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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL PRESS

Slim Williamson, owner of Chart Records, and Herman D. Gimbel, Chairman of the Board of Audio Fidelity Records, Inc., jointly announced the purchase of Chart Records, Inc. by Audio Fidelity Inc. for an undisclosed six-figure amount. Chart Records, Inc. will now be a wholly owned subsidiary of Audio Fidelity Records Inc., which is a publicly held company. Inclusive in the announcement is the appointment of Slim Williamson as President of Chart Records and also as a member on the Board of Directors of Chart Records, Inc. Additional members of the Chart Records Board of Directors will be Donald Kirsch and Herman D. Gimbel, who will serve as Chairman. Gimbel pointed out in the announcement of Williamson as President that he will maintain management of Chart under a long-term contract. Chart Records will continue to be manufactured and distributed by RCA Victor under the present agreement which was initiated in September 1967. The only changes in Chart Records will be the new wealth of resources made available by Audio Fidelity Records, Inc. to its new subsidiary, Chart Records, Inc. Additionally, Slim Williamson will continue to discover new talent and build the label in the direction of becoming the nation's major country music diskery.

This announcement comes, ironically, on the fifth anniversary of the independent Chart label and in a look back over that short half decade, one can find many things which could point to the tremendous success. However, the main factor in the anatomy of this independent has been the hard work put forth by Slim Williamson,

a country DJ from Georgia who started in the record business simply to help friends. He was helping an old buddy, Jim Nesbitt, in 1964 in trying to place a song called "Lookin' For More In '64". They had a master and Slim released it on a borrowed label in hopes a major would pick it up. As Slim once said, "We were soon glad that the majors left us alone". He bought the label from its owner, Gary Walker, for \$350.00. Thus, Chart Records was on its way with Jim Nesbitt's "Lookin' For More In '64" which was a good start for any independent. The song was in the national trade listings for twenty-seven weeks and sold 42,000 records, showing the nation that the country boy DJ knew how to pick talent and material.

The entire Slim Williamson story follows the pattern set by the hit record by Nesbitt. The theme is the ability of the "Little Guy" to make it big in the music business. The approach is the Family Angle. Slim's wife, Mirl, and three children, Cliff, 20; Brenda, 18; and Marty, 12 have played an integral part in lending those much needed man power hours to get the physical work out, but it's Williamson's talent to pick the winners that make him outstanding in his career.

Before the Nesbitt deal, Slim had done quite a bit of record producing and leasing. He had recorded Del Reeves on two occasions and placed them on a label he (Slim) owned called Peach Records. Del was brought to Nashville from his home in Los Angeles in 1960 to record for Slim. Decca picked up the master on the spot for release. During this period Slim leased masters by other artists to Chancellor, Reprise, Vee Jay, Columbia and other major labels.

One of the first key signs of super success for Chart came in the fall of 1967. With the label red hot with hits by Lynn Anderson, Jim Nesbitt and Junior Samples, RCA came forth with an offer to handle manufacturing and distribution for Chart.

"Chart had become so complex that we found ourselves doing everything...promotion, distribution; we were sales manager, credit manager, and everything else. We could foresee the RCA Victor deal as an answer to a great need - something to free us from the non-producing chores that were beginning to bog us down."

CHART'S GIRLS ARE ON THE CHARTS

Slim is credited with scores of winners by Chart star, Lynn Anderson and also with the comedy find of the decade, Junior Samples. Even though it was Jim Nesbitt who got the ball rolling and the label is dominated by male artists, Slim's main power has been in the female department where he is country music's most capable creator of new talent. Along with Lynn Anderson, of course one of the nation's top country songstresses, the label has Connie Eaton, produced by Cliff Williamson; Lawanda Lindsey, produced by Joe Gibson; and Maxine Brown and Dianne Leigh, produced by Slim Williamson, all having chart records (national trade chart listings). Dianne Leigh was recently voted Canada's Number One Female Country Artist.

Slim's success has been backed by hard work and the success of Chart Records has been in building talent. Slim Williamson has an uncanny ability to work with his artists in an easy, country manner to get the best out of any singer. The complete chart roster is as follows:

Lynn Anderson
Maxine Brown
Vance Bulla
Johnny Dollar
Connie Eaton
Bobby Edwards
Lloyd Green
Kirk Hansard
Wes Helm
Gene Hood
Bob Jennings

Anthony Armstrong Jones
Jerry Lane
Dianne Leigh
Lawanda Lindsey
Jim Nesbitt
Clyde Owens
Hargus "Pigue" Robbins
Junior Samples
Ott Stephens
Gordon Terry
Kenny Vernon
Gene Woods