

Two bright prospects on our music horizon

By Jack Hafferkamp

While we've been lamenting the dearth of local outlets for properly showcasing our native and visiting musical talent, two promising possibilities suggest that the situation may well be on the upsurge here.

One hot prospect is the club that Paul B. Magit (of the women's clothing stores) plans to open June 24 in the Happy Medium, 901 N. Rush.

At the moment, "The Boys in the Band" is playing Wednesday through Sunday in the Happy Medium; so Magit will have the room only on Monday and Tuesday. Eventually, though, he plans to take over the upstairs seven nights a week. (The Jazz Showcase is ensconced in the downstairs room.)

For his gala-gala ("all palm trees and crystal") opener on June 24, Magit will bring in Maggie Bell, Jeffrey Commanor and a veritable host of recording-industry heavyweights. On subsequent Monday and Tuesday nights, the talent lineup includes Roger McQuinn, Livingston Taylor, Loudon Wainwright III and Steeleye Span.

Magit insists that the club — which will be called P.B.M. at the Medium — will be on a par with New York's new Bottom Line and Los Angeles' Trouba-

Pop-pourri

dor. That he is serious about the comparison is evidenced by his willingness to lose \$500 to \$1,000 a week until he's able to switch to a seven-night operation.

CHICAGO-MADE: The other important development concerns Made in Chicago, WTTW-TV's excellent home-made music show. The news is that it is virtually assured of becoming a public-TV-network weekly series. If details are ironed out, the show will be plugged into as many as 240 stations around the country this fall.

While the show's name would change — probably to Sound Stage — I'm told that Chicago talent will continue to play a key role in the programs. The intention is to showcase Chicago people by pairing them with more nationally prominent artists. The show, we can hope, will go a long way toward spreading the word about the talented people we have hereabouts.

OTHER SHOTS: Soul Train's TV host, Don Cornelius, has been named executive director for entertainment at the

sixth annual Chicago Black Expo, planned for Sept. 25-29. Talent already booked for Expo '74 includes Gladys Knight, James Brown, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations and B. B. King.

George Harrison has teamed up with A & M records to create a new label, Dark Horse Records. The former Beatle will serve as a producer — at least until his long-term contract with Apple-Capitol expires later this year. Then George would be free to become a Dark Horse artist.

The Old Town School of Folk Music 909 W. Armitage, begins summer guitar and banjo classes on June 17... The Village School of Folk Music in Deerfield has issued an auditions call for folksingers to try out for a benefit Woody Guthrie Concert to be held July 21. Tryouts are at 7 p.m. June 26 and at 2 p.m. June 30.

Happy marriage to Sly Stone, who was married live and in-concert in New York on Wednesday to 20-year-old Kathy Silva, the mother of his 9-month-old child, Sylvester Jr.

And to date, Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock," which was released exactly 20 years ago, has sold \$22 million worth of records.