**EXECUTE** #235 THE FLIP SIDE **OCTOBER 2019** 

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"A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of music collecting"





PUBLISHED BY KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster PA 17605 | 717-898-1246 | recordcollectors.org **OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE #235** Inside...

The Mighty B3 **What Goes Around** Joel Whitburn Book Offer

### **VIEW FROM THE TOP**

The September 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Music **Expo** was especially enjoyable thanks to 1950s/'60's star Jimmy Clanton. Besides a day-long meet and greet, the singer/actor performed three songs. Along with his hits "Venus in Blue Jeans" and "Just a Dream", he sang a new romantic ballad he wrote himself.



The show was well attended and the weather was ideal. The "Lancaster Sunday News" featured a page and a half article on our upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a local TV station did a segment on our show.

We plan to include other special guests at future shows, and our attendance continues to grow. Maybe these equal the "good old days"

> Ken Sweigart 2019 KRC President kenofparadise@aol.com



#### RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Now is the time to start thinking about the leadership of your club for 2020. Nominations will be accepted for all four elected in positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) at today's show (October 13<sup>th</sup>) and next month, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Ballots will be mailed/e-mailed with



the December KEY-NOTES and membership renewal form. When you renew, by the January 12<sup>th</sup> show, you are entitled to vote.

Get your Christmas shopping done early - at the Pennsylvania Music Expo! Give the gift of music. 2020 KRC memberships make great stocking stuffers! See club Secretary Arlene Stewart at the show, or write her at P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster, PA 17605.

A half dozen years ago we thought the Pennsylvania **Music Expo** was going to fade out of existence. Even moving to East Petersburg in May 2018, people followed us. Attendance has been strong; however, there's always room for more! 1)erek

Until next time, keep looking for those treasured tunes!

**B. Derek Shaw KEY-NOTES** Editor and Communications bdshaw73@gmail.com



# FROM THE KRC MAILBAG

#### Appreciation from a club member

After reading fine articles in KEY-NOTES by KRC members Steve Yohe and Ken Sweigart and contributor Dan Wolfe, I thought I would respond, since hearing you all reminiscing about days gone by, it got me to thinking some of those same thoughts about how things used to be in our "good old days."

I worked in the record business back in the days when a CD was something you purchased in a bank, not a music store, so I guess I'm revealing my age. When I started, everything was at first "Groovy" (1969), and then it all turned to "Funky" and then finally progressed to the very ultimate: "Far Out" (1982).

It was an exciting time to be in the music business, as you felt as though you had your finger on the pulse of popular culture. During my time there, many historic "happenings" occurred : The Beatles disbanded, the Woodstock festival took place, "Quadraphonic" sound came (and went), "electronic" became a category of music and the terms "Superstar" and "Super Group" came into popular fashion. In addition, Richard Nader's

Oldies Revival Shows proved that something old (and still good) could be new again, and conventions for record collectors sprang up all across the country, as our hobby finally began to receive the respect it enjoys today (exemplified by groups like the Keystone Record Collectors.)

It was a fun ride the whole way with never a dull moment—I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. At the time, I kept up with everything by reading our three trade papers on a daily basis (Billboard, Cash Box, and Record World), much as I keep up with goings-on in the hobby by reading KEY-NOTES today. So, by all means, please keep up the good work, guys, so I can look back and remember that, although I didn't make a lot of money or get famous, boy, I sure do miss those good old days, Even though all I have to show for them is a nice collection and some good stories to tell, it's always interesting to hear the thoughts and tales of others involved in the hobby we all enjoy so much.

> Sincerely, Dick O'Brien, AVF (Ancient Vinyl Fanatic)

#### **KRC in 2019**

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FLIERS ARE AVAILABLE - TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!
ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS A SHOW, WHEN WARRANTED.



## Chapter 1 -- Everything Old Is New Again - At Least For Now

A little over ten years ago, when I was still actively in the retail end of the audio business, there were customers who came in to the store that, while browsing among the displays, seemed surprised to see turntables. Comments like these often followed:

Wow... do they still make those?

Yes, and we still sell them, although granted it's a niche market these days. Primarily people buy them who have substantial collections of records, and their old player is starting to give up the ghost, or they want a performance improvement, and they couldn't previously afford a higher quality player.

Interesting... you know, I've been hearing these stories that vinyl records are making a comeback. Is that true?







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(Deadline for KEY NOTES#236 is November 10th)

Names in **bold** type are members of the Keystone Record Collectors

Mmmm, not really. There is a resurgence of interest in them, for several reasons, but while records and record players are capable of very decent quality sound, properly executed digital systems are vastly better from a technical standpoint, and they're much more portable. Putting a record player in your car or taking it with you while you're jogging? Not happening."

Yeah, true, and aren't a lot of young people just downloading tunes now? There's no physical media at all?

Not just young people. We also sell these things called media servers, which are essentially computer hard-drive-based storage systems. You stash your downloaded or CD-sourced music on them and can load from there to other devices, like an MP3 player. The hard drive allows for a lot more storage than a portable player, and you can connect it to a regular home audio system for music there.

Huh. Technology, eh? Always something new. So you said that people who buy these turntables are mostly people with large collections of LPs?

Mostly. It is possible to copy records onto CD, but if you have, say, several hundred records, that would be a daunting job. You have to copy any analog source in real time—tapes are the same way—to get it digitized and then onto a CD. So you'd be at it for hundreds of hours. Copying a few dozen favorite albums so you can play them in your car is fine, but for most daily use in your home, it's just easier to park the record on the turntable and go.

Well, I actually do have some records stashed away, haven't played them for years. That might be fun. How much are these machines you have here?

We start with very basic, entry-level players at about \$150.00. Ones we'd consider, decent, middle -of-the-road types are around \$300.00 to \$500.00. Superior quality starts around \$700.00 to \$1,000.00 and goes up from there."

Whoa! Seriously? \$1,000.00 for a record player? Does Bill Gates shop here? Even \$300.00 seems pricey to me, just saying!

Mmmm... not really. No, not everyone is going to shell out top dollar for one of the state-of-the-art machines, but here's why they cost what they do...

 $\sim\sim\sim$  Thanks for reading! Tune in next issue for the (possibly) exciting conclusion (or more likely, continuation) of the above ramble on "What Goes Around"





OCTOBER 2019

# The Mighty B3 by Dan Wolfe

When I first started hearing live bands, I thought it interesting that when the band was introduced, they would also introduce one of the instruments. For example, "Chester Thompson on the Hammond Organ." Lounge duos and trios would maybe have "Sammy Smooth AT the Ham-

mond," playing standards. (AT or ON indicates level of coolness.) Mr. Thompson of early Tower of Power obviously rates the word "ON." Roller skating rinks had these organs. Ball stadiums used them as well. The Hammond model B3 electric organ has most certainly left it's mark not only on music, but life as we know it in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and today.

For those who don't know, you heard one of these magnificent instruments on almost every rock, soul, jazz, or pop tune during the past 60 years or so. A few examples include the organ solo on "Green Eyed Lady", the middle solo on "Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye" from the Casinos, anything by The Rascals or Steppenwolf, Emerson Lake and Palmer, and, of course, Booker T and The MG's. Jimmy Smith, Groove Holmes, and Jimmy McGriff are some of my favorites as well. Earl Van Dyke of the FUNK brothers! Oh, don't forget Paul Shaffer of the Letterman show always had a Hammond B3 at his fingertips. Special dollies to move these beasts were designed and are still available to rent even today.

You could

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for your

home or

church

starting in

the late

1940's.

Grandma

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For the kind of music you love to share..



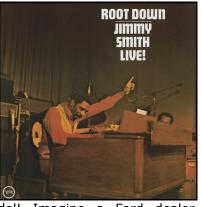
Choose today's most <u>creative</u> musical instrument...the HAMMOND ORGAN

exact same instrument! Too cool! Gospel music—Aretha used to play one in her place of worship. Your record collectors have surely run across some 1950's or 60's organ music albums of standards and pop tunes. Most of them featured a nice photo of the mighty Hammond on the sleeve, and the title usually identified that this was, in fact, a HAMMOND, not a Kimball, Baldwin, Thomas, or other less roadworthy brand.

As a former music store employee, I have a million B3 stories...like the time one fell out of a truck and worked perfectly at the show. When the local skating rink burned down, we salvaged two Hammonds that had the wood all burned off and wires melted. A week later they both were easily restored mechanically, and were working great. In 1972 my organist let one get away and it went down a flight of stairs at the venue we were to play. It wasn't a pretty thing to look at but she fired right up and ripped into "Whiter Shade of Pale" for the first requested tune requiring that specific B3 sound.

Ballgames = hot dogs, snacks and Hammond organ. Small churches that could not afford pipe organs would find a C3, which is a B3 with a more ornate wooden cabinet design. The B3 was a simple, basic wood cabinet with removable foot pedals. Although these monsters weighed 425 pounds, they were

quite easy to move with a custom dolly and wheel set. As mentioned, roller skating rinks always had this organ in use back-in-the-day, so one can only imagine how many units were in service. Some music stores actually were self-sufficient selling this one and



PAGE 3

only make and model! Imagine a Ford dealer exclusively selling the Mustang in 1965 or `66.

The original direction of this article was going to focus on just the music industry and recordings. As I proceeded, I started to realize how this simple basic instrument has been a part of Americana in so many other ways, like the aforementioned roller rinks, ball parks, churches and homes. People my age have fond memories of couples skating together while schmaltzy organ music helped us along. Many ball parks actually still use the legendary B3 for those organ salutes although electronic keyboards now handle that in the newer arenas. They simply don't break down and last forever! The special B3 Hammond sound is still used today in the recording industry.

Last minute observation: There were a handful of bands in the 1960's who did not use the Hammond B3 and had success with the portable, inexpensive electric "combo" organs. In case you want to hear the specific difference listen to "Kind of a Drag" by The Buckinghams, "96 Tears", and "Double Shot of My Baby's Love". I personally think those tunes would have rocked with a heavier sounding organ. But that is perhaps food for a future article.