

# WORLD COUNTDOWN

VOL. 4:12

## THE VOICE OF MUSIC <sup>(C)</sup>

25¢

### STEVE MILLER

by JERRY HOPKINS

If a contest were held to determine who seems least like a professional rock musician, the winner might well be the lead singer, lead guitarist, harmonica player, composer and pivot of the Steve Miller Band.

Which is to say that not only are Steve Miller's looks disarming -- he has been described as looking like a pensive garage mechanic -- he is also humble, a character trait as common in rock music as the Charleston beat.

Steve Miller is a young man (25) who has watched several styles come and go -- from Early Texas Rockabilly through Middle Chicago Beer Bar to Late Psychedelic Commune -- yet it is his own style that remains constant.

It is a style of incongruity. His music is, in part, from Chicago's West Side. He is an integral part of the post-literate San Francisco scene, yet he reads Faulkner, McLuhan and Camus. And it was on a small farm in Texas that he first got into electronic music.

He started in music when he was four and a half, just a little bigger than the guitar his father bought him. At the time he was living with his family in Milwaukee and played the guitar by hitting it. Then a family friend came for a visit -- Mary Ford of Les Paul and -- to teach him how to play chords.

The next year the family moved to Dallas, where Steve remained until he was 17, forming small bands while in high school to play at dances. "At the time I was making \$300-400 a month," he said, "which was more than I made with my band later in Chicago."

The following four years he yo-yoed from Texas to Wisconsin to Chicago to Texas to Chicago, et cetera, finally abandoning education a few credits short of a degree in comparative literature. School seemed a "waste," he says, and he wanted to get into the blues.

That meant moving once more to Chicago, where he soon found himself sitting in with the people he had so long admired -- Muddy Waters, Otis Rush, Buddy Guy, Shakey Jay and Magic Sam. He also met Barry Goldberg there, and thus was born the Goldberg-Miller Blues Band, a band that was to make a big splash and then sink.

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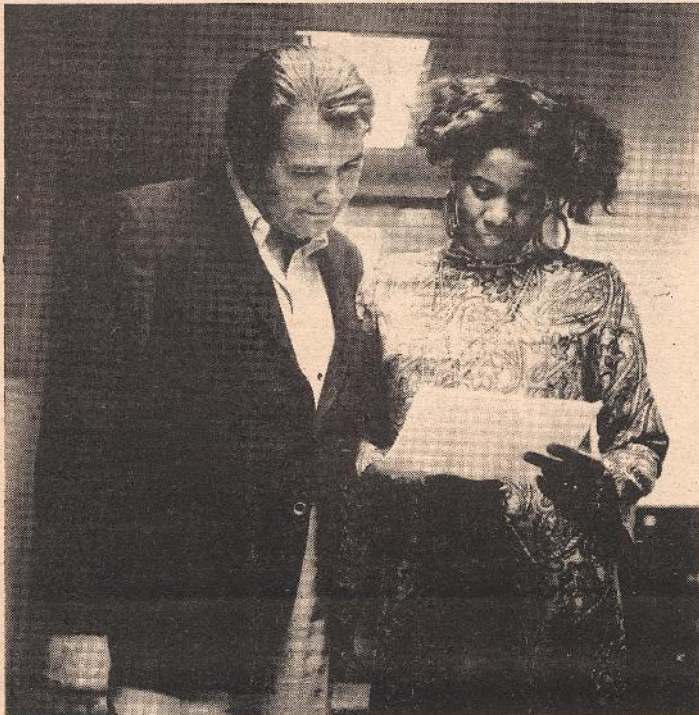
# ALICE COLTRANE

Alice Coltrane, widow of the late famed musician John Coltrane, was signed to an exclusive recording contract with Impulse Records, as announced by Bob Thiele, director of artists & repertoire for ABC Records, Inc., parent of the jazz label.

Mrs. Coltrane, noted pianist and harpist, will record her own original material as well as compositions left by her late husband.

Bob Thiele states "the discovery of the John Coltrane tapes held by Mrs. Coltrane, as well as several unreleased tapes in the Impulse catalog, will provide a continuous flow of new product by the late artist for the next three or four years."

Negotiations for Mrs. Coltrane's recording contract were made through Coltrane Recording Corp. and all recordings released by Impulse made by John Coltrane and Alice Coltrane will carry a special Coltrane Recording Corp. logo.



Bob Thiele will work closely with Mrs. Coltrane in determining repertoire and packaging. Thiele worked with Coltrane for five years preceding the jazz man's untimely death a year ago, and both Thiele and Alice Coltrane will aim at perpetuating the music and the goals of John Coltrane. One of John Coltrane's favorite projects was the furtherance of music through the discovery of new young musicians and this ambition will be furthered primarily under the guidance of Mrs. Coltrane. Her own recordings will feature Jimmy Garrison, Rashied Ali and Pharoah Sanders, all of whom were part of John Coltrane's last recording group.

Alice Coltrane (formerly Alice McLeod) is a native of Detroit and comes from a musical family. She worked in the Detroit area with a trio and also played with Terry Pollard. She appeared on the road with the Terry Gibbs Quartet. In January, 1966, she replaced McCoy Tyner in the John Coltrane combo. She has been acclaimed as one of the most modern oriented pianists, and her accomplishments as a harpist have also received critical acclaim.

## \*JONI MITCHELL personally speaking:

I've always admired Judy ever since I first started singing in Saskatoon, Canada, where I come from. Now we are close friends. BUT in those days I think I sounded more like Joan Baez.

"Since I started writing songs, the range of my voice has extended downwards some thing like two octaves, which gives me a lot more freedom in the sort of melodies I'm writing."

"My lyrics are influenced by Leonard Cohen. We never knew each other in Canada, but after we met at Newport last year we saw a lot of each other. My song 'Marcie,' has a lot of him in it, and some of Leonard's religious imagery, which comes from being a Jew in a predominantly Catholic part of Canada, seems to have rubbed off on me, too."

"I'm not doing too much writing at the moment. I'm too hung up about what's going on in America politically. I keep thinking, how can I sing night in the city looks pretty to me, when I know it's not pretty at all, with people living in slums and being beaten up by police?"

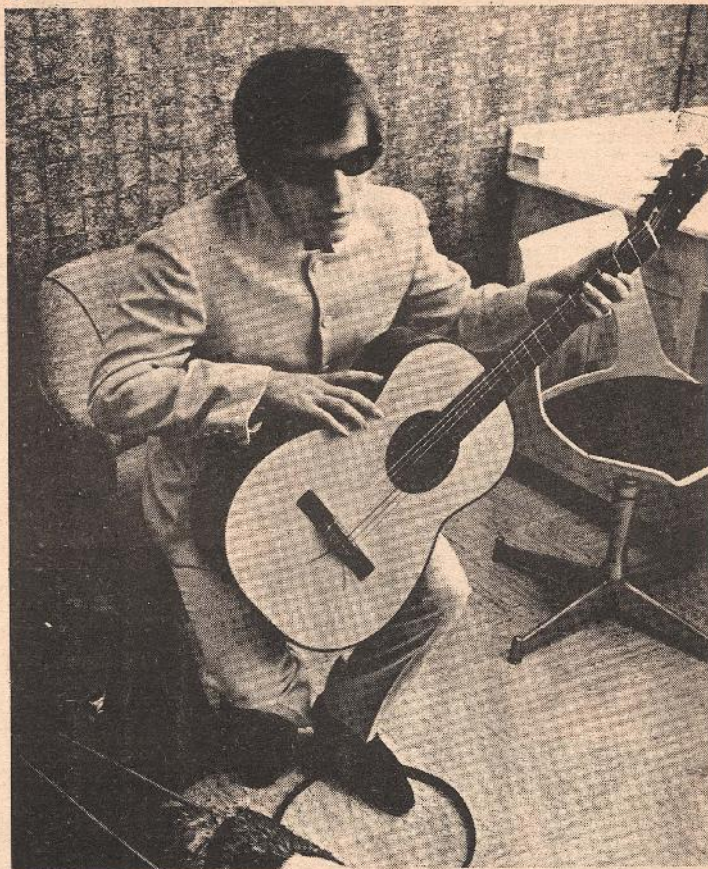
"It was what happened in Chicago during the Democratic Convention that really got me thinking. All those kids being clubbed. If I'd been wearing these Levis, they'd have clubbed me, not for doing anything but because this is the uniform of the enemy. That's what they are beginning to call the kids today, the enemy."

"I keep trying to put what I feel into words but it's all been said so much better by other people. Strangely enough, a song I wrote at the end of last year, 'The Fiddler and the Drum' expresses what I feel now, though I wasn't conscious of feeling that way then."

## \*LOVE IS ETERNAL-SO IS MUSIC

# JOSE FELICIANO

(P. 7)



RCA Records has rushed into immediate release a new and exciting single "Hitchcock Railway" produced by Rick Jarrard. Jose is simultaneously riding high on the popular, rhythm and blues, country and western and jazz best-selling charts with both his album "Feliciano!" and single "Light My Fire."

Feliciano recently appeared at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles where he received outstanding critical reviews. On September 26 through October 13 he headlined Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and has just taped the first Bob Hope-Bing Crosby "road" television special scheduled for airing this fall. Feliciano's activities will also take him into the motion picture field, when he sings on the new Quincy Jones soundtrack for the Columbia Pictures film "McKenna's Gold." This year Feliciano will be featured on his own Spanish language television program which will be syndicated to Latin-American stations throughout the United States.

Jose is currently on the Latin-American best-selling charts with his single "La Copa Rota." For Bio. see Vol. 4:8.



L-R LAWRENCE HAMMOND, NICK VENET, GREG DEWEY

Photo: LEO the BARON (CAPITOL'S "MAD RIVER" L.P. just released.)

\*BILL GRAHAM (Fillmore West & East) has formed the Millard Agency. The first two executives are: Paul Barata, who works with Graham at Fillmore West and Barry Imhoff, a former Greenwich Village nightclub operator.

The first acts to be booked are: Grateful Dead, It's a Beautiful Day, Santana Blues Band, Loading Zone, and Cold Blood.