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Arts Briefing

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HIGHLIGHTS

STARS PROTEST CD TAXES European music stars like Elton John, Andrea Bocelli, Johnny Hallyday, Françoise Hardy, Nana Mouskouri and Julio Iglesias have signed a petition calling on the European Union to lower the value-added tax on compact discs, bringing it in line with books, newspapers and theater tickets, the BBC reported yesterday. "When someone buys a biography of Jacques Brel in Belgium, he pays a V.A.T. rate of 6 percent, but if he buys a CD of his music, he has to pay 21 percent," said the Belgian pop star Alex Callier of the band Hooverphonic. "This makes no sense and does not recognize the cultural role of musical artists."

FILM: HOT JAZZ The pioneering jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli, left, who founded the Quintette du Hot Club de France with the guitarist Django Reinhardt in the 1930's, is the subject of two French-made documentaries to be shown at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow by the French Institute Alliance Française at Gould Hall. Part of the Alliance's documentary series, "Jazz Giants," the 90-minute program, "Stéphane Grappelli: A Tribute in Film," presents the United States premieres of the documentaries "Portrait" and "50 Ans de Violin." Besides rare images of Reinhardt, the films offer scenes of Grappelli playing alongside stars like George Shearing, Oscar Peterson, Yehudi Menuhin and Duke Ellington.

WHEN DALÍ MET DISNEY A seven-minute animated film conceived in 1946 by the Surrealist artist Salvador Dalí and Walt Disney had its premiere on Monday in Annecy, France, at the opening of the world's leading festival of animation. The film, "Destino," consisted of some 20 seconds of animation and many sketches before the project was dropped because of the "catastrophic state" of Disney finances, Serge Bromberg, the festival's artistic director, told Agence France-Presse. But in 1999, Roy E. Disney, Walt's nephew and now the studio's vice chairman for feature animation, found the notes and decided to finish the project, "to give Disney back a bit of its history," Mr. Bromberg said.

SARS FELLS "THE LION KING" The SARS virus will ring down the curtain on the Toronto run of "The Lion King" in September after a run of some 1,300 performances since March 2000. The BBC reported that the producer David Mirvish had said the closing was being scheduled because rumors about SARS had had a negative effect on Toronto's tourism industry. Earlier the Dixie Chicks postponed a June concert until August because of SARS in the city.

J. K. ROWLING MEETS HER FANS J. K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter novels, will make her only public appearance to discuss the adventures of the boy wizard at Royal Albert Hall in London on June 26. Some 4,000 youngsters are expected to pack the hall, and others around the world are also invited to ask questions during the session, five days after the publication of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," Reuters reported yesterday. Ms. Rowling's interview with the comedian Steven Fry will be on the Internet at www.msn.co.uk/harrypotter beginning at 1500 Greenwich Mean Time, or 11 a.m. Eastern time.

PREMIERES IN DANCE In a program titled "Face the Music and Dance," the choreographer
Doug Varone, right, and the composer Steve Reich will join forces at Symphony Space beginning at 8 p.m. tomorrow. Repeated on Friday and Saturday nights, the performance consists of world premieres of two works commissioned by Symphony Space and choreographed by Mr. Varone. They are set to Mr. Reich's Triple Quartet and Violin Phase, played by members of the Steve Reich Ensemble. Also on the bill is the New York premiere of another Varone work, set to Mr. Reich's "Proverb."

WASHINGTON: HARTLEY RETROSPECTIVE Covering every important phase of the modernist artist Marsden Hartley's career, a touring exhibition billed as his first retrospective in 20 years alights on Saturday at the Phillips Collection in Washington. Organized by the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, the show consists of some 90 paintings and 20 works on paper that take Hartley (1877-1943) from Maine to Provincetown and Gloucester in Massachusetts, Bermuda, France, Mexico, Bavaria and back to Maine. The show remains at the Phillips Collection through Sept. 7, then travels to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo., from Oct. 11 to Jan. 4 next year.

METALLICA FIGHTS BACK Striking back at counterfeits, Elektra Records is moving up the release of the new Metallica album, "St. Anger," to tomorrow from June 10. A statement from the record company said: "Elektra and Metallica have taken this extraordinary measure to ensure that counterfeit copies of the band's first studio album in six years do not proliferate in the marketplace. Metallica unanimously approved the move, guaranteeing that fans get first crack at hearing the acclaimed disk the way the band intended: loud and unadulterated."

FOOTNOTES

Frank Sinatra Jr. and his 20-piece orchestra will give a free concert at 3 p.m. on Saturday on Mulberry Street between Canal and Hester Streets. . . . With Alan King as host, the Folksbiene Yiddish theater, beginning its 88th season, will honor the architect Daniel Libeskind and Leo Melamed, chairman emeritus of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, at its celebration of Yiddish theater in America at 7 tonight at the 92nd Street Y. . . . The acclaimed musical "The Prince and the Pauper," based on the Mark Twain novel, returns to the Lamb's Theater at 7 tonight for summer season performances through Aug. 31.