los Angeles, KDLD/Los Angeles and KCRW/Santa Monica.

The Capes recently completed a two-month tour of the U.S. and just released their debut album through Hard Soul Records. The band is currently available for worldwide signing, licensing, publishing, booking and distribution. For more details, contact Trevor Randall at [trevor@hardsoulrecords.com](mailto:trevor@hardsoulrecords.com) or visit The Capes' website at [www.thecapes.co.uk](http://www.thecapes.co.uk).

- Big Bang are probably the most popular Norwegian act you've never heard of. The band has been together for over 10 years, and they've released five albums through Warner Music Norway. Their 2003 release *Radio Radio TV Sleep* is the best-selling live CD in Norwegian history.

The band recorded their fifth studio album, *Poetic Terrorism* (mixed by Sylvia Massy Shivy), and released it independently in Norway in April 2005. Big Bang are finally starting to turn heads stateside due to their consistent gigging in the Los Angeles area over the past few months. The recent single "Saturn Freeway" is catchy as hell — this one will be stuck in your head for sure! Visit the band's website at [www.smallbang.net](http://www.smallbang.net).

Send your unsigned or signed releases to:

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sic VP/International A&R Ric Salmon, Playground Music Sweden head of international John Cloud — Playground is Sweden's largest independent label — Chrysalis Music Group President Kenny MacPherson, EMI Music Publishing Managing Director Guy Moot and Universal head of international A&R Thorsten Koening.

The forum will discuss the new school of A&R in today's fast-paced technological and new-media environment. In addition, there will be an overview of how artist development is changing worldwide at both major and independent