

EXECUTIVE TURNTABLE

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RECORD COMPANIES: Universal Republic Records appoints **Jim Roppo** executive VP of marketing. He was senior VP of sales at Island Def Jam Music Group.

Island Def Jam Music Group names **Chris Anokute** senior VP of A&R. He previously served in the same role at Universal Republic.

Universal Music Group International promotes **Robert Chabance** to CFO for its operations in France, Italy, the Middle East and North Africa. He was CFO at Universal Music France.

Sony Music Nashville appoints **Heather McBee** VP of artist development/marketing and Web initiatives. She was VP of digital business.

Arista Nashville names **Andy Elliott** regional promotion manager. He was director of promotion for the Midwest and Southwest at New Revolution Entertainment.



ROOPP



ANOKUTE



FRASER



CHUTHAKIEO

PUBLISHING: Alfred Music Publishing promotes **Doug Fraser** to VP of digital sales. He was director.

TOURING: APA in Nashville promotes **Frank Wing** to VP of talent and media. He was a music agent.

The Windish Agency appoints **Eli Thomas** director of events and sponsorship. He founded Bagavagabonds, an art collective that produces charitable events.

DIGITAL: Pandora taps **Michael Chuthakieo** as executive director of national entertainment sales. He was regional VP of entertainment for West Coast sales at MySpace.

RELATED FIELDS: BMG Chrysalis appoints **Wendy Griffiths** senior VP of marketing, responsible for the United States. She was senior VP of film and soundtracks at Warner Bros. Records.

—Edited by Mitchell Peters

GOODWORKS

SCOTT MANNIS FIGHTING EPILEPSY THROUGH MUSIC

When aspiring singer Scott Mannis was 17 years old, he began periodically losing feeling in the left side of his body, specifically in his leg. It took three years for doctors to diagnose his condition as a rare form of epilepsy, whose symptoms can be minimized, but for which there is no cure.

But Mannis, now a 24-year-old astrophysics student at Columbia University, found temporary reprieve through music. "By 2008, the seizures got bad enough that I wasn't able to walk without falling," he says. "The only time I didn't have them was when I was singing."

It's a peculiarity that hasn't been lost on music industry veteran Susan Collins, who has worked with Electric Light Orchestra and the "Saturday Night Live" band. She's also functioned as Mannis' vocal coach and mentor for the past four years. Collins met the singer's mother, Robin Stern, through mutual friends and listened to a few of his tracks. In mid-2009, after a year of vocal lessons, Collins brought Mannis into Grammy Award-winning producer Art Labriola's New York studio to record a demo.

"I took him as a vanity project to do one demo," Collins says. "And from that we started going back and recording more tracks."

The three continued working together during the next two-and-a-half years as Mannis attended school. After realizing they might have enough material for an album, the trio co-wrote the song "Angel in the Red Dress," which later became the title of Mannis' new set. The album was released Dec. 20 on Scott Mannis Music during a release party at Iguana in Manhattan, and is available for purchase on CD Baby, iTunes and Amazon.



"X Factor" maestro **Simon Cowell** takes the mike during Hope Animal Sanctuary's annual auction in Barbados during the holidays. The cause raised \$500,000 thanks to a variety of items, including Cowell's donation of four VIP tickets to the U.S. "X Factor" finale with airfare and hotel. Holding one of the sanctuary's furry beneficiaries is moonlighting auctioneer **Jonathan Shalit**, chairman of U.K. artist management firm ROAR Group. PHOTO: GREG SIRC



Chinese and American musicians shared the stage for a charity event in Beijing on Dec. 17, raising funds for Americans Promoting Study Abroad. Universal Music China artist **Sa Dingding** was among those who performed for a crowd of 10,000; she is pictured here post-event with the U.S. ambassador to China, **Gary Locke**. Headlined by will.i.am and John Legend, the show was staged at the Chinese capital's National Indoor Stadium.



The Foundation for Second Chances hosted its annual Leadership Awards on Dec. 10 at Spectra by Wolfgang Puck in the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles. Among the honorees was attorney **Darrell Miller**, a partner at the Los Angeles office of Fox Rothschild LLP, who received the 2011 service in entertainment leadership award. Special guests at the affair included Miller client Mary Mary, who presented him with the award. Joining Miller (far right) and his wife, **Shannon**, at the event is another Miller client, Cooking Channel chef **G. Garvin**. PHOTO: JASAUN BUCKNER



At a recent private event at the Darby in New York, Island Def Jam Music Group president/COO **Steve Bartels** introduced Snow Patrol. The alt-rock band played an acoustic performance, including top five triple A single "Called Out in the Dark." The track is from Snow Patrol's new Island CD *Fallen Empires*, released this week (Jan. 10). Pictured are Snow Patrol lead vocalist **Gary Lightbody** (left) and Bartels. PHOTO: MEREDITH TRUAX



File this under something you don't see every day: Chicago Bears football legend **Gayle Sayers** (left) meets Silver Bullet Band saxman **Alto Reed** (center) and promoter **Danny Zelisko** following a Dec. 30 sellout by Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band at Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas. The show was promoted by Phoenix-based Danny Zelisko Presents.

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HEAVY METAL

During the holiday season, several acts were gifted with plaques and other awards.

ABOVE LEFT: On the heels of announcing a 21-city national tour that will kick off May 29 in New York, Foster the People was presented with gold plaques for debut album *Torches*. Pumped up over the trio's success are (from left) radio promotion executive Matt Pollack of the group's management firm Monotone, Columbia COO **Steve Barnett** and CEO **Rob Stringer**, FTP lead singer **Mark Foster**, manager **Brett Williams**, FTP bassist **Cubbie Fink**, Columbia senior VP of marketing **Scott Greer**, FTP drummer **Mark Pontius**, manager **Brent Kredel** and Columbia VP of A&R **Isaac Green**. PHOTO: LARRY BUSSACA/GETTY IMAGES

ABOVE RIGHT: Singer/songwriter **Jeremy Silver** (right) is the newly minted recipient of the ASCAP Foundation's Michelle and Dean Kay Award, given to an aspiring ASCAP songwriter participating in either the pop or musical theater ASCAP workshops in Los Angeles. Publishing veteran **Dean Kay** is president/CEO of his own Demi Music Corp. and its affiliates, Lichelle Music Co. and Yak Yak Music; wife Michelle is VP/COO of the company. Dean congratulates Silver during the 16th annual ASCAP Foundation Award ceremony at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center on Dec. 7. PHOTO: SCOTT WINTHROW

RIGHT: Nielsen's entertainment division caught up with the Foo Fighters at the band's recent sold-out Madison Square Garden concert to present two awards: the first for more than 4 million U.S. radio plays, according to Nielsen BDS, and the second (pictured here) for more than 10 million U.S. album sales, tracked by Nielsen SoundScan. On hand (from left) are guitarist **Pat Smear**; Nielsen Entertainment VP **Chris Muratore**; RCA COO/president **Tom Corson** and senior director of pop/rock promotion **Jeff Gillis**; lead vocalist/guitarist **Dave Grohl**, bassist **Nate Mendel** and guitarist **Chris Shiflett**; RCA senior VP of rock promotion **Bill Burr**; drummer **Taylor Hawkins**; RCA executive VP of CHR promotion **Joe Riccitelli**, CEO **Peter Edge** and senior VP of business affairs **Karen Hope**; Nielsen Entertainment president **Eric Weinberg**; Sony Music Entertainment executive VP of business affairs/general counsel **Julie Swidler**; and RCA executive VP of business and legal affairs **Dan Zucker**. PHOTO: SONY



ICONIC MOMENTS

Some legends aren't content to just rest on their laurels ...

UPPER LEFT: ZZ Top's **Billy F. Gibbons** (left) revs up for the Willie Nelson & Friends New Year's Eve bash during Austin City Limits Live at the Moody Theater. After counting down to 2012 together, Gibbons and **Nelson** launched into "Auld Lang Syne" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken." Then Nelson took the lead on a new gospel tune of his called "Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I'm Gone." PHOTO: GRETCHEN BARBER

UPPER RIGHT: Before taping the 2012 Trumpet Awards—where she accepted the civil rights Warrior Award on behalf of her late father, Rev. C.L. Franklin—**Aretha Franklin** was interviewed by CNN "Starting Point" anchor **Soledad O'Brien**. Flanking the Queen of Soul are O'Brien (right) and friend/author/radio host **Michael Eric Dyson**, who accompanied Franklin to the awards stage. The Trumpet Awards will air April 8 on cable network TV One. PHOTO: SU BERLAND/CNN

LOWER LEFT: The indefatigable **Tony Bennett** performed a 10-song set with his quartet and then sat down for a Q&A on Jan. 5 during PBS' portion of the Television Critics Assn. press tour at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena, Calif. PBS' winter/spring season includes the "Great Performances" special "Tony Bennett: Duets II," a behind-the-scenes look at the 85-year-old's latest album airing Jan. 27. Vowing to "never retire; if my voice goes, I'll continue to paint," Bennett fielded questions with "Great Performances" executive producer **David Horn** (left) and manager-son **Danny Bennett**. PHOTO: RAHUL GHOSH/PBS