

George1948

NEWS

Note from the Editor

This is the second issue of the George1948 newsletter, and as threatened, I have already made some changes to the format, since some of you had trouble reading the three column format ...so we are going to a single column. I will attach this document to email as a .pdf file, please let me know if this works for you....otherwise I can easily make it into a .RTF file.

For now, in order to keep you all updated as to what was happening on all fronts with George, This Newsletter will be coming out once a week, as things simmer down, less frequently. As always - Comments, feedback are welcome.

Updates As of Feb 23, 2002.....

Besonic CD project

Most of you know that Soundblast of Besonic initiated a compilation CD project which was to be promoted and sold through Besonic.com.

Soundblast collected enough tracks to compile three CDs, and he added all those tracks to the For George page as the playlist.

We have been waiting for Besonic to help us get the tracks active for the purpose of creating the three CD's. We are STILL waiting. Many of you have inquired as to what the hold up is, well, in one word, the hold up is "Besonic". They have complicated and pedantic procedures for activating tracks and they simply do not seem to be able or willing to speed up the process. the ForGeorge page does not have scout status which means that we cannot simply create the CDs using the tracks from the playlist, the tracks have to actually ACTIVE on the page, THEN we can create the CDs. Soundblast and I are therefore stuck waiting for Besonic. The special Besonic page for this project is <http://www.besonic.com/forgeorge>. You can all help by writing to the nice people at besonic and asking them to get the lead out. Try Caroline at werner@besonic.net and Jasmin at heinrich@besonic.com

In the meantime, using my Scout status at Besonic, I have created the CD's at my own page so that you guys can go have a look at the track list and see who is on which CD. that link is <http://www.besonic.com/wezel>The response to his call for donated tracks for this project has been just super and he thinks he will have enough for possibly three CDs.

AcidPlanet CD Project

This initiative was undertaken by Helium Gonzalez of AP and continues to progress. Helium is getting a release form together for artists to sign to cover the legal aspects. Helium also found a great site where we can post the resulting compilation CD or CDs and have them pressed on demand for a very reasonable fee. The site is <http://www.shortrun-music.com/details/> I had a look at the site and it looks to be a really excellent place. We can set up a page for the CD(s) for nothing and sell directly from there. They keep 4.00 for each CD made, but you set the price and keep the balance. Their fee includes mailing the CD to your purchaser (within the US).

Donations WebSite for George

This site is now mostly up and running. There are still some tweaks I need to do, but it is functional with a link to PayPal so people can make donations securely. The page is set up so that when PayPal gets a donation for George, it is sent directly to George, so there is not need for any of us to handle the money. We receive notification of our first donation on Friday. The URL for that page is <http://www.wezel.com/george1948>

The Search for Special Devices

We have all been continuing to search the web and everywhere else for possible equipment or software that could help George regain access to his music software.

Last week a friend who works in the Biotech field here in Canada sent a large number of links and among those was a link to a place that sells a tongue activated joystick called a Jouse. This device would allow George to operate the computer from his mouth. The link for that site is http://www.infogrip.com/product_view.asp?RecordNumber=104&sbcolor=%23CC9966&option=pointing&subcategory=&CatTxt=&optiontxt=Pointing

This device certainly looks very promising.

The Drake Foundation

U.K. based the Drake Foundation, which specializes in computer music devices to assist the severely disabled has been in contact with George. Not sure yet what the outcome was yet but they are definitely going to try to help.

USEFUL Contacts

In an effort to get some more support for this project I have been in contact with Dr. Stephen Hawking and Christopher Reeve, if these two can be brought on side this would lend a lot of support to our cause. I have also been chatting with Karl Dean and Professor Coia regarding the Cyberlink device used by Karl. (this is the brain activated device that Karl uses to access his computer)

Ian (Music is Math, Ex of Garageband) gave me a lead to an outfit called NPR, who evidently will do stories about this type of case. I tried to contact them but can only get automated responses back, maybe some of you on this list may wish to try asking them to do a story...this is the URL:

<http://npr.org/programs/atc/features/2002/jan/carecircles/carecircles.html>

Another terrific contact came via Besonic artist Sudo Angel who contacted one of her friends at AcidPlanet and he is going to be including our message in his own newsletter....so we have yet another support group.

Promotions ideas

Some of you have been emailing with great ideas for promoting our project. One such idea came from Besonic Artist-Sonja, at Besonic. She suggests that everybody post the tracklist from the three compilation CD's as their active playlist, this is a great plan. From that idea, I remembered that I have an account at MP# and have set up a bunch of MP3 radio stations, so I have now created a special MP3 station called For George (which you can access through this url http://stations.mp3s.com/stations/280/for_george.html).

I was pleased to find that many of the artists collaborating on the compilation CDs at Besonic are also on MP3, so I was able to add many of the tracks to the station. There are a few that I couldn't find, and if I missed one of you, please email me your MP3 URL and I will make sure and add your track to the station.

I also posted an email request at the general artists forum on MP3 asking for support.

Since we have a few blues cuts on the compilations, I contacted all the blues dj's I have on my contact list all around the world, and sent them a letter requesting that they push this project for us on their programs. So far I have only had one reply, but it was a positive reply and I only sent the request on Friday night.....;-))

Anyone else with ANY ideas for getting more exposure for this project, PLEASE do not be shy. We want your ideas!

Well, that's it for now...hope I haven't left out anything....we'll have to wait and see how things go next week.

LP