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NIGHT SOUNDS

By Beth Harris
Associated Press Writer

ANDERSON, Ind.

SANDI PATTI, Christian music's working woman, wants to take it easy this year. But her plans for a new album, book and TV special surely resemble a vacation.

Patti, craves time at home with her growing family, and her 13-month break a few years ago shows she can afford to stand out of the spotlight without being out of her mind.

Winner of five Grammy and 22 Dove awards (for gospel music), she's sold more than 6 million albums since her break 12 years ago when Bill Gothard invited her to join his gospel group.

She spent half of 1993 on the road. Except for the Easter fair circuit, she doesn't plan to tour this year.

Instead, she's working on a new album and a children's Christmas book. The book is being offered to the major record companies as a made-for-TV movie, and Patti plans her own Christmas TV special.

The children's book is based on a song from Patti's Christmas album released several years ago.

"It's a song called 'Merry Christmas With Love,' and it's a story about a lady who's alone at Christmas. I just started asking a lot of questions about why she was alone, why was Christmas a painful time for her and what might have happened," she said.

While Patti applauds the crossover of Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith into mainstream music, she doesn't envision that for herself.

"It would be a totally different direction for my music. I just feel real strong about the message that I'm singing... encouraging and challenging people to a deeper walk with the Lord," she said.

"For me to move out there would necessitate so many changes that I just really don't have any interest in it."

"They're offering a wonderful alternative to the whole secular music scene. It's just really neat to see their acceptance," she said.

Great and Smith achieved their success with minimal references to Jesus and a softened tone in their music.

"I think whenever new ground charted everybody feels a little impact," Patti said.

"Some great doors have been opened to them that have not been opened to people who got their start in Christmas music.,"

The Oklahoma native came to Anderson to attend college and ended up marrying her husband, John Beivering.

Their 12-year marriage has produced four children, including a twin son and daughter, and a business partnership that handles a recording, music publishing, concert booking and merchandising operation from her newly refurbished offices.

Patti spoke in the special office decorated in her signature color of lavender. The tranquility setting hides a frozen lake beside.

Patti forget the April 1992 fire that destroyed her offices and melted her Grammy and Dove awards.

Her inspiration and in-house critics are her children, who range in age from 7 to 3. She formed a club for kids, The Friendship Company, which publishes a magazine for its 5,000 members.

"I guess I'm just going through a re-evaluation of my life, weeding out the things that have been time-consuming but not important, and replacing all that with things that do have eternal value," she said.

"I'm still in that process of trying to figure out what's out and to realize that the music, the happy, content and peaceful that I am is going to make me a better mom and a better artist and affect all those relationships."

The "Young Messiah Tour" featuring Patti and Steven Curtis Chapman will be at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at The Arena, 3706 Oakland Ave. Tickets are $14.50-$16.50. (291-7900).

UNCLE TUPelo:

By Paul Hampel

Great Bands: An excerpt from a review of a recent Uncle Tupelo concert in a Chicago magazine.

"The Holluickers stopped playing LSD-dodgers, but men der ver- seke lage fange. Sa var ogas der rianfader af magen og plelode at fand si fælles, hvorfor dør, der over demmen og præ- berte, som det kommunikende zien, den for det er Uncles Tupelo, intet stille.

De er det vildeslede, chokerende følede og moderede, når de var over det. Men de skulle have højere end nu og samme mainstream rock, der ikke var medhælpent fortroligt Neil Young, der var eller vred.

Jürgen Grümster, der musikerko- nesler, der er ansvarlig for det, Washington,提现了对他的感激。

"The headbangers suddenly stopped the LSD dance, but not for long. Then, they were caught by the magic and suddenly everyone understood why this band had been brought across the pond to be presented as a coming world name."

"Because this is Uncle Tupelo. No other band is really checking accomplished and mature when they dare be. But they also just had to have all these Damnations of mainstream rock which did not match their idol Neil Young when he was young."

Manager Tony Margherita said that the members of the Belleville band — Jay Farrar, Bill Belzer and Jeff Tweedy — are having a blast on their European tour, which began two weeks ago.

"They're really having fun," he said.

"I think this tour is similar to their first tours out of the St. Louis region, when they traveled around America. There were people at those shows who knew the music and people you just went to check it out. They're drawing 180 to 200 people in most places."

In Malmo, Sweden, the band ran into some complications from Springfield, Mo.

"They had the night off in Malmo and went to the Skattertorn concert," Margherita said. "It was a mess."

Uncle Tupelo is touring Germany and Holland as the opening act for Bob Mould's group Sugar.

The band returns home in mid-December for a performance on Dec. 18 at Mississippi Nights, 914 E. 1st Street on Lincoln's Landmark.

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