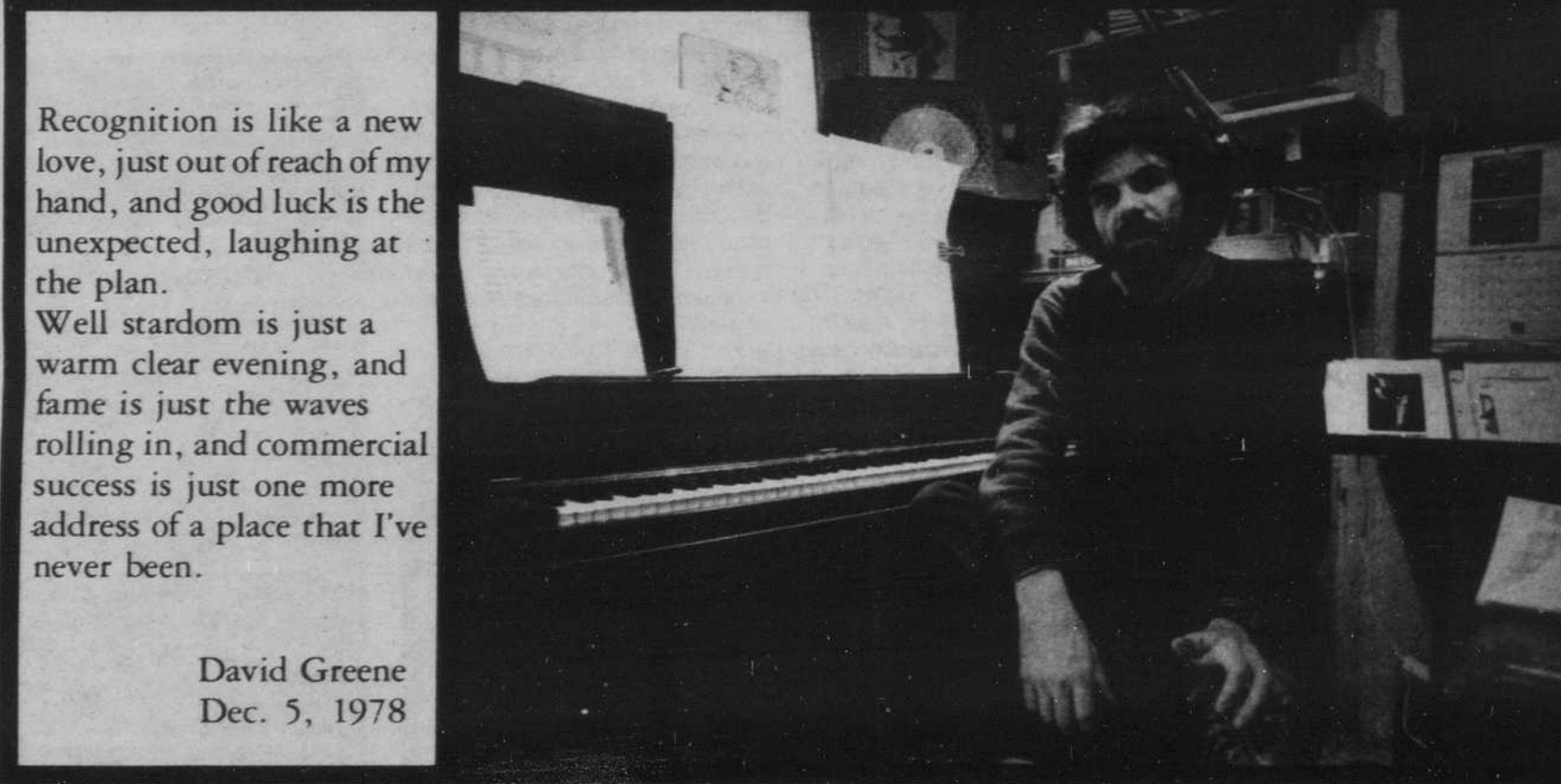




Home spun hits for the holidays



Three "Lane County's Greatest Hits" artists are Loma Trumbo, above; David Greene, left; and Jack Gabel, below.



Recognition is like a new love, just out of reach of my hand, and good luck is the unexpected, laughing at the plan. Well stardom is just a warm clear evening, and fame is just the waves rolling in, and commercial success is just one more address of a place that I've never been.

David Greene
Dec. 5, 1978

In this month of goodwill and giving, the release of an album titled *Lane County's Greatest Hits* seems well timed.

An assortment of Lane County musicians, photographers, poets, artists and other volunteers have united to produce this album with the purpose of "helping one another."

"... just keep playing your songs as the rain goes pitter-patter and floats us along make your profound incision into culture today as a hometown musician with a full lot to say."

David Greene

"From the wide Pacific Ocean To the tall snow-capped Cascades There is beauty in Lane County With its green of every shade."

Joyce Schofield

Lane County's Greatest Hits contains songs from jazz instrumentals to bluegrass and gospel and involves Lane County residents from junior high to retirement age.

"We were trying to find the average citizen of Lane County who may not normally be heard," says John Sharkey, producer of the album.

"The album is interesting because it's got a lot for everyone," adds David Greene, one of the artists on the album.

Sharkey thought of the idea for the album while watching the Easter Seal Telethon in 1977.

"I got involved because I broke down and cried during an Easter Seal Telethon," he says. When I saw where the money went and how unselfishly people gave, then I thought what an ass I was for not giving something of myself."

Soon after the telethon, Sharkey began contacting record store and radio personnel, to determine if there was enough interest in the album to make it work.

Sharkey tabled the idea for a year then announced the project on the 1978 telethon. Profits from the album will go to Easter Seals of Lane County.

"Instead of going door to door, we're doing a record album," he explains.

The amount of money donated to Easter Seals will depend on sales. Sharkey, who put up the capital needed to make the album, says he will donate at least

3¢ per album even if he doesn't sell enough copies to meet expenses.

Community projects to help Easter Seals are not uncommon, says Les Misensol of the Easter Seal School and Treatment Center of Eugene. But this is the first time a group has donated profits from an album, she adds.

Although all profits will go to Easter Seals of Lane County, the purpose of the album goes deeper than that.

"The point of this album is not just to be stars on a record," Sharkey says. "It's not just to raise money for Easter Seals, it's not just to proclaim the fantasticalness of where we live; it's all of it wrapped into one. It is to help one another."

Early last summer, fliers began appearing around Lane County announcing the album and urging people to send in recordings, art, photographs or just to volunteer.

The deadline for material for the album was August 31. Songs and art were judged in September and the music chosen was re-recorded during October.

Sharkey traveled to Los Angeles early in November to get the album mastered and packaged. Mastering for the album was done by Bernie Grundman who also masters albums for Styx and the Carpenters.

David Greene, a University student majoring in telecommunications, heard about the album on KLCC.

"I'm a writer and whenever something comes up that looks interesting, it's a challenge to focus my writing on it," he says.

Greene sent in three songs. One, "Watching the Willamette Run", was chosen when eleven area disc jockeys judged the songs in September.

"And I know of no other town Where the word physical fitness doesn't make the majority frown I mean look at it ... even the Willamette runs."

David Greene

Greene says he tries to keep his songs simple and easy to understand.

"I think that the problem with a lot of writers is they put too many ideas into a song," he says. "I've heard songs that go on for 10 minutes and tell about a guy's trip around the world. I like mine to be more concise and a little more interesting."

Although he is not certain whether he will make music his career, Greene is putting together a band called Full Sail.

"I might take the chance for a few years. I'd like to scratch out a living with music if possible," he says. "I've played all the local dives: the truckstop, the mall, Saturday Market, street corners and bathrooms."

"Yes I've got my aspirations dreams for the future make for good conversation but for the next hour I'm going out with the Willamette and run."

David Greene

Jack Gabel, a music composition major at the University, also has a song on the album. His "Leap from Eagle Rock" is one of five instrumentals on the album.

He says the song idea came to him about four years ago while playing guitar. He later re-wrote it as a flute and guitar duet and submitted it with another song for consideration for the album.

Gabel plans to go through graduate school after graduation from music school.

"If it wasn't for the University, where I can work on the craft and skill of composing and be somewhat subsidised, I'd have a hell of a time trying to do what I'm doing," he says.

One of the favorites on the album is Loma Trumbo's song "Come with Me" because of the vocals and upbeat tempo. Trumbo's song was voted best overall production by the 11 Lane County disc jockeys who judged the album.

"Come we'll fly, We'll find our corner of the sky Unwrap yourself from troubles Just as winter melts away Begin it with tomorrow Spring will bring a brand new day."

Loma Trumbo

Trumbo, a part-time University student, says her song started out as a poem she wrote about seven years ago. She later wrote the music and recorded it for the album.

"I feel like it's about Lane County. I think it fits the purpose of the album which is to help Easter Seals and to convey a message about people and the attitudes I think people should share toward one another."

Trumbo is not sure whether she will go into music as a profession.

"It isn't something I've planned on," she says. "Music has always been a hobby to me and it wasn't until a few years ago I realized how important it is to me."

Trumbo says she is anxious to see what the response to the album will be.

"I was very impressed," she adds. "The album is packed full of talent."

"Come with me, oh come with me together let's chase rainbows we won't let time pass us by there's nothing we can't handle there's no mountain that's too high We'll fly..."

Loma Trumbo

Sharkey hopes to sell 10,000 copies of the album but he says he isn't sure what the sales response will be.

"There's only one aspect about our album that's risky-dink," he says. "That is how many albums we're initially pressing. The cover, the insert, the labels, the pressings, the mastering and the recording are all professional. We're just not going platinum before we hit the stands."

The general response and help from people has been great, he adds. One engineer, Michael Ayling of Rockin A Ranch Recording Studio in Greenleaf, greatly reduced his rates for studio time enabling many of the songs to be re-recorded.

All songwriters and the cover artist will receive royalties. All the songs are registered with BMI (Broadcast Music Incorporated) and are authorized for airplay.

Sharkey hopes the album will inspire other people to do similar projects.

"You're only limited by your imagination," he says.

In the end, the response to the album will determine the fate of future "Greatest Hits" albums says Sharkey.

The album will be available today at all local record stores for \$1.99. If you have any trouble getting a copy, sent a check or money order to John Sharkey, 3366 Donald Street, Eugene. Your album will arrive within 15 days, according to Sharkey.

Any chance for national success? "I have no idea," says Sharkey. "I think they're all very strong songs. Anything's possible."

"I'm a believer don't you know I love to sing So if you see anybody Looking for a song Lane County is where I'll be."

St. Clyde Carol

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