

**A&R REPORT**

—BERNARD BAUR

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REPORT**

**M**usic Connection's *A&R Report* delivers up-to-date information about the signings of new artists, significant developments at major and indie labels, as well as news of managers and attorneys who are active in the A&R aspect of the music business. So that *MC* can provide the most current information possible, please send any industry news, A&R buzz or rumors that need to be verified to [BBatMC@aol.com](mailto:BBatMC@aol.com).

**OPPS**

• Not every band can "pull a Radiohead," but with NovaTunes it's becoming easier. NovaTunes has built a platform to distribute and sell music in high-quality digital format. "We take the 'Radiohead model' to a totally new level," says founder and president Hans Veldhuizen. "We work it so that that up-and-coming artists can enjoy the benefits of new music distribution."

Many acts try to sell music directly to fans. "But," Veldhuizen

notes, "only world-famous artists can really pull that off. It doesn't always work for emerging artists who don't have a big fan base yet." That's where NovaTunes comes in. They've developed a model in which they leverage the fan bases of all artists on their website — the famous ones along with those who are at the start of their careers. Novatunes has also formed an e-label that selects and promotes the best acts they can find. For more on this exciting venture, go to [novatunes.com](http://novatunes.com).

• Ever wonder whom your music most resembles? Now you can find out. Matching the sounds of unsigned artists to those of mainstream artists is simple with the acoustic fingerprinting technology of Audiobaba, now available on the [BETArecords](http://BETArecords.com) site. To this end, Independent artists can upload their music and get exposed to a worldwide audience. Users of the site will be able to discover music from unsigned artists around the world by simply typing in a mainstream artist's name. Chris Harper, BETA CXO explains, "With Audiobaba's technology, artists on our site will have a greater chance of being discovered by music fans that would most likely enjoy their work." To learn more, go to [betarecords.com](http://betarecords.com).

• The 2008 North By Northeast Music Festival & Conference (NXNE) is accepting submissions. The festival draws 70,000 fans, over 600 accredited media, and gives 500 artists the chance to showcase for agents, talent buyers, media, promoters, labels and other industry professionals. North By Northeast attracts over 2,300

**KIM MEETS JEANIE @ THE COMPOSER'S CORNER**

*Music Connection's* "Best Kept Secrets" showcase artist Kim Kline won "Best New Top 40 Artist of the Year" at the 7th Annual New Music Awards held in the Avalon Theater at Hollywood and Vine. Larry Weir and Paul Loggins, publishers of *New Music Weekly*, produced the event. Seen here Kline (Left) is in the midst of a red carpet interview with Jeanie Cunningham, an artist, producer and host of *The Composer's Corner*. To see the full interview, visit [kimkline.com](http://kimkline.com) and/or [thecomposerscorner.com](http://thecomposerscorner.com).

delegates for demo-listening and mentoring sessions. The Festival will be held from June 12 to 15, 2008. Get a six-month "risk-free" membership with *Sonicbids* and you'll automatically be submitted for consideration. Go to [sonicbids.com](http://sonicbids.com) for additional details.

• Samm Brown's *For The Record*, a weekly radio program on KPFK 90.7 FM, is seeking artists/bands for airplay and critique. Each Sunday, Brown hosts a program that focuses on the entertainment industry in general and the music business in particular. He also presents a special segment that showcases new and emerging artists. If you would like your music played and critiqued by industry pros, send a package to Samm Brown's *For The Record*, KPFK Radio, 90.7 FM, 11054 Ventura Blvd. No. 237, Studio City, CA. 91604.

ists. Kristal passed away in August of 2007. He ran the club for 33 years and is credited with giving the *Ramones*, *Blondie*, *Talking Heads*, and *Television* their first gigs.

• The Tom Fuller Band (from Chicago) has signed with legendary label Mesa/Bluemoon Records. The label, known for jazz and world artists, signed the band as its first rock act. Currently, TFB is soaring up the charts with a remake of the *Hollies* hit from the 1970s, "The Air That I Breathe." The single is from the group's current album *Abstract Man*. For more information, visit [tomfullerband.com](http://tomfullerband.com).

• Feudal Records, launched by former Sony/BMG producer Robert Shahnazarian, Jr., debuted this fall with the signing of the *Library*, electronic artist Orka Veer, and Swedish female artist Neaime. For additional news, go to [feudalproductions.com](http://feudalproductions.com).

**UNDERCOVERGIRLS ARE THE BEST**

For the second year in a row, the UnderCoverGirls won "Best Cover Band" at the All Access Music Awards held at the Knitting Factory in Hollywood. One of the hottest cover acts around, this all-girl party band garnered a rave review from *MC*: "Hot chicks, hot songs and a blazing stage show... recall a time when rock was rebellious, sexy and more than a little naughty." And you can party with them on Dec. 28 at Pershing Square from 8-10 p.m. Pictured (L-R): Julie Dolan, Sylvie LaCroix, Jessica Pennington, Liza Sanchez, Tris Beezley. To learn more or to book them, visit [ucgband.com](http://ucgband.com).

**LABELS ~ RELEASES****~ SIGNINGS**

• MVD Entertainment Group ([mvd2b.com](http://mvd2b.com)) has sealed a deal with CBGB's to bring a series of live performance audio recordings to fans. Each CD will feature a full concert recorded at CBGB's from the 80's through 00's. The initial offerings will include *Mooney Suzuki*, *the Queers*, and *H2O*. More releases will be announced in the fourth quarter of 2007, along with some limited edition vinyl releases.

"It's fantastic that these vintage performances are going to be heard," said Brett Green, attorney for CBGB's and the club's founder Hilly Kristal. "It's a fitting tribute to Hilly's legacy." MVD is donating a portion of sales to the Hilly Kristal Foundation for Musicians & Art-

**PROPS**

• Guitarist and musical innovator Les Paul has been honored with the 2007 National Medal of Arts. The Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists by the United States government. The recipients are chosen due to their outstanding contributions to the growth and support of the arts in the United States. Ninety-two-year-old Les Paul is a leading figure in the development of the electric guitar and a number of recording innovations. He's also a well respected recording artist who is still performing. For additional information, visit [lespaulonline.com](http://lespaulonline.com).

• The Blues Foundation named veteran music publicist Mark Pucci as a recipient of the 2008