

This  
is  
my beat



PETER  
FELDMAN

STAR  
MAY 14/76  
**Have**

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people who

were more interested in monkey glands than music wasn't leading me anywhere," he confesses.

It was while working at this restaurant that he met English immigrant **NICK ALEXANDER** and they began putting their heads together. The first song to emerge was "Turn Out The Lights, Start The Sweet Music Rolling."

Nothing happened. The two were quick to realise that they had to lock themselves away into uninterrupted discipline.

"We soon learnt the bitter realities of the musical business and the necessity of composing something commercial," says Ashley.

But the constant togetherness had its point and from the union of the minds a single saw the light of day. It is called "Close-Up," a reggae song aimed at the African market, with a B-side composition entitled "Laughter" that is aimed at Whites.

There are 35 more Parker-Alexander compositions waiting to be heard. But, at least, a start has been made.

Ashley Parker has made appearances on "Bandbox" and there are plans for him to find another audience via the concert stage.

## Wonderful

The moves going on behind the scene to launch unknown singer-songwriter **LEONIE PORT** on the world market are quite incredible.

Leonie's music publisher tells me that he has negotiated a deal with the giant Polydor Company in England which ensures that if her record is rejected by Polydor in any one country, the publisher

can sell the record to any other company.

"This means," says publisher **KEVIN O'HARA**, "that if the record cannot be placed in Italy by Polydor, then we

are free to negotiate the record's release through another company in that country."

The record in question is "Wonderfully Happy," a song which was written by Leonie "for fun" and which was turned down by a leading Johannesburg record company. Leonie is a telephonist in Braamfontein who sings and writes songs during off duty hours.

"Having my first song released in Europe and South Africa has given me the incentive to write more," she told me.

## Worldwide

**MERVYN CONN**, the top British Country music impresario, is to set up a company in Johannesburg which should ensure an even flow of top Country talent to South Africa.

Conn, the biggest Country impresario in Europe, told a Press conference this week that he had already established companies in Britain and Sweden and was now working on South Africa. The process involved music publishing and record releases.

His next targets: Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

The aim is to push Country music worldwide. And with this chain it seems South African artists who make the grade could be in line for worldwide exposure.



● Parker (left) and Alexander ... new composing team.

STAR  
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# Have B.Sc, w



● Leonie Port . . . see "Wonderful."

Television is beginning to cough up new names.

On "Pop Shop" this week we saw **ASHLEY PARKER** glimmering from behind his guitar as he bent people's ears to his kind of music.

Parker is a new name to enter the disc orbit and going through his credits it's obvious that this young songster hasn't had it easy.

At Wits, while reading science, he helped with two promising bands and "freelanced fanatically for several others."

In 1969, disillusioned by the dearth of band music, he drifted into folk, rock and blues and began composing his own material.

With a BSc and a starring role in a documentary film featuring three of his own compositions, Ashley blew all his money on the best 12-string he could buy and began hawking his wares around Johannesburg.

There was an 18-month run at a hotel in Hillbrow and later, after an overseas break, he returned to another Johannesburg restaurant to "rediscover disillusionment."

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were more interested in monkey glands than music wasn't leading me anywhere," he confesses.

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