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## Legendary Rondor gets absorbed

By Chris Lewis, clewis@nashvillecitypaper.com  
October 01, 2003

The Nashville publishing house of Almo/Irving/Rondor Music will close its doors on Friday and its operations absorbed into Universal Music Publishing Group, company officials said Tuesday.

Although there was no definitive word on the fate of the Nashville office staff of eight, Bobby Rymer, vice-president and general manager said, "Some staff will be absorbed, but not all."

He deferred further comment to Pat Higdon, senior vice-president, general manager of Universal Music Publishing in Nashville, who could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

The Nashville-based publishing company has 22 writers on contract — including Emmylou Harris, Marty Stuart, Robert Earl Keen, and Gillian Welch — and a catalog of over 20,000 songs, including such hits as "This Kiss," "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay," and "I Can't Make You Love Me."

"It's always sad when a company, especially one with a great track record and very strong history is consolidated into another company," said *Music Row Magazine* Editor David Ross.

"But to insiders, this was really no surprise. It was widely believed to have been orchestrated back in August of 2000, when Rondor catalogs were purchased by Universal Music," he added.

Universal, which gained ownership of Rondor's catalog of over 60,000 songs, decided at the time to let the Rondor offices in Los Angeles, Nashville and London continue to operate independently, with Universal Music Group handling global administration and support services.

But the time has come to consolidate functions, according to a statement issued by the Universal Music Group corporate office in Los Angeles. The London office was folded into Universal last week.

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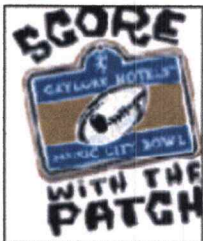
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efficient and competitive company in the industry and be well-positioned for the future," the statement read.

Rondor Music was founded in 1962 by Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss as the original publishing arm of their A&M Records. It became one of the most successful independent publishers of the last half of the 20th century, according to Universal.

The Nashville offices of Almo-Irving/Ronder opened in 1981, and Rymer was appointed as vice president last October.

In an internal memo to the staff on Monday, the Nashville management said the company had achieved its dream of developing a writer roster second to none.

"Our dream was achieved and we are forever grateful to the people in Nashville for believing as we believed. On Oct. 3, Rondor Music will close its doors and consolidate its business with Universal Music Publishing. It's the end of an era for Almo/Irving, but our legacy will continue," the memo stated.

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