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POP MUSIC*Pop Eye**Any Bidders for Pumpkins or Osborne?**Labels are cautious about signing the acts without a recent smash album.**[Home Edition]*

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Two acts with smash albums in recent years are on the market for new deals: the Smashing Pumpkins, whose release of its new "Machina/the machines of God," and Joan Osborne, who has parted ways with Island/Def. up to her 2-million-selling 1995 album, "Relish."

Will there be a massive bidding war for either?

Not necessarily.

In talks with more than a half-dozen label representatives, there was a surprising degree of caution when ass

With the Pumpkins, the concern in some quarters is only partly due to the band's sales being softer than they. The group's 1995 "Mellon Collie & the Infinite Sadness" sold 4.4 million, but 1998's "Adore" barely broke the 1 the new album, which dropped out of the national Top 10 after one week.

The issue on many execs' minds is more a matter of perceptions about head Pumpkin Billy Corgan being "dit managers in the past year.

Most speculation regarding the Pumpkins' future label starts with its old home, since Virgin will retain the ban pending merger of Virgin's parent, EMI Music, with Warner Bros., and Corgan has spoken publicly about beir Virgin.

One A&R exec, though, says that the Pumpkins' status will appeal to many labels looking for a strong, proven heighten interest if its upcoming U.S. tour pushes "Machina" back up the charts.

Osborne is even more of a question given the time lapse since her breakthrough album, which included the s landscape has changed dramatically in the meantime. Other female artists, including Alanis Morissette and F mid-'90s success.

Osborne's new album, produced by Mitchell Froom (Los Lobos, Bonnie Raitt), is complete, and some who ha

production and especially Osborne's vocals on a range of songs likely to draw comparisons to Raitt.

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FREE AGENTS, ROUND II: Another artist of lesser sales but high regard is also potentially going to be shop singer known for an at-times arresting combination of folk and techno, is no longer on Arista Records in the U.K. label Deconstruction.

Her manager, Geoff Travis, states that Orton remains under contract to BMG--parent of both Arista's and De are exploring options for U.S. release within the BMG family, as well as looking at potential options for a full r

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INDIGENOUS HONORS: The Grammy Awards--given by the U.S.-based music world--honor musical forms and other parts of the world. There's even an award for polka, a style brought here by German immigrants.

But what about music that was wholly created on North American soil?

That's what the folks at the Native American Music Assn. & Awards organization are asking. They've submitted of Recording Arts & Sciences to institute a new Grammy category for best Native American album starting ne

Rejected by NARAS in 1996, New York-based NAMAA two years ago started its own awards show to honor traditional ceremonial performances to New Age soundscapes to rock and rap styles of young Native American organization president Ellen Bello. NARAS asked her to submit a new proposal after the 1999 NAMAA prese

"Native American album releases have been steadily increasing, both on major labels and a number of indep Native American music supplements, and many of the major record store chains now have Native American

NARAS' vice president of awards, Diane Theriot, says she cannot discuss proposals for new awards that are such submissions will be reviewed by the academy's awards and nominations committee in April, with the bo committee in May.

"They [NAMAA] did send in an excellent proposal," she says. "They put a lot of work into it."

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WOULDN'T IT BE NICE?: Beach Boys fans who got their wish with Brian Wilson's return to the concert stage another one granted. Wilson will go on the road this summer, but this time he and his band will hook up with complete performances of the 1996 classic "Pet Sounds."

Several songs from the album became Beach Boys live staples, including "Wouldn't It Be Nice" and "Sloop J elaborate to perform out of the studio, and too moody for the band's concert world of "Fun Fun Fun" and "Go

The tour, starting in late July, will come to the Hollywood Bowl on Sept. 24, where Wilson and band will be joi

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[Illustration]

Caption: PHOTO: (2 photos) Smashing Pumpkins' contract with Virgin Records ended with its latest release, Osborne, right, no longer with Island/Def Jam, has a completed album ready.; PHOTOGRAPHER: Reuters; F contract with Virgin Records ended with its latest release, "Machina/the machines of God." Joan Osborne, right, completed album ready.; PHOTOGRAPHER: LORI SHEPLER/Los Angeles Times

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