

"...the quintessence of 'user friendly.'"

NOW PLAYING

by Faye Zuckerman

A weekly column focusing on hardware and software developments in the home computer industry.

THE 500-PAGE click-track book contains a series of mathematical equations which film and television music composers depend on to adjust music tempos to match up action. It used to take **Ron Grant** hours to synchronize his compositions to one episode of "Knots Landing."

But now, Grant contends, he can pair visuals and sounds per episode in less than 11 minutes on a time processing program he and his brother **Richard** devised for **Commodore 64** computers. The software, "Auricle: The Film Composer's Time Processor," essentially takes over the drudgery of manipulating tempos.

"Auricle" can sample various tempos, put in beats, describe times and change beats at selected sections. "Some composers wouldn't take a risk and design complicated music because of the arduous process of figuring out click tracks," says Richard Grant. "But the computer can easily accommodate non-standard calculations."

The \$500 package is currently being designed for **Apple** computers. "We prefer the Commodore because it only costs \$200," says Richard Grant. "If the system breaks down, you can pull another

one [computer] out, rather than waiting several hours for a computer repair service."

"Composers are skeptical about computers," says Ron Grant. "It has taken up a lot of our time convincing them that Auricle is far less time consuming than the click-track book."

'Auricle' software simplifies the music-to-film synchronization process

"Auricle" has another attribute besides music composition for film or broadcast. It is the first computer software package that does not depend on menus, listings that users choose from. Instead, the computer responds to requests.

More than 4,000 commands are contained in the massive Auricle operating system. "You type in what you want the computer to do, and then it finds and executes the function," Richard Grant says. "We are calling Auricle a 'natural language system'."

The Grant brothers say they plan to develop accounting and other home/business applications based on their English-language program. It took them nearly three years to create "Auricle," which might just be the quintessence of "user friendly."

BITS AND BYTES: March will

Test Results Give Boost To All-Board CD Package
'GWTW' Video Looks Like A Classic, Too
Impact on CD's Weighed U.S. DEBUT IN '86 FOR DIGITAL TAPE?

BY JIM HORTON
NEW YORK—Some time ago, the music business was a place where the only way to get your music heard was to get it on a record. Now, with the advent of compact disc (CD) and cassette, the music business has become a place where you can get your music heard in a way that is more convenient and more durable than ever before.

BY STEVEN LIPSON
NEW YORK—Music business executives are looking for ways to make the most of the digital audio tape (DAT) format. The format is expected to be used in a variety of ways, including as a replacement for the compact disc (CD) and cassette.

World Premiere Recording from the creator of "GAS" "EVITA" and "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" featuring **PLACIDO DOMINGO • SARAH BRIGHTMAN** THE ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA conducted by **LORIN MAAZEL**

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contains sounds, including sound effects and percussion. This \$29.95 computer package also has a section

for writing lyrics... The ailing Kaypro Corp. will discontinue production on its once-popular Kaypro II, 4 and 12 personal computers. The San Diego firm plans to market a revamped Robie computer and roll out a floppy disk version of its IBM compatible Kaypro 16.

Only 250 exhibitors are set to display at the March 21-23 Comdex/Winter in Anaheim. A keynote has not yet been set... Hayden Book Co. has placed a \$2.95 price tag on the children's book "The Computer Workout." The book contains crossword puzzles, word-searches, mix-and-match games and simple programming tasks. Authors Jim Keogh and Software Lab East created separate versions of "The Computer Workout" for Apple, Commodore and IBM computers.