

Cover story: Tapestry - a refreshing approach to late night radio

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Intense early reaction to Rush's Permanent Waves

Toronto: Toronto-based rock trio Rush are entering the eighties with a new album release designed to maintain their heavy worldwide following and increase their demographics. The new album, on Anthem Records, is titled *Permanent Waves*. While it maintains the group's solid rock sounds, along with the usual Rush elements of progressive music and science fiction lyrics, the album shows elements of further musical and lyrical maturity from the group, as evidenced by *The Spirit Of Radio*, an intelligent tribute to that medium which even includes a brief segment of reggae-influenced sound.

Permanent Waves is Rush's ninth album release overall, including the live *All The World's A Stage* and the three-LP reissue of *Archives*. It follows Canadian platinum releases in 1972, the live set, *A Farewell To Kings* and, most recently, *Hemispheres*. The new release was shipped to Canadian radio stations January 4, followed by public release the next week. Rush product is released outside of Canada by Mercury Records, and the new set shipped over 300,000 units in the U.S. on January 14.

The LP has received intense radio support in its very earliest stages throughout Canada. On the day of release to radio, lead vocalist/bassist Geddy Lee went to CHUM radio Toronto to premiere the set on CHUM-FM with John Donabie and Ric Ringer. Afterwards, he moved over to CHUM-AM for a very rare live interview with John Majhor, which was also taped by the CHUM-affiliated CITY-TV and run on their news broadcast the same night. On the same day, a Friday, CHUM-AM instantly pulled *The Spirit Of Radio* from the album for immediate airplay (an edited version of the track will be released as a single by Anthem shortly). During the same weekend, every major AOR station in Canada added the album.

In further support of the new release, Anthem have sent out a new Rush bio, again written by drummer/lyricist Neil Peart. The bio includes a fact sheet tracing major events in the group's career, as well as a detailed story of the recording of the new album, which was produced at Le Studio in Morin Heights, Quebec by the group and Terry Brown. The band's past two sets had been recorded in Wales.

As well as their highly successful



Rush's Geddy Lee took part in a very unusual live interview on CHUM-AM Toronto with on-air staffer John Majhor (left). Anthem's Perry Goldberg looks on.

careers in Canada, Lee, Peart and guitarist Alex Lifeson (who doubles as the group's chef) are highly established as concert headliners in the U.S. and Europe. Rush will be touring in support of the album through the States on a major concert tour which also includes fellow Anthem group Max Webster, who also hail from Toronto. To further boost support on the tour, which will occur basically in major arenas, and the album,

with its 300,000 unit initial shipment, Mercury Records have committed to what Anthem describes as the U.S. company's biggest promotion and marketing campaign the company has ever undertaken on any act. Rush already have achieved U.S. gold on four of their albums, and Anthem are confident the Mercury campaign coupled with the tour will take the group toward the platinum level.

Six Grammy nominations for Pablo Records

Toronto: U.S. jazz label Pablo Records distributed in Canada by RCA, have been nominated for six Grammy Awards. Included in the nominations are Ella Fitzgerald for *Fine And Mellow*, Sarah Vaughan for *Brazil*, Oscar Peterson for *Joust*, Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie for *Gifted Ones*,

and Zoot Sims for *Soloist*, as well as Small Group On *Warm Tenor*. Pablo President Norman Granz will be in Toronto in late January to produce Oscar Peterson's new LP.

Pablo Records will release a new LP by Oscar Peterson titled *Oscar - A Canadian Tribute*.

Worldwide release for Stonebolt

Toronto: RCA is beginning to register its success at MIDEM and one of the foremost is the general acceptance of the *Keep It Alive* album by Stonebolt. Andy Nagy, Director of International and Creative Affairs reports that Japan, the U.K., Australia, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, the U.S., Sweden and Greece will all issue the album. To add to the

promotional value of the album, all the above countries will also release the group's single, *Don't Ya Hide It*.

The five-piece Vancouver band has become one of the big sellers in Canada with their album now showing a No. 71 on the RPM 100 albums chart and their single at No. 71 on the RPM 100 singles chart.

Anthem's Max Webster ring in the new in style

Toronto: Anthem recording group Max Webster have completed what has become for them a tradition with an annual appearance at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens on New Year's Eve. This year, for the first time, the Toronto Tontos were headliners at the December 31 show, which also featured appearances by two other Toronto bands, Private Eye and Saga.

The concert drew 13,000 Max Webster fans to the Gardens, wrapping up an exceptional year for the four-piece rock band, particularly in their hometown. It was the group's second Maple Leaf Gardens headline of the year, 1979 also saw Max become unquestioned favourites in the Ontario market, where they achieved a substantial portion of the platinum-plus sales of their *A Million Vacations* album on Anthem. The Toronto concert also followed by two days a breakout headline date in Montreal at the Arlequin Theatre, where the group sold the hall to 97% capacity.

Now, in preparation for what they expect will be another year of solid growth, Anthem have released

Max Webster's first live album, titled *Live Magnetic Air*. The set shipped well over gold, and the label expects it will achieve Canadian platinum by the end of February. Anthem is supporting the release with a unique promotion to press and radio. The company has sent out cans of 'live magnetic air' featuring the album graphics and humorous instructions for use.

Anthem are also supporting the group's first single from the live album, a two-sided release featuring the live version of *Paradise Skies* on one side and the studio version from *A Million Vacations* on the other. The single is rapidly picking up radio activity, particularly the live side, which has recently been charted by CHUM-AM Toronto. Previously not known as an AM radio hit single group, Max Webster achieved their first real hit at the Top 40 level with *Let Go The Line* last year, also from the *Vacations* LP.

Max Webster are also promoting their own album, both in Canada and internationally. Following the Toronto

and Montreal dates, Max embarked on a major concert tour with fellow Anthem artists Rush, who also have a new album out. Canadian dates on the tour included Fredericton, Moncton and Halifax, and the two groups are now embarking on the U.S. leg of the tour, with 19 dates originally scheduled and a few double and triple shows expected due to ticket demand. At least half a dozen concerts are booked in arenas seating over 10,000 people, including two in St. Louis (Keil Auditorium) and one at Cleveland's Richfield Coliseum (18,500 seats). After the Rush tour, Max will continue on their own to Europe for their first ever headline tour of the continent, a tour prompted by the group's success last year while on tour there with Rush. The live album is being released in the U.S. and in several European markets, even though under contract terms, it is a throw-in set not committed for international release through Capitol-EMI, who have signed the group outside of Canada.
