



By Jo Eager

MUSIC WITHOUT BARRIERS: Boston native Tom Cunningham produced music for East German band.

East-West can make good music together

BERLIN — The East German band *City* won five different awards last year including the *Golden Amiga* — East Germany's equivalent to the U.S. Grammy. Their award-winning LP was produced by a native of Boston, Tom Cunningham.

A musician, singer, songwriter and producer, Cunningham found working with an East German band interesting and rewarding. "On one hand, you think East Germany — that's another world," he says.

"Perhaps they've got other ideas about culture, music, politics and life. But they don't. What was amazing was how much we had in common. The band was very dedicated and serious about their music. And lyrically, they make some very important statements about how they feel about life."

In 1971 Cunningham came to Europe to spend three months in Greece writing a college term paper. His stay for "half a semester turned out to be half a lifetime." He fell in love with the lifestyle and took off across Europe working as a musician. In the late 1970s he got his first record deal and settled in Berlin.

After spending the last few years producing other acts, Cunningham is currently working on his own solo album and with his new band, *The Cast*.

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