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Johnny Winter, a 25-year-old blues and rock guitarist from Texas, has signed a five-year recording contract with Columbia Records. Industry sources said the agreement was for \$300,000.

Clive Davis, president of Co-

lumbia, said it was the largest figure ever offered by that company for a new artist. He declined to name the previous high.

Mr. Winter and his three-piece group, called Winter, will appear in Boston on Sunday and at the Fillmore East, 105 Second Avenue, Feb. 14 and 15.