

Keeping Up with Stevie

NEW YORK—Stevie Wonder digs love, peace, understanding and a certain audience in Caracas, Venezuela (not necessarily in that order). The Tama star was in New York for his Copa opening last week—he's booked for two weeks.

After the Copa, he's off to Detroit for a short vacation and then Australia, and there's some talk about going to Japan after that. On the domestic scene, he's been concentrating on college concerts, doing more of them this year than ever before.

Stevie still enjoys playing clubs and is scheduled for the Club Venus in Baltimore in the near future. He says, "I like to do a variety; I like it all. It depends on the mood I'm in." Right now the other musicians he's listening to are the Beatles, Richie Havens and Simon and Garfunkel.

Of his own material, he singles out "I Was Made To Love Her" and says he hopes to do something along those lines again. He calls the song his

favorite because "It expressed the way I felt; it made me feel so good inside."

Among audiences, he finds college groups spiritually at one with him and describes these encounters as scenes of great "togetherness." English audiences are quite responsive to his work but one he ran into in Caracas was fantastic. He says, "I'd never been so overwhelmingly happy about the way people made me feel. We really had a good time."

Right now he's concerned with being part of "a chain of communication" which he says "is the key to what we are looking for—the true meaning of the word love, peace or understanding." —Bob Moore Merlis.

Brook Certified

Brook Benton's record of "A Rainy Night in Georgia" on Cotillion was certified by the RIAA this week as a million seller.



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record world **R&B** BEAT WHERE IT'S AT

WVON, Chicago, pic "Man's Worst Enemy," Shades of Brown . . . Big play on David Perrett . . . Giant sales on the singles and albums of Dells and Little Milton . . . Strong LP, "Magnetic North," by Freddy North, A-Bet. Top Cuts: "Thank That Woman," "Love to Hate" and "From the Blind Side" . . . WIGO and WLOK on "Acid," Solicitorison, Excello . . . Check: "Take a Look At My Love," Tommy Hubbard, Nasco, and "Family Reunion," Jewel Aushon . . . KATZ on Joe Simon, Little Milton, Dells, Ann Peebles, #15—Dusty, #16—B. Womack, #19—Barbara Ackman . . . WOL, Washington, new: Otis Reading, Blue Notes, Dyke and Blazers, Steam, Charles Mintz, Mongo Santamaria. Smash from #6 to #3 Green Berets, Giant #10 to #7 Buddy Miles, #10—Fawns, #12—Moments, #27 to #16 Willie Henderson, #25 to #19 George Perkins, smash on at #20 Meters, smash on at #21 Gladys Knight . . . WWRL, New York (Norma Pinnella) Eddie Holman, B. Acklin, Swamp Dog, Honey Comb, Little Eva, Arthur Conley, smash #8 to #2 George Perkins, giant #16 to #6 Moments, #18 to #8 Tyrone Davis, #25 to #10 G. Knight, H.B. to #11 Wilson Pickett, #24 to #15 Dyke and Blazers, #29 to #18 Meters. Local sales: Willy Colon, sales: Otis Smith . . . The Cissy Houston on Commonwealth United is a powerhouse.

Busy Carla Thomas

NEW YORK—Stax vocalist Carla Thomas will be busy with TV and personal appearances during March and April prior to a two-week European tour in May, announces manager Sandy Newman, head of Great Memphis Sound, Inc.

Following appearances on the syndicated Clay Cole show and the Xernona Clayton show in Atlanta, Miss Thomas will guest on the Mike Douglas show in early March, the NET Network's "Soul" (March 18) and the "Black Book" TV show in Philadelphia (22).

Kapp, Gordo Deal

LOS ANGELES—Johnny Musso, Kapp Records General Manager, now on a promo tour in behalf of several new singles, has announced completion of an agreement with Gordo Productions topper Eddie Davis, calling for a continuing flow of product from the Los Angeles based firm.

The production deal initially came about as a result of a single, "Viva Tirado," featuring instrumental group El Chicano. It was produced by Davis, who is now completing an album for Kapp by the same artists. Second group geared for Kapp, A Boy and a Girl, will be cut for release next month.

King Campaign For Caesar's Palace Bow

B. B. King, ABC Records artist, has been signed to make his debut at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, opening April 10 for a two-week engagement.

In conjunction with King's April opening, ABC Records is currently planning a "B. B. King Explosion Month" in Nevada with all the major top 40 radio stations. Campaign will be headed by Marvin Deane, ABC Records' Director of National Promotion.

Sidney A. Seidenberg, personal manager to King, negotiated the Caesar's Palace deal with the hotel's entertainment director, David Victorson. King will be on a month-long concert tour of the Southeast before opening at Caesar's Palace.

Starday-King Expands

CINCINNATI—Starday-King Records, Nashville - Cincinnati based recording and publishing firm, outlined expansion plans for six new acts at a two-day conference here for division managers.

Starday-King prexy Hal Neely said Starday-King, which waxes James Brown, Redd Foxx and other artists, will broaden its product with the signing of Roberta Sherwood, the Tokyo Happy Coats, Billy Daniels, Bobby Wade and Louie Wickman.

Into All Areas

Neely said that with the new talent Starday-King, which operates a coast-to-coast recording net, is expanding in anticipation of entering all areas of popular music recordings during the 1970s.