

New Pony Records Aims to Bring Bob Dylan Bootlegs In From the Cold

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. (November 23, 2005) - Collectors of unreleased live Bob Dylan concert recordings have banded together to launch New Pony Records, a non-profit fan-based record company which seeks to license these unauthorized "bootleg" recordings for broader distribution exclusively via web-based mail order.

Dylan has been writing and performing songs for more than forty years. The vast majority of his concerts have been surreptitiously recorded and circulate within a small trading community. Most Dylan fans are unaware of the literally thousands of "bootleg" recordings which circulate among hard core fans.

New Pony Records General Manager, Watt Alexander: "The man has played an average of more than 100 concerts a year since 1988, with major tours in more than half the 25 years preceding that. Just do the math. Columbia Records has dipped a thimble into this sea of music for their official "Bootleg Series" releases, but the sea remains. This body of live recordings is simply too big to fit the current record industry mass market business model, so they languish in the grey market."

"Fans of this music are left to fend for themselves among the commercial bootleggers charging exorbitant prices and trading communities increasingly fragmented and under fire from industry trade groups. Fans with a conscience recognize, and are troubled by, the fact Dylan doesn't receive a penny in royalties from this grey market. Impatient awaiting the "Bootleg Series" morsels Columbia releases every few years, we've decided to challenge the status quo by presenting a meaningful alternative."

New Pony Records proposes to license these unauthorized recordings, reconciling the interests of fan and artist alike: Providing quality recordings at reasonable prices for fans; ensuring quality control and licensing income for Dylan. The website is being launched over the Thanksgiving holiday to stir up public interest and encourage Dylan and Columbia to consider the opportunity New Pony Records presents to bring Dylan's vast live performance catalog in from the cold.

"To Live Outside the Law You Must be Honest"

The New Pony Records website presents a sample of the breadth of recordings available on the grey market, including twelve virtual albums complete with liner notes, audio samples, CD packaging, and a shopping "crate" feature. Throughout the site, images of Dylan are obscured by duct tape, including the shopping crate, featuring Dylan gagged by duct tape emblazoned "You Can't Buy This" which can be clicked through to reach extensive "frequently asked questions" explaining the copyright issues which prompted the website. Frustrated would-be buyers can "Tell The Man," sending an email to Columbia Records asking them to release these recordings or let New Pony Records do it for them.

"You could say we're a commercial bootleg site that won't sell bootlegs or you could say we're an editorial site -- challenging accepted notions of copyright -- masquerading as a commercial site. Our purpose is to show how it can be done, raise fan awareness of what's out there, and persuade Dylan/Columbia to take the lead in giving their fans what they want."

"At this point, we're committed to honoring copyright law, even if we utterly reject the practical effect it has in the realm of live recordings. We're not looking to cut in on Columbia's business, short change Dylan, or make a quick buck. We think we can offer a fair, rational, reconciliation between the artist's right to royalties and fan demand for more of the music they love. Copyright law gives Dylan and Columbia the ability to completely ignore this demand, so we're giving them a friendly nudge to remind them we're here and we're not going away."

- - - - -

[Preview the Website at:
<http://newponyrecords.bluehousegroup.com>
Username: newpony -- Password: records]

CONTACT:

Watt Alexander, General Manager
(802) 296-8109 or noise@newponyrecords.org

Alexander is available for questions and interviews by appointment on Wednesday, November 23rd between 11AM and 5PM ET and regular business hours thereafter.