

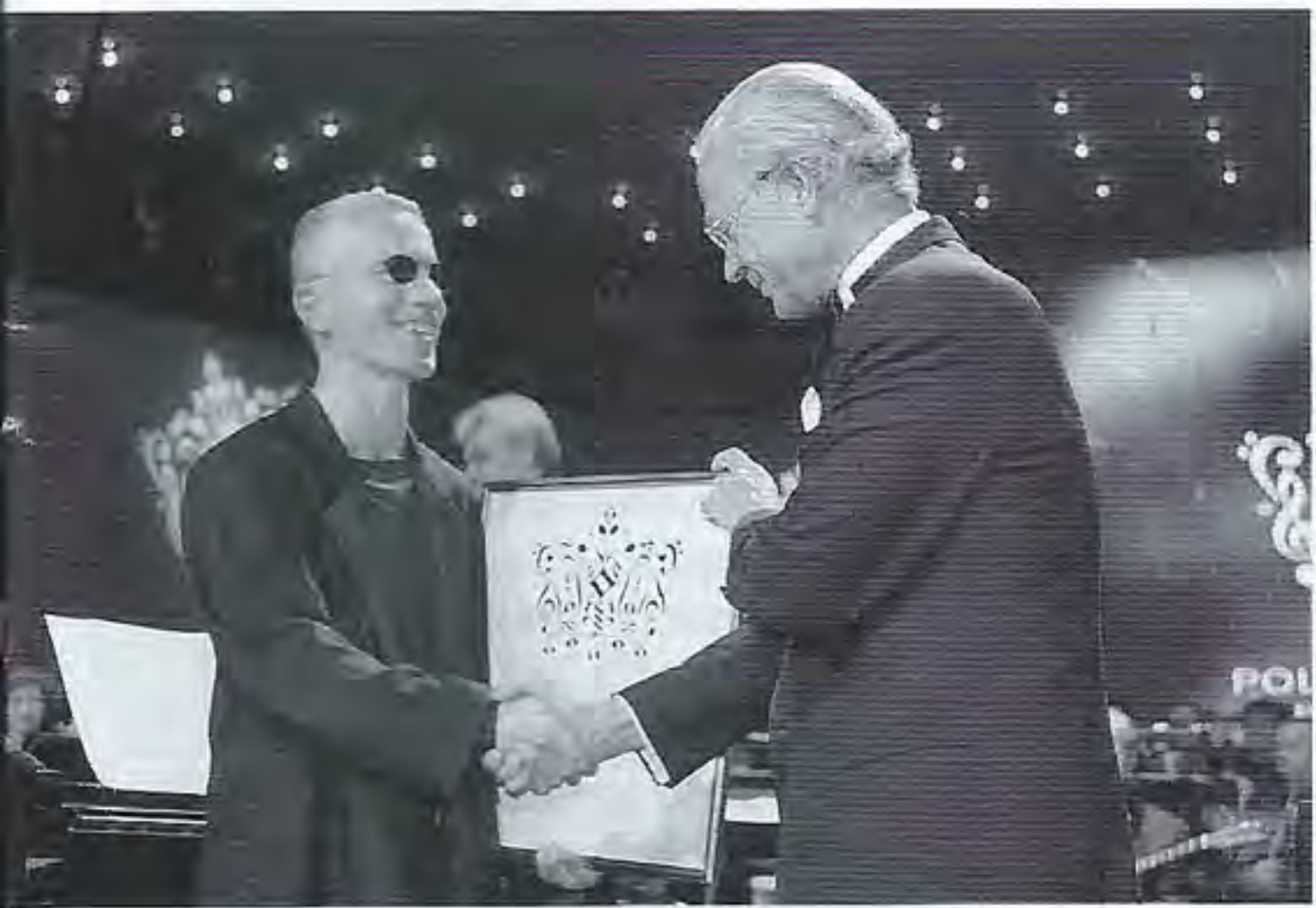
POLLSTAR

The Concert Hotwire™



JUNE 2, 2003 •

Unfortunately,
the original cover of this issue
has not been preserved.



AP Photo / Pressens Bild

SWEDISH KING CARL GUSTAF XVI (R) presents American pianist **Keith Jarrett** with the 1 million kronor (US\$127,000) Polar Music Prize May 12 at the **Berwald Hall** in Stockholm.

Hobbs admits that living here has financial perils of its own as a result of the country's volatile economy – he compared it to Argentina – and he's still coming to terms with not having a public transport system, but the reason he's kept his London Brixton office open isn't in case he changes his mind and needs a bolthole. It's because the office is in his house and he'll just keep it running until the property is sold.

The first major project for the new Charmenko-Pozitif alliance, which is being arranged in partnership with Istanbul Jazz Fest's Gorgun Taner, is the second EFES Pilsen "One Love" Festival June 14-15 in Park Orman.

The organisers are proudly boasting a Turkish appearance for Moby, who headlines the One Beat Night June 14.

Other acts appearing include Soul II Soul Sound System (featuring Maxi Priest), Gus Gus, Future Shock, Yuri Buenaventura, and Amon Tobin.

• **SIMPLY RED OPENS THE 10TH International Istanbul Jazz Festival** July 4, kicking off a 16-day show that has more than 25 bands, various open-air events and street parties.

The act will play the 4,500-capacity Openair Theatre, a venue that will also have Jane Birkin (7); Audio Fact and Fahir Atakoglu (9); Marcus Miller (11); Zakir Hussain and Iks (12); Ibrahim Ferrer (15); Ornette Coleman (16); and Mercedes Sosa (17).

The July 4-20 festival is organised by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts.

cohesive figures in such a huge and far-flung emergent music market, the real depth of piracy in Russia probably depends on just where and how the measurements are taken.

Last December, Universal Russia's managing director, David Junk, was telling POLLSTAR how the success of Tatu can be a shot in the arm for all of the country's industry. He then went on to say, "This is a major boost for the Russian recording industry, which is suffering from piracy levels as high as 90 percent."

Now there may be some effective government intervention as, according to ITAR-Tass news agency, Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov told a commission created to fight the problem, "Intellectual property is the most important resource, including for economic growth."

Boris Grizlov, Russia's Interior Minister, estimates the turnover in pirated goods at anything between US\$1 billion to US\$5 billion, and Kasyanov acknowledged that "chaos and illegality reign supreme in this sphere at present."

The country has come under increasing pressure, particularly from the U.S., to do more to tackle software piracy. Washington says Russia is the world's second largest producer of counterfeit music and video products after China.

Licensed CDs and cassettes are far more expensive than pirated goods, and many Russians have always said counterfeit products are the only ones they can afford, which had previously made the idea of a crackdown unpopular and thereby reducing the political incentive for the government to get involved.

Russia: ABOUT SIX months ago, a government-sponsored newsletter sent out by the country's music industry reported its very positive reaction to the news that **pirate product** here now accounts for around 77 percent of the market.

That sort of defied understanding until the next paragraph explained that it showed a fall from the previous year's figure of around 84 percent.

Given the difficulty of collecting

Although Russian law enforcement officers routinely conduct very public raids on illegal markets, there's a question of what actually happens to the confiscated product as sellers are usually back in business within days.

• **HOPEFULLY THEY WEREN'T** listening in the Kremlin: Mariinsky Theater director **Valery Gergiev** said it would mean immeasurable happiness for him if the arts centre to be named after him in Vladikavkaz encouraged the development of talented young musicians, not just from the surrounding North Ossetia region but from the entire Northern Caucasus.

Gergiev and the leaders of North Ossetia signed an agreement on the arts centre during his 50th birthday celebrations in the middle of last month, although the Muscovite leaders may not have been keen to hear him welcome the Chechens from the Northern Caucasus.

The new centre in the North Ossetian capital is to include a concert hall and an exhibition pavilion. Final plans are to be revealed in about three months.

Gergiev is chief conductor and general director at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Opera and Ballet Theatre – called the Kirov Theatre during Soviet times – and is the principal guest conductor at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, a position created for him.

Nominated for three Grammys this year with his choir and orchestra, he received a birthday telegram from Russian Premier

Vladimir Putin, who has signed a decree granting Gergiev the Order for Services to the Fatherland, third degree.

• **IN WHAT WAS NO DOUBT A** too-little-too-late protest, communist and ultra-nationalist politicians complained that **Red Square** should be declared off limits to **Paul McCartney** and said his scheduled May 24 concert should never have been given the go-ahead.

The more reactionary members of parliament called upon Moscow's mayor to ban the rock concert in the square, because communist leaders like Stalin, Lenin and Brezhnev are all entombed there.

In an open letter, they said, "We find it absolutely senseless and blasphemous to hold rock concerts in a special graveyard where prominent personalities are buried."

By comparison, ex-Uriah Heep member Ken Hensley had the red carpet rolled out for him and was allowed three days' rehearsals inside the Kremlin.

His JSA-produced show at Moscow's 1,800-capacity MDM Concert Hall was with conductor Pavel Ovsjannikov and the Presidential Orchestra of the Russian Federation.

Rather than move the orchestra to whatever rehearsal room JSA would have hired, it was easier for Hensley to go to their Kremlin base and run through the show for three days.

He's believed to be the first international performer to be granted the privilege.

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URIAH HEEP'S Ken Hensley (center) meets with **Pavel Ovsjannikov**, conductor of the Presidential Orchestra of the Russian Federation, and **JSA director/owner Alexander Strizhak** during a press conference before his April 26 gig at Moscow's MDM Concert Hall. Hensley rehearsed for three days inside the Kremlin before the JSA-promoted gig.

INXS will also be part of the first major event on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali since the October 2002 bombings that killed more than 200 people, mostly Western tourists.

The World Peace Music Awards, held on June 14, has 14 acts confirmed. They include Maxi Priest, Japanese band Love Psychedelico with former Police drummer Stewart Copeland guesting, Taiwan's Jay Chou and Egyptian folk singer Hakim.

The tour will be predominantly aimed at indigenous communities, with young emerging bands being invited to perform as support acts in each community.

The Western Australian Music Industry Association (WAMI) will use its funding to select six bands from Western Australia to tour to 10 regional WA towns.

- AC/DC'S **ANGUS AND MALCOLM Young** and late singer **Bon Scott** were made recipients of the **Ted Albert Award For Outstanding Service To Australian Music** at the Australasian Performing Right Association awards, held at Sydney's Four Seasons May 19.

The band was in London that night, rehearsing for its opening stint for The Rolling Stones in Europe. In a video statement, Malcolm Young said, "On behalf of AC/DC and Bon Scott, especially Bon as he's a big part of this, we're proud of the honour of receiving this award."

The night finished off with 28 Days doing a rap/metal rendition of "Back In Black."

Another highlight was country singer **Kasey Chambers** doing an unplugged rendition of Silverchair's "The Greatest View." Chambers collected three awards, for song of the year (ironically, beating "The Greatest View," which was one of the contenders), most performed Australian work and most performed country work.

Other performances were by **David Bridie**, **Augie March**, **Disco Montego** (with **Katie Underwood**) and jazz nominee **Sandy Evans**. Singer/songwriter **Alex Lloyd** did a reading of Chambers' "The Captain," prefacing his performance by calling out to Chambers in the 500-strong audience, "Ya know I'm gonna **** this up, dontcha, Kase?"

- **LONG-LASTING RUMOURS** THAT **Big Day Out** promoters **Creative Entertainment** were angling for **Metallica** to headline the tour's 2004 trek in January were fueled when co-promoter **Vivian Lees** was seen at a media and retail listening party that **Universal Music** threw to hear the new **Metallica St. Anger** album.

Of other rumours, the **Foo Fighters** could be here before the end of the year, and U.S. act **The Mountain Goats** for late July.

- **TOURS NOTES:** **NEW ZEALAND** singer/songwriter **Bic Runga** is

doing four nights each at the **Basement** in Sydney and the **Prince of Wales** in Melbourne June 16-25.

Another NZ act, heavy rock band **ZED**, returns for **Icon Worldwide Music**, doing 17 club and college dates June 5-28.

In singer/songwriter circles, **Adrian Bohm Presents** brings Toronto-based **Ron Sexsmith** back for his third visit. He takes in six shows June 24 to July 2.

Michael Chugg Entertainment has **Jason Mraz** at the **Prince Of Wales** in Melbourne July 3 and the **Sydney Metro** July 6.

British comedian **Eddie Izzard** returns with his new stand-up show, "Sexie," for six theatre shows July 16 to August 2.

After its first tour here in 2000, U.S. band **No Use For A Name** couples with Sydney band **Irrelevant** for seven club dates June 11-20.

Evanescence is set to promo here July 17-24. In mid-May, the band's "Bring Me To Life" single topped the charts, while its album debuted at No. 4.

- **JODIE DAVIES**, ONE HALF OF new Sydney PR and management company **Ferris Davies PRM**, has resigned as a partner. She will focus on supporting her husband **Vic Davies** in recording and promoting his upcoming children's album.

The company will continue to trade under the name **Ferris Davies PRM**.

Rina Ferris told **POLLSTAR** that **Kerrie-Anne Duckworth** has left the company while **Sarah McFadden** and **Janis Richards** joined as part-time publicists.

- **FIRST IT WAS THE FACT THAT** **Mariah Carey's** management only provided three interviews by the singer for Australia. That caused little stir for her **Charmbracelet**, which peaked at No. 47 here.

Then it was the news that **Carey** had decided to bypass Australia on her world dates.

That was enough for **Neil Kenna** to close down his Australian Web site, **mariahdownunder.com**, saying, "Why should I keep bothering to publicise her when her manager and record company aren't that interested?"

- **THE ACT BRANCH OF THE Australian Hotels Association** says a TV ad campaign warning of its dangers and various strategies introduced in January has seen no

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

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- **INXS BECAME THE FIRST** international act to play Singapore since the outbreak of SARS.

Concert promoter **Matt Taylor** brought the band out to play the new **Indochine Bar** May 16 to prove that travelers should not fear SARS if the proper precautions were taken. More than 25 acts, including **Mariah Carey**, **Santana**, **Moby**, **David Gray**, and **Dionne Warwick** axed plans to play Singapore.

- **THE LATEST COMMONWEALTH Contemporary Music Touring Program** grants saw 23 acts given a funding boost, usually to the tune of \$10,000.

It allowed acts like **Aneiki**, **David McCormack & the Polaroids**, the **Drugs**, the **Casanovas**, the **Butterfly Effect**, jazz pianist **Joe Cindamo** and his **Trio**, **Gersey**, and the **Rollerskates** to expand their audiences, especially in regional areas.

Northern Territory Arts Touring Inc. got the money for highly acclaimed singer/songwriter **Paul Kelly** to tour to remote and regional areas in **Far North Queensland** and the **Northern Territory**.

