Who's Who In A&R At RCA 🔳

INTRODUCTION

A&R at RCA is unique in that there are actually two totally independent and autonomous A&R Departments in one: **1.** The Popular Music A&R Department is headed by Warren Schatz in N.Y. in association with Neil Portnow in L.A. **2.** The Nashville A&R Department is run by Jerry Bradley. These two departments operate very much as two separate companies under the RCA umbrella, so much so, that the Nashville branch is now establishing it's own pop division headed by Bradley in Nashville and Tony Brown in L.A.

NASHVILLE ARTIST & REPERTOIRE

JERRY BRADLEY: Division Vice President

LYNN SIMPSON: Secretary & Assistant to Jerry Bradley



In 1970 when Chet Atkins decided to leave his position as Director of A&R at RCA Nashville, he chose Jerry Bradley to succeed him. Bradley is the product of a musical family. His father, Owen, at one time worked at Decca Records and has produced a number of famous country artists over the years while Jerry's uncle, Harold, is one of the more well-known studio guitarists in Nashville. Meanwhile, Jerry had worked as manager of a music publishing company, a music-oriented realty company, and Bradley's Barn, a large and still very active independent recording studio complex.

Bradley apprenticed, under the aegis of Chet Atkins, for four years at RCA before moving into the top position in the fall of 1974. Today his responsibilities include: **1.** Signing new artists and guiding their careers. **2.** Maintaining the careers of established artists. **3.** Screening and selecting material for recording. **4.** Producing and **5.** The day-to-day administration of what is probably the largest country music A&R operation in Nashville.

During Jerry Bradley's tenure as head of A&R such new acts as Ronnie Milsap, Gary Stewart, Dave & Sugar and Tom T. Hall have joined the roster while established artists like Waylon Jennings, Charlie Pride, Jerry Reed, Dolly Parton and Chet Atkins have become more successful than ever... not to mention Eddie Arnold, who has returned to RCA and recently teamed Jim Ed Brown & Helen Cornelius.

ROY DEE: Producer

PAT CARTER: Producer

VICKIE PARKER: Secretary & Assistant to Roy Dey

MILA YOUNG: Secretary & Assistant to Pat Carter

TONY BROWN: West Coast A&R (New Pop Label)

SHARON BEROSINI: Secretary & Assistant to Tony Brown

Tony Brown has recently been sent to Los Angeles to help establish a new pop label for RCA Nashville. Tony has worked as keyboard player for Emmy Lou Harris, O.J. Sumner & The Stamps, Tanya Tucker and Elvis Presley, to name only a few. He has also produced for Danor Music and Code 615 Productions in Nashville and has run his own production company, Brownknows Productions.

The new label has already signed Alex (a band from Norway), Debbie Peters, Mychael Jackson, and Sheron Frederick with major name artists signings to be announced shortly.

NASHVILLE ARTIST ROSTER -

Chet Atkins Razzy Bailey Anita Ball Tom Benjamin Jewel Blanch Jim Ed Brown	Helen Cornelius Floyd Cramer Dave Rowland & Sugar Danny Davis & the Nashville Br Dottsy Bill Eldridge Tom T. Hall Linda Hargrove	Waylon Jennings Dickey Lee ass Zella Lèhr Ronnie Milsap	Jim Reeves Hank Snow Gary Stewart Porter Wagner Steve Wariner Kelly Warren
	<u>POP</u> – AF	RTIST ROSTER	
MALE VOCALISTS Morris Albert Paul Anka Jesse Barish Hack Bartholomew Richard T. Bear David Bowie Perry Como James Darren Max Demian John Denver Robert Gordon Bobby Gosh Daryl Hall Major Harris Iggy Pop Robert Park Jame T. Life Mark Matthews	Frank Weber Roger Whittaker FEMALE VOCALISTS Darcus Thelma Houston* Evelyn "Champagne" King Cleo Laine Vicki Sue Robinson Evie Sands Ann E. Sutton Bonnie Tyler	Athens Aztec Two-Step Gerry Babb Toby Beau Brazilian Disco The Brothers Chicago Gangsters Chocolate Milk Crazy Horse Daybreak Fandango Gichy Dan's Beachwood Grey & Hanks Hall & Oates Los Indios Tabajaras Mose Jones Band The Memphis Horns Milk & Honey Mirage (formerly Topa	James Walsh Gypsy Band Werewolves <u>INSTRUMENTALS</u> Eddie Harris Henry Mancini Blood Hollins z)

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POPULAR ARTIST & REPERTOIRE

WARREN SCHATZ: Division Vice President

REGIS SILAS: Secretary & Assistant to Warren Schatz



When promoting Warren Schatz to Division Vice President, Popular Artists and Repertoire at RCA Records, Robert Summer, president of the company, said, "Warren's appointment is a response to the unique achievement of introducing several important new acts in 1978, including Bonnie Tyler, Toby Beau, Evelyn "Champagne" King and Kristy and Jimmy McNichol."

Prior to his promotion, when he was responsible only for Pop A&R on the East Coast, Schatz brought Vicki Sue Robinson, NYCC and Brothers to RCA where he arranged and produced their recordings which included Robinson's smash hit, "Turn The Beat Around," that launched her career.

Schatz joined RCA Records via the company's then publishing arm, Sunbury/Dunbar, in December, 1974 as Manager, Music Publishing And Creative Productions. During that year, he also arranged "Our Day Will Come" for Frankie Valli, and "Midnight Love Affair" for Tony Orlando, both chart hits. Promoted to Director, Sunbar Productions, Inc., in 1976, Schatz, in less than one year, had seven of his produced recordings on disco charts, three on national pop charts and four on R&B charts. He came to RCA from a position of General Professional Manager of Bourne Music.

Starting as a delivery boy at Associated Recording Studios, Schatz, who is 32, has worked as a recording engineer, song writer, music publisher and arranger, and has had three chart hit singles as an artist, in addition to three albums under his own name.

ETHEL GABRIEL: Producer

SUSAN HEILBERG: Secretary & Assistant to

Ethel Gabriel & Nancy Jeffries

Ethel has been a mainstay in the RCA organization for over 35 years. Listed in *Who's Who in American Women* and Grammy Award Winner, she helped establish the Camden label and today produces the Living' series, Los Indios Tabajaras and is responsible for the well-known RCA "Pure Gold" series of re-issues as well. When you mention A&R at RCA, everyone in the industry recognizes Ethel Gabriel as a basic component of that organization.

NANCY JEFFRIES: Producer

Ms. Jeffries had served as manager of A&R administration for RCA Records, and had previously served as department A&R coordinator for R&B music at RCA.

Ms. Jeffries' introduction to the music business came during her tenure as lead singer for The Insect Trust, a band which recorded and toured extensively while under contract to Capitol Records and Atlantic Records. A co-founder of the Memphis Country Blues Society which produced five annual blues festivals in the Memphis area, Ms. Jeffries is also an accomplished songwriter who has provided music for children's films. She also has experience in night club management.

JEROME GASPER: R&B Producer

ANNETTE DEBNAM: Secretary & Assistant to

Jerome Gasper & Al Garrison

As an independent producer/engineer for A-Dish-A-Tunes, Ltd., Gasper worked for Capitol Records (The Reflections), MAM Records (J.R. Bailey), RSO Records (Revelation, produced with Norman Harris and Allen Felder) and Chelsea Records from 1971 through 1975. At Atlantic Records for the previous two years, Gasper served as a Staff Engineer for such major acts as Aretha Franklin, Herbie Mann, King Curtis, Eddie Harris and Donny Hathaway. From 1961 to 1969, he was with Associated Recording Studio where he worked the board with record and theatrical producers, advertising agencies and artists like Burt Bacharach, Valerie Simpson, Van McCoy, Barry Manilow, The Main Ingredient and Zulema, among others.

AL GARRISON: Producer

Al Garrison joined Sunbury/Dunbar Music and Sunbar Productions in 1975 as a consultant. He was later promoted to Associate Producer. With Sunbury/Dunbar, Garrison was involved in securing copyrights, placing songs, and coordinating artist activities. In this capacity he brought "Turn The Beat Around" to Vicki Sue Robinson. As Associate Producer Garrison worked on three albums by Grammy Award nominee Vicki Sue Robinson, as well as albums by Gordon Grody, The Brothers, and the New York Community Choir. He has also done the disco mixes on the Evelyn "Champagne" King album.

Before joining RCA, Garrison was a performing musician, working with numerous East Coast bands, and was under contract to Columbia Records for three years. Garrison has also owned and operated his own recording studio in upstate New York, and he was an engineer at Associated Recording in New York City for two years.

NEIL PORTNOW: Division Vice President (West Coast)

PAULA JEFFRIES: Secretary & Assistant to Neil Portnow



Before joining RCA, Neil Portnow was Manager, Talent Acquisition and Development for Screen Gems — EMI Music, an independent producer, and president of his own firm, Portnow-Miller Production Company. Neil joined RCA in October of 1976 as an A&R Producer and was promoted to Executive Producer in May of 1978. Among the artists he worked with at RCA were Lucy Simon, Fandango and Grey & Hanks.

As Division Vice-President of Pop A&R on the West Coast, Neil has helped develop a full-service West Coast office and has recently signed Evie Sands, Max Demian (produced by Art Kornfeld in association with The Entertainment Co.), jazz sax player Eddie Harris (produced by Richard Evans) and a new R&B artist named James Ingram. Other signings are now in negotiation as Neil Portnow continues to develop and coordinate the West Coast A&R operation.

JEFF BENJAMIN: Manager-Talent Development

LINDA BALOUGH: Secretary & Assistant to Jeff Benjamin

Benjamin started his music career in 1973 as Professional Manager for Irving/Almo, A&M's publishing wing, where he set recordings with Johnny Cash, Manhattan Transfer, and the Grammy winning "I Honestly Love You" with Olivia Newton-John, among others. In 1975, he moved to Island Music where, as General Professional Manager, he was responsible for the creation of "Disco Lucy." Most recently Benjamin was the West Coast Professional Manager for Sunbury/Dunbar Publishing.