



## **Belmont hosts first digital music summit**

*By Chris Lewis, [clewis@nashvillecitypaper.com](mailto:clewis@nashvillecitypaper.com)*

March 22, 2005

As the Nashville music industry tries to adapt to the changing marketplace of music delivery, help is on the way next month to demystify the technological forces of new media.

The nonprofit group Leadership Music is organizing Nashville's first digital summit, called "Today, Tomorrow (and the Day After)," to be held at Belmont University's Curb Events Center April 5.

Speakers including Mike Conte, general manager of MSN Music, and Chris Gorog, chairman of Napster, will discuss cutting-edge issues involving the digital and wireless delivery of music. Mayor Bill Purcell will give opening remarks.

Also involved in the panel discussions will be industry leaders from new media companies such as Starbucks, Motorola, MTV, Liquid Digital and Virgin.

Workshops will cover everything from download music stores, to sales of ringtones, to how independent and major record labels can make money with new media, said event co-chairman Fletcher Foster.

A senior vice president with Capitol Records Nashville, Foster said the conference is geared toward a diverse music business audience.

"It will tailor to anybody from any aspect of the music industry, from record companies to songwriters, to publishers and artists," he said. "There are plenty of artists out there right now that are taking their music right to the consumer without the label, and this [digital delivery] is the prime example of how it's being done."

General registration is \$149, although a \$99 discounted ticket is offered to people affiliated with certain music groups in town. To find out more about registration and the various workshops, visit [www.digitalsummit.org](http://www.digitalsummit.org).