

customers and Web site visitors.

"We had read about the efficiency of online surveys," Reiland continues, "and when we sold our 250,000th download we decided to do one while thanking our customers for the milestone."

think it's a better product.

One of the survey's surprising findings, Reiland says, is the limited impact of digital sheet music purchase on sales of traditional printed songbooks. "Only 32% said they buy fewer books than before, and 9% said

"Some consumers just prefer the songbook to a digital download or [they] even want both, which is great," she says, interpreting the survey results.

different music publishers, and 82% preferred a one-stop," he says. "This didn't surprise us, but we're the leading online sheet music site and we still don't have content from

don't have [frequent John tour mate] Billy Joel, because he's EMI. So we get e-mails from customers asking why they can download Elton but not Billy. "So let's get everyone's content on the site, and let's all go to town."

Songwriter Summit Promotes Social Unity

Forty-seven songwriter/artists, including such luminaries as **Lamont Dozier**, **Allan Rich**, **K.C. Porter**, **Narada Michael Walden** and **Jenny Yates**, participated in the 2003 Songwriters' Summit. Sponsored by the Oneness organization, the event took place July 26 at Jim Henson Co. in Hollywood.

The nonprofit group's goal was

more amazing than we could have imagined," Oneness co-founder **Dennis Stafford** reports. "The participants were paired into 15 groups, and 13 songs were created and performed that same day.

"A great example of the music created and performed can be found in lyrics on the song done by K.C. Porter, the artist **Leila** and **Francesca**

music's role in encouraging social enlightenment and change, Stafford told summit attendees: "I can't remember the last five Nobel Peace Prize winners, but I do remember five songs that made a difference in my life. Now, more than ever, the world needs you. You will be the conduits to change."

Songwriters like Porter clearly embraced the challenge.

"We have to have songs that break down barriers," he says. "When we go back to our daily lives, we'll take a piece of this spirit and inspiration with us and apply it to what we do. There were 47 songwriters involved in this summit, and 47 lives are forever changed. And that's how it starts."

Stafford says Oneness is looking to compile a CD with the best of the songs created from the 2002 and 2003 summits.

"We expect the CD to be released by Christmas this year," he says.

"We'll be looking for distribution via an independent or major label—or may simply market/sell product via our support base of 10,000 people nationwide."

Stafford adds that the Oneness Web site gets 30,000 hits each month. Sponsors for the 2003 summit included BMI, ASCAP, SESAC and Universal Music Publishing Group.

RELUCTANT RAGOVOY: Pop/R&B tunesmithing titan **Jerry Ragovoy** is just "one of those guys in the background," as he puts it.

"I don't wish to be a public person," says the man who wrote such classics as the **Janis Joplin**-covered "Get It While You Can" for **Howard Tate**. "I prefer my privacy."

So what was he doing playing

piano behind Tate on "Get It While You Can" during the recently rediscovered legend's New York gig last month at the Village Underground?

"I broke my code," he concedes. "Howard put me on the spot and called me up. He's lucky I didn't beat him up."

Incredibly, outside of sitting in with a band in Atlantic City, N.J., once when he was 21 and playing piano when Tate sang "Get It While You Can" and "Sorry Wrong Number" to honor Ragovoy's acceptance of ASCAP's Lifetime Achievement Award last year, Ragovoy had never performed live.

"Perhaps I should seek professional help, but I get scared to

death when I'm onstage," he says. "I'm reasonably certain that if I make a mistake, I'll have a heart attack right there!"

While he says he made "a bunch of mistakes," he happily admits that "I'm still here to talk about it." He's also glad to talk about **Tate's** new Private Music album "Rediscovered" (*Billboard*, July 26), which features



Pictured at the 2003 Songwriters' Summit, from left, are Narada Michael Walden, K.C. Porter, Roxanne Seeman, Dennis Stafford, Lamont Dozier and Faith Holmes.

to provide professional songwriter/artists with a collaborative and diverse environment that would inspire songs promoting social and racial unity.

"The event turned out to be even

Richard: "I know a place . . . unrestricted by a closed society's . . . view of humanity," Stafford quotes.

Oneness focuses on unity through music, the arts and education. Citing the significance of

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11 Ragovoy songwriting credits out of the 12 tracks, including "Sorry Wrong Number"—and the pair's reprise of "Get It While You Can."

"After the ASCAP performance, people ran up to me and Howard saying it was one of the greatest things they ever heard," Ragovoy recalls. "One woman was even crying. That's why we put it on the album—which was already finished—and people who have heard it are very moved by just Howard's vocal and my piano."