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## CHIP DAVIS

Chip Davis is the genius behind Mannheim Steamroller and the driving force of American Gramaphone. His classic series of Fresh Aire recordings and two multi-platinum Christmas albums have brought him international recognition for creating a virtually renaissance in contemporary sound.

Davis combines the dynamics of musical mastery and technical wizardry to create a style often described as "18th Century Rock & Roll." His compositions range from solo piano interludes to complex synthesized and orchestrated musical montages, blending rock with classics, acoustic with MIDI. He composes at the controls of a 48-rack computerized studio and a creation he calls the "digital upright" -- all located in the basement of his home overlooking the Midwest plains in Omaha, Nebraska.

His recording sessions often capture the talents of outstanding orchestra musicians. The London Symphony, members of the Chicago Symphony and the celebrated Cambridge Singers under the direction of John Rutter have all appeared on his albums. He brings authentic period instruments forward in time, and considers his ability to compose original works with a classical base and a pure view of production as key elements of his music.

An acclaimed series of Fresh Aire albums anchors his opus with seven records that have defined state-of-the-art in high fidelity for millions. Each has sold more than 500,000 copies and the most recent won a Grammy Award as Best New Age recording. Davis builds his Fresh Aire albums around intellectual themes, often expressing a reverence for nature while taking listeners on a musical journey through space and time. Fresh Aire I, II, III and IV are about the four seasons. Fresh Aire V is based on an allegorical journey to the moon by 17th Century astronomer Johannes Kepler. Greek mythology is the theme of Fresh Aire VI and Fresh Aire 7 explores the intrigue and superstition associated throughout history with the number "7".

The devastating fires at Yellowstone National Park in 1988 spurred Davis to undertake a two-year series of concerts featuring music about nature. He conducted major symphonies in familiar classical selections and his own Fresh Aire compositions. Proceeds raised \$500,000 to rebuild structures destroyed by the fires, making Davis the largest private donor in the history of the National Park Service.

The entire Mannheim Steamroller project is produced, managed and marketed under the auspices of American Gramaphone, the record company Davis created in 1975. Now recognized as the foremost independent label in North America, the company has branched out to represent other composers who share Davis' commitment to original music with a pure view of production. Headquartered in a sprawling complex a few miles from the Davis home, American Gramaphone operates as a full-service creative, production and promotion entity with recording studio, video editing, concert production, music publishing and distribution center all located under one roof.