It’s the MIDEM variety show
Lounge, live and classical themes explored

The diversity of the music world that is the business of MIDEM is encapsulated by three key events in Cannes.

French electronic label Pochent celebrates its 10th anniversary with a party that will take over the Hotel Martinez ballroom and Acapulco area tonight, highlighting a remarkable success story in the process.

Radio industry veteran Eric Hauss ville founded the label by signing Charles Schilling, a Belgian DJ who has brought an enduring following to the venture. But it was a proposal from Stephane Permpouges, DJ at Paris’ hotel Costes, that really gave the label lift-off.

Permpouges said he had many requests for recordings of his mixes and Haussville decided to give it a try. The

Hotel Costes series has sold 1.5 million units and sponsored the “lounge music” trend, along with several more location-based collections.

Earlier tonight, the very different world of classical music in the spotlight with Les Victoires de la Musique Classique. The only classical music event in France to command primetime TV coverage—and one of the few in the world to do so—it will see stars battling for 10 awards, including the audience prize.

A special international prize for up-and-coming talent is awarded only when the event is held in Cannes, every three years. The Victoires ceremony will be held in the Grand Auditorium of the Palais. The proceedings will be relayed direct on France 3 and France Inter, and will be transmitted by satellite channel Mezzo on January 29.

Over-arching at genres is MIDEM’s Live Music Network. A series of programmes and workshops is intended to draw the residents of MIDEM’s global village—artists, agents, promoters, record companies, venues, ticket agents, publishers and reporters—together for an afternoon of education.

The curtain-raiser is EMI’s Tony Wadsworth interviewing Tim Clark, manager of Robbie Williams. The opportunities offered by broadcasting and webcasting, forging links between concerts and record releases and the eternal hot topic of rights are expected to generate debate during the sessions.
NAME THAT TUNISTER...

THINK you know your music? Test your knowledge with the "Name That Tune" puzzle. Each week, we select a hit from the golden age of music, and only the most eagle-eyed listeners will be able to identify it. Check back every week to try your luck!

Spend money to save it

The AXMEDIS Project—a €1.4m ($1.8m) initiative funded by the European Union and private investors—has been launched to develop technology to create cost-effective distribution of digital content production, distribution and protection.

Not only will the AXMEDIS Project offer producers, aggregators and distributors innovative ways to create new revenue and distribution models, it will also provide content owners and distributors with an alternative to existing content protection technologies.

The Orchard goes cherry-picking

The Orchard, the US indie label that bought the rights to a collection of Sony BMG's independent labels, has added four more to its portfolio. The deal includes a collection of 5,000 tracks from the independent label's roster of artists, which include acts such as My Chemical Romance and Fall Out Boy.

Will Sony-BMG/EMI pact put rights wrongs right?

A landmark deal between Sony BMG and EMI Publishing to clear an array of rightsholders of their rights in the UK, along with the UK's most famous film, the Beatles' "Abbey Road," has been announced. The agreement, which includes the rights to the Beatles' Abbey Road album, is expected to be signed by the end of the year.

Spending money to save it

Photographer Georges Du Bois, capturing the essence of music.

EMI Music Publishing's Jeff Leiberman has been named to chair the newly formed Digital Rights Group.

The Orchard has acquired two more labels from Sony BMG, including the independent label's entire roster of artists.

There's no stopping "G-Zone..."

Thanks to Wired Magazine's article, the phenomenon known as "G-Zone" has gone global with fans in over 100 countries and 90,000 albums. Streaming the band's music is now available in all countries, with plans to expand to even more.
SPENDING MONEY TO SAVE IT

THE AXMEDIS Project—a €14m ($18.3m) initiative funded by the European Union and private investors—has been launched to develop technologies to reduce the costs of digital content production, distribution and protection.

Not only will the Axmedis Project offer producers, aggregators and distributors innovative ways to create new market and distribution openings, but it will also provide assistance and technical support to those interested in using the platform and adopting the project’s solutions. Furthermore, the Axmedis consortium has been formed to grant the sum of €1m to companies and research institutes interested in developing real solutions by exploiting Axmedis technologies.

Professor Paolo Nesli from Florence University is serving as the Axmedis Project co-ordinator.