

INSIDE

Russian Music Download Case Rejected

PAGE 02

LimeWire To Launch Legit Music Store

PAGE 02

Terra Firma Reject Nicoli Sack Claims

PAGE 03

PassAlong Spins Off Speakerheart

PAGE 03

Arvato Mobile, EMI Broaden European License Deal

PAGE 03

UGK Scores First No. 1 Album In Five Years

After a five-year absence from The Billboard 200, UGK returns to the tally in a big way as "Underground Kingz" debuts at No. 1. The hip-hop troupe's first chart-topper, the Jive set moved 160,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan, the best sales week ever for UGK and its members, Bun B and Pimp C. UGK's previous charting and sales best came with 2001's "Dirty Money," which bowed at No. 18 with 98,000.

Fueled by its popular single "Shawty" featuring T-Pain, Plies' Slip-N-Slide debut "Real Testament" enters at No. 2. The rapper's album sold 96,000 units; "Shawty" has peaked at No. 12 on the Hot 100 thus far and was last week's biggest airplay gainer.

The "NOW 25" hits compilation keeps the No. 3 spot warm on the big chart for a second week, selling 86,000 with a 30% sales decrease. Despite an 8% sales slip, Miley Cyrus' Disney double-disc set "Hannah Montana 2 (Soundtrack)/Meet Miley Cyrus" climbs a slot 5-4 with 75,000.

The Jonas Brothers' self-titled sophomore record shifted 69,000 copies to debut at No. 5 on The Billboard 200. "Jonas Brothers" is the first album to be is-

sued in the CDVU+ format. The packaging features 100% recycled paper and the CD unlocks photos, lyrics and liner notes when inserted in a computer. The pop-rock group's first effort, 2006's "It's About Time" (Columbia), bowed and peaked at No. 91.

The New Line soundtrack to "Hairspray" falls 4-6 with a 16% sales decrease to 69,000, a few hundred short of the Jonas Brothers' sum. After bowing on top last week, Common's "Finding Forever" descends to No. 7 with 58,000, a 63% sales hit.

Fergie's "The Dutchess" (will.i.am/A&M/Interscope) climbs 9-8 with 52,000 (-3%), flip-flopping with T.I.'s Grand Hustle/Atlantic set "T.I. vs. T.I.P." (8-9, 45,000, -18%). Korn's "Untitled" (Virgin) slips 2-10 with 39,000 after a 64% sales decrease.

—Katie Hasty, N.Y.

SESAC TO OPEN MIAMI OFFICE

Performing rights organization SESAC will open an office in Miami this fall, with a focus on signing songwriters in Miami and Puerto Rico.

The Lincoln Road office is expected to be operational by Oct. 1,

with Kenny Cordova as its creative manager. Cordova, most recently an independent production, publishing and A&R consultant, will report to SESAC Latina director J.J. Cheng.

—Ayala Ben-Yehuda, L.A.

expandedcharts.biz
 indeptharchives.biz
 newmultimediamplatforms.biz
 fluidnavigation.biz

[IN BRIEF]

RUSSIAN MUSIC DOWNLOAD CASE REJECTED

A Moscow court threw out a case against the former head of music downloading site allofmp3.com and rejected the damages claims made by EMI Group PLC, Universal Music Group and Warner Music Group, a music industry official said Wednesday.

Allofmp3.com, which was closed in late June but reopened later under a similar rubric, has been cast as the epitome of Russia's shoddy copyright enforcement and repeatedly held up by U.S. trade negotiators as imperiling Moscow's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

Recording companies argued that Mediaservices, which runs the sites, has never had permission to sell their artists' works. EMI Group PLC, Vivendi SA's Universal Music Group and Warner Music Group Inc. sought \$587,000 in damages from Mediaservices' former head, Denis Kvasov, according to Igor Pozhitkov, the Russia representative for the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry.

"We are extremely disappointed that the court failed to convict Denis Kvasov [yesterday] and expect the prosecutor to appeal," said Jo Oliver, vice president litigation and regulatory affairs at IFPI. "MediaServices operates in clear violation of Russia's law and we expect this unfortunate decision will soon be reversed. This ruling in no way affects the illegality of allofmp3.com and similar services that reproduce and make available music without the consent of the artists, composers and record producers that created it."

Pozhitkov said a Cheryomushky District Court judge threw out the case against Kvasov, saying that a legal loophole that allowed the online dis-

tribution of music was only closed in September 2006, while Kvasov ended his involvement in December 2005.

Pozhitkov criticized the ruling, saying the judge ignored the prosecutors' argument that Kvasov had reproduced the music in question, an illegal act at the time.

Two more cases against allofmp3.com are pending, including one against Mediaservices' current head, Vadim Mamotin, Pozhitkov said.

Mamotin has insisted that by paying royalties to a Russian licensing group, allofmp3.com was in compliance with Russian laws. Recording companies contend, however, that the licensing group never had the permission of music industry to collect and distribute royalties on its behalf.

—Associated Press

LIMEWIRE TO LAUNCH LEGIT MUSIC STORE

P2P music network LimeWire is closer to launching a legit digital music store. The company announced plans to launch a stand-alone Web site accessible from links in its popular file-sharing network that eventually will let users buy music from directly within the P2P network.

Initial content partners include IRIS Distribution and Netwerk. All music sold on the new store will be DRM free. It will feature both a la carte and monthly subscription models.

—Antony Bruno, Denver

BROWN EXITS DEF JAM, SIGNS WITH KOCH

After spending her entire career on Def Jam, rapper Foxy Brown has cut ties with the label and signed with Koch Records. The deal includes

the launch of Brown's own imprint, Black Rose Entertainment.

"She'd been at Def Jam for 13 years," says Chaz Williams, Brown's manager. "It was time to move on to a situation where she had more control. She's an artist that's already established her brand, sold millions of records and has a loyal fan base. She's got the fame -- now she needs to get the fortune."

Under the terms of the Koch deal, Black Rose Entertainment will release a minimum of three albums per year, the first of which will be Brown's "Brooklyn's Don Diva" on Dec. 4. Another new album, "Black Roses," will arrive next year. The label will keep a focus on Brown's dancehall reggae roots and the rapper plans to sign up and coming Caribbean and U.S. artists.

Brown's last album, "Broken Silence," was released in 2001.

—Hillary Crosley, N.Y.

SIRIUS LINKS SONOS

Sirius Satellite Radio programming is now available on the Sonos in-home digital music system, without the need to add a satellite antenna. The programming is, instead, transmitted over the Internet. The Sonos system connects directly to the Internet, much like a computer, to stream Internet radio stations, Rhapsody, or files stored on users home PCs.

Existing Sirius subscribers must pay an additional \$3 a month to receive Sirius programming on the Sonos device, whereas non-Sirius subscribers must pay \$12.95. Both of course must buy the Sonos system.

—Antony Bruno, Denver

exclusiveinterviews.biz
needtoknow.biz
24/7/365.biz
musicindustryinsights.biz

[IN BRIEF]

TERRA FIRMA REJECT NICOLI SACK CLAIMS

European equity house Terra Firma is playing-down speculation that EMI Group CEO Eric Nicoli is on the verge of being jettisoned.

Sources close to the music major claim Terra Firma has appointed a headhunter to find a replacement for Nicoli, a move which has been flatly denied.

"No one has been brought in to replace Nicoli," says a Terra Firma spokesman. "We will sit down with him when we actually own the company, but that won't be until the start of September. Until then, no decisions will be taken."

An EMI spokesman declined to comment.

Terra Firma recently won backing to buy EMI Group in a deal valued at roughly £2.4 billion (\$4.89 billion), having staved off advances from Warner Music Group and a consortium led by former EMI chief Jim Fifield.

Controlled by financier Guy Hands, Terra Firma declared its intentions to own EMI with a May 21 announcement of a 265 pence (\$5.21) per share offer for the London-based firm.

Following completion of the transaction, industry observers expect Terra Firma to inject new blood into EMI's existing board, and shake-up the company's recorded music arm.

One confirmed incoming EMI executive is Terra Firma partner Stephen Alexander, who has served at the highest executive ranks for cinemas chain Odeon, beverages chain Thresher Group and spirits firm Allied Domecq.

"Alexander is the chap at Terra Firma who is responsible for the EMI deal," explains a Terra Firma spokesman. He is certain to join EMI, the spokesman explains, "but in what way is yet to be

worked out."

—Lars Brandle, London

PASSALONG SPINS OFF SPEAKERHEART

PassAlong Networks has spun off digital media service Speakerheart as its own company. The service aims to provide a independent artists an online platform to upload and sell music own their own. Participating artists can create their own track samples, set prices and design custom storefronts using the service.

The service has added a widget version as well, called Shelves, so artists and their fans can sell music from social networking sites and blogs.

Jozef Nuyens was named CEO and Brad Edmonson president of the new company. Both are PassAlong co-founders. The Speakerheart service is active, but in a private beta testing period.

—Antony Bruno, Denver

MARTIN TO OPEN FILLMORE MIAMI

Puerto Rican superstar Ricky Martin will be the inaugural act to play at the new Fillmore Miami Beach at the Jackie Gleason Theater. Martin, who is in the midst of his "Black & White" international tour, brings his show back to Miami for a three-night run at the new Fillmore, Oct. 10-12. He is also slated to release a "Black and White" CD/DVD later this year.

The Jackie Gleason, a historic mid-size venue in Miami Beach, was taken over by Live Nation earlier this year. The company is in the process of making a \$3.5 million renovation to the 2,700 seat venue. The theater will now be known as The Fillmore Miami Beach at The Jackie Gleason Theater.

The Fillmore Miami Beach will be the sixth Fillmore-branded venue that Live Nation has in the United States, joining theaters in San Francisco, Denver, New York, Philadelphia and Detroit.

—Leila Cobo, Miami

ARVATO MOBILE, EMI BROADEN EUROPEAN LICENSE DEAL

Arvato mobile has extended its agreement with EMI Music to make available full track videos to pan-European arvato mobile customers for the first time.

The deal means Arvato-powered services at operators, ISPS and media companies can download EMI artist music videos for mobile phones and PCs, as well as videotones, artist wallpapers, ringtones, ringback tones and full-track downloads.

EMI artists including Lily Allen, Corinne Bailey Rae, Norah Jones and Kylie Minogue will feature.

"This deal enables us not only to continue to offer EMI's great artists via our distribution network, but also to open up new commercial areas in a creative way," says Bernhard Ribbrock, CEO of arvato mobile.

"We thank EMI for the great trust placed in us, permitting us to market its artists on a cross-product basis, and are looking forward to a continued exciting collaboration."

Arvato mobile and EMI first inked a license arrangement in 2004.

A subsidiary of German media giant Bertelsmann, Arvato mobile provides its clients digital entertainment content and interactive solutions. It is present in more than 75 countries.

—Wolfgang Spahr, Hamburg

exclusiveinterviews.biz
 needtoknow.biz
 24/7/365.biz
 musicindustryinsights.biz



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL (PRICE)	Title	CERT.	PEAK POSITION
1	HOT SHOT DEBUT		1	#1 UGK UGK/JIVE 02633/ZOMBA (18.98) ⊕	Underground Kingz		1
2	NEW		1	PLIES BIG GATES/SLIP-N-SLIDE/ATLANTIC 185340/AG (18.98)	The Real Testament		2
3	3	1	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS UNIVERSAL/EMI/SONY BMG/ZOMBA 009055/UMRG (18.98)	NOW 25		1
4	5	4	7	MILEY CYRUS WALT DISNEY/HOLLYWOOD 000465 (23.98)	Hannah Montana 2 (Soundtrack)/Meet Miley Cyrus		1
5	NEW		1	JONAS BROTHERS HOLLYWOOD 000282 (18.98)	Jonas Brothers		5
6	4	2	5	SOUNDTRACK NEW LINE 39089 (16.98)	Hairspray		2
7	1	-	2	COMMON G.O.O.D./Geffen 009382/IGA (13.98)	Finding Forever		1
8	9	6	47	FERGIE WILL.I.AM/A&M/INTERSCOPE 007490/IGA (13.98)	The Dutchess	2	3
9	8	5	6	T.I. GRAND HUSTLE/ATLANTIC 202172*/AG (18.98)	T.I. Vs T.I.P.		1
10	2	-	2	KORN VIRGIN 03878* (18.98) ⊕	Untitled		2
11	7	-	2	KIDZ BOP KIDS RAZOR & TIE 89151 (18.98)	Kidz Bop 12		7
12	10	8	13	LINKIN PARK MACHINE SHOP 44477/WARNER BROS. (18.98) ⊕	Minutes To Midnight		1
13	12	9	22	AMY WINEHOUSE UNIVERSAL REPUBLIC 008428*/UMRG (10.98)	Back To Black		6
14	6	-	2	SEAN KINGSTON BELUGA HEIGHTS/KOCH/EPIC 12999/SONY MUSIC (18.98)	Sean Kingston		6
15	14	11	97	NICKELBACK ROADRUNNER 618300 (18.98) ⊕	All The Right Reasons	6	1
16	13	13	42	TAYLOR SWIFT BIG MACHINE 120702 (18.98)	Taylor Swift		13
17	16	14	10	RIHANNA SRP/DEF JAM 008968*/IDJMG (13.98)	Good Girl Gone Bad		2
18	15	12	8	BON JOVI MERCURY/ISLAND 008902/UMGN/IDJMG (13.98)	Lost Highway		1
19	18	17	12	MAROON 5 A&M/OCTONE 008917/IGA (18.98)	It Won't Be Soon Before Long		1
20	11	3	3	PRINCE NPG/COLUMBIA 12970/SONY MUSIC (18.98)	Planet Earth		3

It's All Here.

Billboard.biz

Activate today for only \$24.95 and receive 51 weekly issues of Billboard Magazine.

FULL Access for a limited time only - including over 40 years of chart history!

Call 800.562.2706 or email Billboard@espcomp.com to subscribe today!