

ROLLSTAR

The Concert Hotwire™



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Norah Jones



AP Photo

ROCK ICON Patti Smith speaks with the press April 19 at Rome's Fiumicino airport about her performance at the city's shiny new **Parco della Musica**.

The Royal Festival Hall but, with Rome being Rome, we'll just have to wait and see about that."

Trotta said, "I love the auditorium as we can use it with a certain continuity. It's a venue purposely built for live music, and that is something Rome was missing. We hope that in this new Parco della Musica, any kind of music will be treated with the same respect.

"It's really disappointing to feel you're an unwanted guest in an opera theatre just because you play rock 'n' roll or anything that is not opera, with the consequence that all the usual problems of production get much bigger and that you're crushed by bureaucracy. That's often happened in the past with opera theatres here, particularly when we did artists like Tom Waits."

Roberto de Luca of Clear Channel said even if opera and ballet took up the indoor rooms, promoters would still be left with a good outdoor arena.

Famed architect Renzo Piano, who designed the Paris Pompidou Centre, Berlin's Potsdamer Platz redevelopment and various shopping malls and hotels around the world, said Parco della Musica was his all-time favourite project.

"The principle is that of a music box. It's born from the idea of a musical instrument with vibrations and resonance, more than just a host to music and dances," Piano explained.

American rock 'n' roll icon Patti Smith said, "The auditorium is like Moby Dick."

At the April 20 press conference, she kissed the hand of Italian cardinal Camillo Ruini and said she'd dedicate her performance the following day to Pope John Paul II.

Visitors to the new site near Rome's Olympic Stadium will be able to see an archaeological exhibi-

tion, visit the music library and stroll around the gardens and the various shops, bars, cafes and restaurants.

The complex opening marks the beginning of what should be a good year for the city's facilities as the 9,500-capacity **Palaeur Arena**, which was closed in June 2000, is expected to be renovated and ready for reopening as a 12,000-capacity venue by February of next year.

The work being done includes improvements to acoustics, creating better access for parking and renovations to make it a better place for audiences to visit.

It had been the main arena for live music in Rome since the '60s and in more recent times, hosted concerts from Rage Against The Machine, The Offspring, and Skunk Anansie.

Although he concedes it would be difficult to sell out 140,000 tickets, de Luca has said he would be happy to sell 40,000 a day.

- **ATTILIO PERISSINOTTI OF VIRUS** Concerti has reinvented his **Beach Bum Festival** but it won't be happening until next year, as the local authorities in Venice need that long to find yet another new home for it.

So this year, Virus will have to make due with **Full Moon Beach Party** place on the Jesolo Lido on the city's coastline June 23, the date of the full moon that month. The free-entrance, 20,000-capacity event has so far confirmed Tantra, Subsonica, and Les Tambours du Bronx.

Elsewhere on the country's festival front, Andrea Pieroni has announced a completed lineup for his two-day **Gods Of Metal** (June 8-9), which is back at Milan's 20,000-capacity Brianteo Stadium; a move from the city's 10,000-capacity Palavobis which hosted it last year.

"In 2000, it was at Brianteo but last year, there were problems with licensing and the football team that use the stadium, but all these things have been sorted out now. Obviously, I'm much happier because I'd rather be selling 20,000 tickets than 10,000 tickets," Pieroni explained.

Acts on this feast of metal include Slayer, Rammstein, Halford, My Dying Bride, Kreator, Manowar, Blind Guardian, Running Wild, Symphony X, and Virgin Steele.

Clear Channel promotes its first Italian festival with this year's **Heineken Jammin'** (June 15-16), although the event itself is celebrating its fifth birthday.

Roberto de Luca ran it under his Milano Concerti banner until

the U.S. corporate giant homed in on the market at the end of last year.

International acts to appear at the 70,000-capacity site at the Grand Prix motor racing track at Immola include Santana, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Muse, Garbage, The Chemical Brothers, and Lost Prophets, plus Clouseau from Belgium and Kane from Holland. The Italian acts already confirmed include Subsonica, Articolo 31, and After Hours.

Switzerland: **PALEO NYON** USED an April 23 press conference at the Place du Chateau to unwrap the bill and put tickets on sale for its 27th festival, which includes Noir Desir, The Cure, and Indochine.

The Cure last played the 33,000-capacity event 16 years ago and Indochine last played 17 years ago. Noir Desir, described as heroes of the French rock scene and untiring promoters of globalisation, return as Sunday-night headliners two years after bailing the festival out by stepping in at two days' notice after The Cranberries canceled due to Dolores O'Riordan's pregnancy.

This year, the six-day event (July 23-28) has a total of 122 acts across six stages.

There's a strong Italian presence with Zuccherò appearing mainstage on the Saturday and Jovanotti on the Wednesday. Also balancing the country's Franco-Italian influences are Christophe, Yann Tiersen, and Jane Birkin, who will be presenting an Arabic interpretation of the songs of Serge Gainsbourg.

Supertramp, which is having great success with its first European tour in many years, will be on the mainstage July 24.

World music is represented by Buena Vista Social Club luminaries including Caesaria Evora and Omara Portuondo, while the dance groovers can enjoy James Brown, MC Solaar, and De La Soul.

The world music stage has acts from Mexico, France, Portugal, Central Asia, Mongolia, and, uh, Switzerland.

- **PHILIPPE CORNU HAS ALSO** announced most of the bill for Berne's 15,000-capacity **Gurten Festival** (July 19-21) with Starsailor, Die Toten Hosen, Chaka Khan, and Jovanotti among the headliners.

At press time, Cornu was still negotiating for acts to take the two mainstage slots on July 19, although Jazzattakk and Speed are doing the opening slots that evening.

Others on the bill include Lamb, DJ Badmarsh, Zuri West, Beverly Knight, Attica Blues, Dover, and Sister Sledge.

Denmark: AS THE DUST SETTLES on the upheavals that have affected both of the country's major festivals, **Marius Byriel** appears to have sorted out his booking policy at **Midtfyns** and an April 23 newsletter hails the new guard at Roskilde.

Much of the **Roskilde** release reads like a post-Leif Skov mission statement. Skov quit as principal booker and festival figurehead within hours of returning from London's ILMC on March 11, a matter of four months before the festival he helped launch would be celebrating its 30th birthday.

Headed "A Breath Of Fresh Air From Roskilde," the newsletter has a section under the title "The New Generation Takes Over."

It reads, "Through recent years, Roskilde Festival has worked purposefully to make way for new forces. Many functions have had 'trainees' attached, and these people are now taking over.

"Not that experience is a bad thing, but it is healthy to keep a fresh outlook. There has been an increasing need to create more room and time for development and new thoughts - at the same time as demands on the festival implementation, planning and organisation have grown explosively. This is why the management structure has been widened and flattened out.

"A permanent section management of nine people coordinate and are responsible for the implementation and running of the festival work. This has created a closeness and decisional strength for the 'experts' in the many areas of the festival system."

Although the tone and language suggest wide-sweeping and fundamental changes, in fact it's only Skov who has moved - or been moved - on, with Esben Danielsen taking on his role as a spokesperson and Rikke Oexner stepping up to handle more of the bookings. The three remaining senior managers and members of the older guard - Henrik Rasmussen, Henrik Nielsen and Steen Jorgensen - remain in their positions.

Acts confirmed for this year's 60,000-capacity event June 27-30 include The Beta Band, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Manu Chao, The Chemical Brothers, Nelly Furtado, Garbage, HIM, Manowar,

Millencolin, Oxide & Neutrino, Primal Scream, Rammstein, Red Hot Chili Peppers, So Solid Crew, Starsailor, Travis, and Pet Shop Boys – one of the acts that canceled its 2000 slot after nine kids were killed in a crowd surge.

At Midtfyns, where Skov also briefly held a role of booking some of the acts in conjunction with Byriell, the policy is now more open with offers coming from various sources.

Byriell said, "If an agent makes a contact and has an interesting act, then I say, 'OK, let's look at it.' So far, I've spoken to DKB-Motor, The Agency, International Concert Organisation and Christopher Entertainment. If a U.K., U.S., Swedish or German agent came direct, then I'd also be happy to hear from them."

For the first time, the mainstage will be open on the first day of the festival, with the U.K.'s Coldplay and Gomez topping the bill.

Other acts include Bo Kaspers Orkester, Doves, Gabrielle, Isaac Hayes, Less Than Jake, Muse, No Doubt, Thomas Helmig, Toto, and Sweden's Kent, which has just crashed the Danish Top 10 with its new album.

Czech Republic: PERHAPS IT should be renamed The Chess Republic. Serge Grimaux of Ticketpro and Robert Porkert of Interkoncerts are faced with finding a new venue for next year's Eurotel World Chess Trophy (April 27 to May 5), which is being played out before a packed house once again.

More than nine days before the event, on April 19, all 8,000 admission tickets providing access to the 1,200-capacity Zofin Palace in Prague had been distributed to chess fans from all over the republic. Never before in the history of the game of chess have so many entrance tickets been taken up for an event. Who said that chess is a boring game?

"The Eurotel started in the 400-capacity Archa Divaldo in '98, moved up to the 600-capacity Prague Castle last year, demand meant this year's event had to be held at the still larger Zofin and now next year, we may have to move to the 100,000-capacity Strahov Stadium if things carry on like this," Grimaux told POLLSTAR.

Those who haven't been fortunate enough to get a ticket can watch the event on webcast live at www.worldchesstrophy.cz.

The U.K. newspaper *Daily Telegraph* has reported that the

32-player championship has virtually all of the world's top players, naming only FIDE champion Ruslan Ponomarev as an absentee.

The paper was very bullish about the chances of the U.K.'s Nigel Short as he's drawn former world champ Anatoly Karpov in the first round, while Michael Adams – the country's No.1 – will face Teimour Radjabov, the 15-year-old prodigy from Azerbaijan.

Grimaux has arranged for boards to be distributed around Prague's old town square for people to enjoy their own games.

"First of all, people ask how much it costs to play and when we tell them nothing, then they want to know how much money they can win. It's really funny," Grimaux explained.

Russia: APART FROM ENJOYING HIS birthday and a few games of football, Ritchie Blackmore managed to fit in two extremely successful shows when his European tour passed through a couple of weeks ago.

Michael Shurygin of Nord Concert Alliance sold out the 1,500-capacity St. Petersburg Grand Philharmonic Hall, which was built in 1892 and is the oldest working venue in the city.

Alec Leslie of Consolidated/Alec Leslie Enterprises, who books Blackmore's European work, said, "He plays football on every day off. It's compulsory. The band and the crew all have to play – no excuses."

The touring party had travelled to St. Petersburg on the overnight train from Moscow, virtually the only way the two cities can be routed back-to-back. Nevertheless, Blackmore had a day off scheduled for the football.

Valery Feofanov of JSA Company had done 99 percent business in the 7,926-capacity Luzhniki Sport Palace in Moscow. He told POLLSTAR, "It was the first time that he'd visited Russia, where he's always been among the biggest Western musicians."

From Russia, Blackmore headed off to Finland for another sellout at the 1,500-capacity Helsinki House Of Culture. Risto Juvonen of WellDone said the tickets went within a matter of days of going on sale.

After Finland, it was on to Sweden where Jan Gille of EMA Telstar sold 1,150 of the 1,500 tickets available at the Stockholm Cirkus (April 22). Magnus Erikson Productions (M.E.P.) sold all 750 at Gothenburg Tragarn (23) and had high advance

sales for the April 24 show at the 850-capacity Malmo Slaghuset.

After playing Berlin's 950-capacity Passionkirche – yes, it is a church – which Willy Engelhorn of Shooter Promotions sold out days in advance, the tour was due to return behind the old Iron Curtain for an Alma Arts-promoted show at the 1,900-capacity Dom Muzyki i Tanca in Zabrze, Poland (28), and then move on to the 2,000-capacity Prague Konopista (29), which is co-promoted by Robert Porkert of Interkoncerts and Tim Dowdall of Hungary's Multimedia.



AP Photo / Toronto Star

SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY brings his *Driving* tour and his signature bass to Toronto's *Air Canada Centre* April 13.

CANADIAN NEWS

Reported by Karen Bliss
416.944.0930 Fax 416.944.9652
E-mail: karen@pollstar.com

• **MICHAEL COHL** HAS LAUNCHED yet another company, **Grand Entertainment**, he told a roomful of press backstage at the untelevised Juno Award ceremony April 13 in St. John's.

"We're going to find artists and work on all aspects of their careers from within one office, with them basically controlling their destiny and not a whole lot of people fighting over it."

He added that Grand will encompass recording, television and touring.

"I don't think it simplifies things. It complicates things in some respects because it forces the artist to pay more attention and forces them to be more involved in what they're

doing and to make them look at everything they do as one."

Cohl has been working as a consultant up to two hours a week for Clear Channel Entertainment, to which he sold his company The Next Adventure back in 1998 when CCE was still SFX.

"Obviously, they're big and powerful and dynamic," he said of CCE. "But at the end of the day, they don't make decisions for the artists and don't control the artists or the music. They control the venues. So it would be tough to take them on. But I think there's still lots of room in the business and that's why we're starting Grand Entertainment."

"I'm quite confident that what's really lacking in terms of the competition to Clear Channel is new,

it's never been **easier** to report

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24 Highbury Grove, Suite 5
London, England N5 2EA