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EDITOR MICHAEL FILER mfiler@nor.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR KATIE VANSLACK kvanslack@nor.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
KAREN BLISS, MARK EGAN, LEVON ICHKHANIAN,
AL KAY, MICHAEL KERWIN, JASON KLEIN, JOHN
KLEPKO, LONNY KNAPP, MARK LALAMA, PAUL
LAU, HEMME LUTTJEBOER, BILL MCBIRNIE, ETHAN
RISING, SEPPO SALMINEN, PAULA SHEAR, CHRIS
TEDESCO, KEVIN YOUNG

ART DIRECTOR LANA BUTLER lbutler@nor.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER KAREN BASHURA kbashura@nor.com

CONSUMER SERVICES DIRECTOR MAUREEN JACK mjack@nor.com

CONSUMER SERVICES COORDINATOR LINDA BERETTA lberetta@nor.com

PUBLISHER
JIM NORRIS
jnorris@nor.com

BUSINESS SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES RYAN DAVID rdavid@nor.com

DAWN JEWELL djewell@nor.com

BUSINESS MANAGER LIZ BLACK lblack@nor.com

COMPUTER SERVICES COORDINATOR GORANA BROWN gbrown@nor.com

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Canadian Musician, please see page 69 or visit www.canadianmusician.com.

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ISSN 0708-9635 INDEXED IN THE CANADIAN PERIODICAL INDEX



Norris-Whitney Communications Inc.

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Ehanges

MHES Collaborates With CMW & CODJA

The 3rd Annual Music and Home Entertainment Show (MHES), formerly TMX, is moving its location downtown to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. MHES will be held from March 8-9, 2008, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre is located at 255 Front St., W., with the show being held in Hall A. This location is easily accessible by public transit, rail, and major highways. A wide variety of fine restaurants, accommodations, and entertainment venues surround it. Organizers chose the Centre for its exhibit space, seminar and demonstration areas, and easy load-in area.

MHES has finalized a collaboration agreement with Canadian Music Week (CMW), which takes place at The Royal York in Toronto March 5-8. CMW attracts music industry luminaries and artists from around the world and showcases over 400 bands to an audience of 50,000 music fans. MHES and CMW will be cooperating on marketing to maximize attendance and exposure for both events.

In association with the Canadian Online DJ Association (CODJA), MHES will present DJ Showcase 2008 at MHES, which will feature exhibits and seminars on DJ equipment, technology, and business. The DJ Showcase replaces the long-running annual Canadian DJ Show, Entertainer's World.

CODJA represents over 2,000 DJs from across Canada and assists its members with their marketing and business





The 2nd MHES was held at the International Centre and saw double the attendance over the first year, therefore, organizers are expecting a 50 per cent attendance increase again for the 2008 show. The seminar program saw great success as well with over 700 people signed up. An expanded seminar program is being planned for this year's show with more topics relating to the home entertainment segment of the market, such as home theatre and video games.

For more information, contact: Music and Home Entertainment Show, 416-278-6194, 905-641-3471, FAX 905-641-1648, info@mheshow.com, www. mheshow.com.

Doug "Doc" Riley Passes Away

Composer, arranger, and keyboardist, Doug Riley, AKA "Doctor Music," has passed away on Monday, Aug. 27.

After headlining a jazz and blues festival, he was on a plane in Calgary preparing to return to his home in Little Pond, PE when he died suddenly of a massive heart attack. "He sounded totally fine the last time I talked to him," says his wife Jan on TheStar.com, referring to their conversation on Sunday. The Canadian music industry icon was 62.

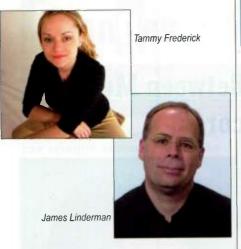
"What can you say about that guy? He's a Canadian gem. What a loss. The kindest, gentlest man you'd ever meet in your entire life. His kids, Ben and Jesse, are as nice as he was. Great kids, great family," comments Tom Sczcesniak.

"He's a brilliant technician who could play everything from Tchaikovsky to Thelonious Monk and then could get down and rock 'n' roll and play to blues too," said David Clayton-Thomas on TheStar.com. "He's irreplaceable. There's only one Doc Riley."

He collaborated on over 300 recordings with artists such as Moe Koffman, Molly Johnson, Jake Langley, Natalie Mc-Master, Placido Domingo, Ringo Starr, Gordon Lightfoot, Anne Murray, Sylvia Tyson, Dan Hill, and Bob Seger. He also wrote over 2,000 jingles and arranged music for TV programs in the late '60s and '70s. Riley formed the Toronto Sound Recording Studio and served as Musical Director of the Famous People Players for over 20 years. He also started the PEI Jazz Festival in the '90s, and won Jazz Organist of the Year continuously from 1993-2000 at the annual Jazz Report Awards. He was awarded the Order of Canada in the fall of 2004. In 2006 he toured throughout Canada and the US with Michael Burgess of Les Miserables and his Doug Riley Quartet. His latest release was Strike, which was recorded with Tyler Yarema and John Roby.

"It's a big loss," says Bill King. "He was a thread through the whole Canadian music industry."





Tammy Frederick's Voice Studio's Fall Workshop Series

New fall workshops have recently been announced for Tammy Frederick's Voice Studio, which will all be held at the studio: 327 Kingston Rd., Toronto. The four workshops are: Making Your Songs Sing, What Do I Do Now?, Singing Workshop, and Interactive Songwriting Workshop.

Making Your Songs Sing is a performance-intensive workshop hosted by Tammy Frederick. Held on three Sundays in October, there will be performances each week. Attendees will build confidence, stage presence, and learn how to connect with the audience. This will be held on Oct. 15, 21, and 28, from 1-4 p.m. on each Sunday. This is \$150 plus GST for the three-day workshop.

What Do I Do Now? addresses the concerns of musicians who are not sure what the next step is in their careers. Hosted by Tara Shannon on Nov. 11, from 2-4 p.m., she will teach attendees what steps they can take to get their careers moving. This is great for musicians who have a demo or an album produced, and for those who are and who are not gigging. This is \$50 plus GST.

The Singing Workshop, also hosted by Frederick, will teach attendees how the voice works, how to eliminate breaks, and the key to increasing range and flexibility. For \$75 plus GST, attendees will learn proper breathing, posture, how to maintain a healthy instrument night after night, and how to warm up the voice. This will be held on Nov. 18, from 1-4 p.m.

James Linderman will host the Interactive Songwriting Workshop. This is a hands-on workshop that will give attendees practical tools that's needed to write a song anytime. Offering individual and group work, everyone will walk away with a song in hand. This will be held on Nov. 25, from 10-5 p.m. for \$150 plus GST.

For more information visit: www.tammyfrederick.com.

4th Annual FAR-West Conference

The 4th annual Folk Alliance Region – West (FAR-West) Conference will be held from Nov. 2-4, at the Hilton Vancouver Washington hotel.

Acoustic music performers, presenters, promoters, music media, and radio personnel will gather for three days of business conferences, education, interaction, and juried and private artist showcases. Over



48 juried showcases will be presented on the main stage as well as at multiple late night stages, providing the chance for booking agents, managers, publicists, and manufacturers to connect with artists. The private "guerilla" showcases will take place on the hotel's designated music floors. Artist cooperatives, record companies, presenters, and radio programmers organize these private showcases.

Another feature at FAR-West is the "Best of the West" Awards, which honours musicians and others in the folk community whose talents and efforts have established them as true leaders over a period of time. There is an award for the performer category and one in the non-performer category.

Attendance reached over 400 in 2006, and is expected to be even stronger this year. Advance registration, if postmarked by Oct. 12, is \$155, and \$185 at the door. Special band rates are available.

For more information visit: www.far-west.org.

Canadian Music Notes Hits Yahoo

A new place for singers, songwriters, musicians, writers, reporters, and everyone else involved in the Canadian music industry has been set up to share news: Canadian Music Notes. This is not a place to post gig listings or musical events, rather it's a place to post CD releases, awards, new products, services or events that benefit Canadian music people, to share tips, or to announce accolades that you or someone you know

has received. Anyone can join this group and all postings are moderated. The only rule is that the post must have something to do with someone or something in the Canadian music industry. To post a message, e-mail it to canadian musicnotes@yahoogroups.com. If you have a questions forward it to rmandassociates@rogers.com. For more information visit: http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/canadianmusicnotes.

CMW 2008 Showcase & Indie Awards

With an excellent turn out in the spring of 2007, musicians are looking ahead to the Canadian Music Week (CMW) 2008, which will be held from March 5-8, in Toronto

Make sure that your band is recognized at next year's show by applying today for the Showcase series. All entrants will receive one free year's subscription to Canadian Musician, and will receive one complimentary delegate pass to the TUNEUP 2008 Conference. All bands must pre-register for the TUNEUP Conference by Jan. 18, 2008.

All genres are accepted for the Show-case series, and all must be submitted through Sonicbids. The deadline is Oct. 31, but if you apply before Sept. 30, you could win a Les Paul BFG Electric guitar, courtesy of Gibson Guitar. All bands will be notified of their status by Dec. 8, and all accepted bands will have the opportunity to be featured in the New Music Spotlight on CMW's home page with a link to your Sonicbids EPK.

Past Showcase headliners include:

Wolfmother, Neverending White Lights, Alexisonfire, Bedouin Soundclash, Three Days Grace, Fefe Dobson, Ian Thornley, Fat Boy Slim, Barenaked Ladies, Jewel, Bif Naked, Daniel Lanois, Alanis Morissette, Gordon Lightfoot, Mudvayne, Priestess, Soulfly, Rascalz, Moka Only, Tegan & Sara, Matt Mays & El Torpedo, and many more.

Representatives of an independent artist/group or duo can submit nominations for the 8th Annual Independent Music Awards, AKA The Indies, which will be held on March 5, 2008. Applications must be completed on Sonicbids no later than the posted deadline. National Selection juries of 10 professionals from the retail, recording, and live sectors will nominate five contenders in each category. The top five will then have their photo and audio streamed on the CMW website for the general public to vote on. The winners will be announced at the Indie Awards presentation.

For more information visit:

■ 10th Atlantis Music Conference & Festival

Atlanta, GA September 19-22, 2007 atlantis@atlantismusic.com, www.atlantismusic.com

Popkomm Festival 2007

Berlin, Germany September 19-22, 2007 +49 (0) 30-3038-3009, FAX +49 (0) 30-3038-2149 info@popkomm.de, www.popkomm.com

35th San Francisco Blues Festival

San Francisco, CA September 28-30, 2007 415-979-5588 www.sfblues.com

NEMO Music Festival

Boston, MA September 28-30, 2007 617-348-2899, FAX 617-348-2830 kristin@nemoboston.com, www.nemoboston.com

Billhoard Regional Mexican Music Summit

Los Angeles, ČA October 1-3, 2007 646-654-4660 bbevents@billboard.com, www.billboardevents.com

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Las Vegas, NV October 5-10, 2007 646-654-4660 bbevents@billboard.com, www.billboardevents.com

Celtic Colours International Festival

Cape Breton, NS October 5-13, 2007 902-562-6700, 877-285-2321 info@celtic-colours.com, www.celtic-colours.com

3rd Annual Amp Show

Los Angeles, CA October 6, 2007 818-992-0745 loni@ampshow.com, www.ampshow.com

21st Ontario Council of Folk Festivals (OCFF)

London, ON October 11-14, 2007 613-560-5997, 866-292-OCFF, 613-560-2001 info@ocff.ca, www.ocff.ca

Gospel Music Association (GMA) Academy In Nashville

Nashville, TN October 12-13, 2007 615-242-0303, FAX 615-254-9755 www.gospelmusic.org

2007 Western Canadian Music Awards

Moose Jaw, SK October 18-21, 2007 204-943-8485, FAX 204-453-1594 info@wcmw.ca, www.westerncanadianmusicawards.ca

Toronto DJ Festival 2007

Toronto, ON October 21, 2007 416-841-6224, FAX 905-814-0121 f.zhou@torontodjfestival.com, www.torontodjfestival.com

KoSA Cuba

Havana, Cuba October 21-28, 2007 514-482-5554, 800-541-8401, FAX 514-483-2226 info@kosamusic.com, www.kosamusic.com

Billboard Mobile Entertainment Live Fall 2007

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The Next Big Idea: The Future of Branded Entertainment

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2007 DJ Cruise For Mobile Entertainers

Ft. Lauderdale, FL Pre-Cruise Conference: October 29-31, 2007 Cruise: November 1-5, 2007 515-986-3300, FAX 515-986-3344 mb@mobilebeat.com, www.mobilebeat.com

Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC)

Columbus, OH October 31-November 3, 2007 580-353-1455, FAX 580-353-1456 percarts@pas.org, www.pasic.org

The Hollywood Reporter, Billboard Film & TV Music Conference

Los Angeles, CA November 1-2, 2007 646-654-4660 bbevents@billboard.com, www.billboardevents.com

Montreal Drum Fest 2007

Montreal, QC November 9-11, 2007 888-928-1726 angelillo@videotron.ca, www.montrealdrumfest.com

Touring '07: The Billhoard Touring Conference & Awards

New York, NY November 14-15, 2007 646-654-4660 bbevents@billboard.com, www.billboardevents.com

50th College Music Society (CMS) National Conference

Salt Lake City, UT November 15-18, 2007 406-721-9616, FAX 406-721-9419 cms@music.org, www.music.org

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2008 International Association For Jazz Education (IAJE) Conference

Toronto, ON January 9-12, 2008 785-776-8744, FAX 785-776-6190 info@iaje.org, www.iaje.org

■ 42nd Midem Annual Music Market

Cannes, France
January 26-27, 2008
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www.midem.com

East Coast Music Awards (ECMA)

Fredericton, NB February 7-10, 2008 902-892-9040, FAX 902-892-9041 ecma@ecma.com, www.ecma.com

MBLV '08 (Mobile Beat Las Vegas)

Las Vegas, NV February 12-14, 2008 515-986-3300, FAX 515-986-3344 mb@mobilebeat.com, www.mobilebeat.com

2008 International Folk Alliance Conference

Memphis, TN February 20-24, 2008 901-522-1170, FAX 901-522-1172 fa@folk.org, www.folk.org

Canadian Music Week (CMW) 2008

Toronto, ON March 5-8, 2008 905-858-4747, FAX 905-858-4848 info@cmw.net, www.cmw.net

The 7th Annual Billhoard Music & Money Symposium

New York, NY March 6, 2008 646-654-4660 bbevents@billboard.com, www.billboardevents.com

The Music & Home Entertainment Show (MHES) Toronto, ON

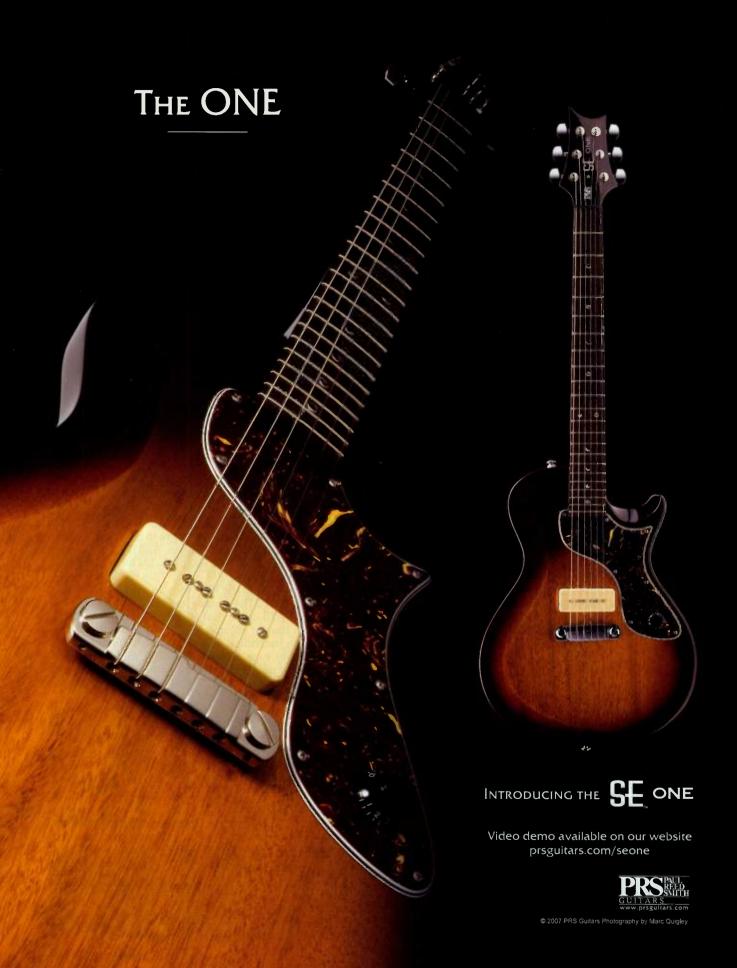
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www.kosamusic.com



Lifting

by Hemme Luttjeboer

he art of transcription or lifting is the highly subjective modus operandi of notating music. What you hear and how you write it down for other musicians to read is a very interpretive process. Ideally, your years of playing experience and familiarity in various styles of music contribute to your skills and your level of success. Whether schooled or unschooled, you too can transcribe. The

ability to notate music to a high level is a studied art that takes time and diligence. However, a good background in the machinations of creating an arrangement, knowing how to read along with an understanding of the rudiments and syllabus of music, is almost a requisite.

I make a living as a music transcriber, arranger, and engraver. With over 200 books in publication with all the top US companies such as Warner Bros. Publications, Hal Leonard, Music Sales, Mel Bay, and Alfred Publishing, I'd like to share my approach and experiences with this challenging alternative to making a living as a musician.

Over the past 18 years I have listened to and transcribed thousands of tunes in various styles. Everything from metal (shredders to grunge), country, hip hop, fingerstyle, ragtime, jazz, classical orchestration to big band; whatever the musical situation, I was up to the challenge. I initially used a no. 2 pencil to document my scores and graduated to computer software in 1997. With each upgrade, great opportunities presented themselves. Today, aside from transcription projects, I am hired for my skills as an engraver/typographer using Finale notation software. But I began with rather primitive and archaic equipment by today's standards. I started out using a cheap dubbing ghetto blaster that had some EQ but had the capability to play back at high speed. I recorded entire vinyl records on to my Akai reel-to-reel and then dubbed them to cassette at ½ speed. I would then play them back at high speed with the blaster and slow the tape down for difficult and/or speedy passages. It was very labour-intensive, but it got the job done. A few years and

a few cassette players later I graduated to a Yamaha MT-120 4-track recorder. Currently I use a Superscope/Marantz PSD-230 CD player, however it's already out of production – but there are some great software applications available for transcribing as well.

A typical day of transcribing a new project begins in the morning with a focused listen of the music. Headphones plugged into the CD player works best for me. I use them instead of speakers, so I can best visualize the different instruments and where they lie in reference to the face of a clock. At times, guitars are positioned at 12, 3, and 9 o'clock; drums centre; vocals left/right, etc. By focus-

ing on one instrument at a time, and notating it accordingly, I'll soon have a completed score. My CD player also has the ability to eliminate vocals from a track – a great feature when multiguitar lines are buried. For fast phrases I can slow down the speed of the CD 50 per cent without altering the pitch. Sometimes there are those stubborn guitar lines that just need to be slowed down even further: then, I dust off my

trusty Akai U4 Phrase Trainer for these.

After determining whether the guitars are in concert pitch, use an alternate tuning, or use a capo, I establish the proper key and create a vocal arrangement of the tune. This is where the form of the music is mapped out with verse, chorus, bridge, etc. Then I begin transcribing quitar parts note-for-note. Other important instruments (bass, piano, horns, etc.) are also arranged for guitar. When transcribing guitar, whether in pop, rock, country, or jazz, the sound of the instrument can determine the variable in chord construction. A heavily distorted guitar can give the illusion of a multi-fretted chord shape when all that is required is one or two fingers. A dis-

torted guitar effect can bring out the overtones, which can affect how the music is to be written. Realizing and determining such factors play a huge part in transcribing. Eschewing pitches is one thing, but correct rhythms can be extremely tricky and time-consuming. Depending on the project at hand, everything is transcribed, regardless of difficulty. I persevere, with editing, until I am completely satisfied with the transcription before submitting it.

I've given you a simple overview of how I approach transcribing for guitar. You may have alternate methods, but, in the end, if the guy next to you can't play what you've written...

Since he first picked up the guitar in the late 1960s, Hemme B. Luttjeboer continues to decipher and unravel guitar parts.

For more information about his hobby turned vocation visit his website at www.musiconpaper.com.

Street Gospels Sees Light - & Dark - Of Day BY KAREN BLISS

Bedouin Soundclash is set up in a midsized rehearsal room in a nondescript area of Toronto that's part warehouse, part residential, and part small business. Inside the ground level space, there's a black curtain backdrop, truncated drapes hanging from the ceiling, and soundproofing egg cartons on one wall.

The Toronto-based trio runs through two songs, the current single, "Walls Fall Down" and lead cut, "Until We Burn In The Sun (The Kids Just Want A Love Song)," both from its third and newest album, Street Gospels, the follow-up to 2004's Sounding A Mosaic, which helped to launch the reggae- and dub-influenced rock band internationally. It also saw sales close to 90,000 units in Canada, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

After being on Stomp/Warner Music in Canada, the chilled-out vibe-heavy band has decided to go with its manager Joel Carriere's Dine Alone Records, distributed by Universal Music Canada, for this album.

Bedouin Soundclash - singer-guitarist Jay Malinowski, drummer Pat Pengelly,



Daryl Jenifer

and bassist Eon Sinclair – had milked *Sounding A Mosaic* as far as it could. The three met in 2001 at Queen's University in Kingston, ON, and named the band after New York-raised Israeli artist Reuel "Raz" Mesinai, whose alter ego, Badawi, mixed dub and Middle Eastern influences on his 1996 album, *Bedouin Sound Clash*.

In 2001, while still in school, the band released its debut album, *Root Fire*, which features four players: the current line-up plus someone on djembe. By *Sounding A Mosaic*, they were a three-piece and cut the sophomore album at Montreal's DNA Studios with Darryl Jenifer, the bassist from legendary DC hardcore/reggae group Bad Brains, who they met through their then-manager, Paget Williams.

It would take a while, but eventually that album would yield three hit singles and earn Bedouin Soundclash a 2006 Juno Award for New Group of the Year – all the while, the third album, *Street Gospels*, was ready to go, having been recorded in February, 2005.

"We did that before anything happened with 'When The Night...," recounts Malinowski, referencing the feel-good song "When The Night Feels My Song" that was licensed to a Zellers department stores ad in 2005 and suddenly became a national radio hit that summer. "...Mosaic had come out [on Montreal's Stomp Records], but it hadn't had its re-release on Warner, so it had been out, but no one really paid any attention to it.

"Once it had a re-release, then it was in the Zellers commercial and then it started picking up while we were outside the country on *Warped Tour*. Then, everything started snowballing and it started picking up in the UK We toured there. We came back to Canada. We toured. Then, we went down to the States and we just kept touring it, so we didn't have to release it."

"It was always on the cusp of getting released," Malinowski says of *Street Gospels*.

"Then, three months would go by and we'd tour some more places and we'd realize we gotta go tour there again. Finally, listening to it, we all felt it would be better to go into the studio again."

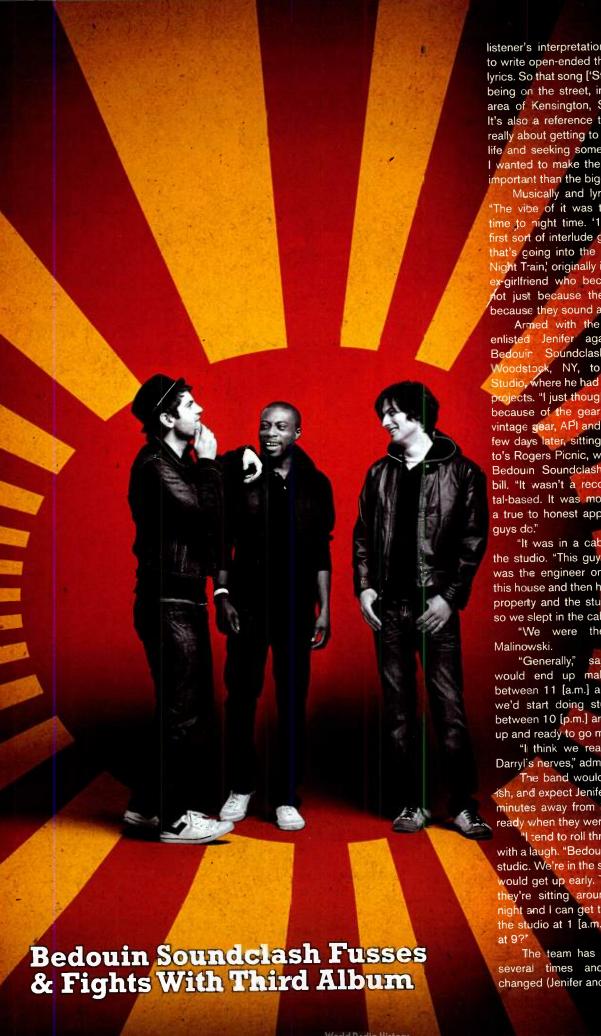
The first version of *Street Gospels* was recorded at Toronto's Signal To Noise Studios with Jenifer producing and studio owner Rob Sanzo engineering. They cut 14 songs. Money Mark, Beastie Boys collaborator and a solo artist, played keyboards on some tracks. But after two years of touring, when Malinowski, Sinclair, and Pengelly finally had time to reassess and rerecord *Street Gospels*, it was February of this year and much had changed. In particular, Malinowski had written more songs.

"Where Sounding A Mosaic came out of practices, with me coming in with half ideas, on this record I wanted to make something determined in terms of the songs being songs, and then we could go in and make something more musically complex as a group but have the ideas determined beforehand," explains Malinowski.

"I guess I just knew thematically what I wanted to say, that all the songs have a gospel and a story to them – the *Street Gospels*. There's a non-denominational spiritual message to the whole record. All of them are somewhat stories that can be learned on the street, and I mean by that just in everyday life.

"'Nico' is obviously a street lesson. 'Midnight Rocker' is about drug use, non-judgmental drug use [laughs], but in the end I feel that any sort of reliance on substance will lead to heartache, hence 'Hearts In The Night,' tweaking out at very late-morning hours. 'St. Andrews' is another semi drug reference song."

"I think the best thing is when you can take what you need from it," he says of a



listener's interpretation. "That's why I try to write open-ended things and allegorical lyrics. So that song ['St. Andrews'] is about being on the street, in terms of a certain area of Kensington, St. Andrews Street. It's also a reference to a church. But it's really about getting to a crisis point in your life and seeking some sense of salvation. I wanted to make the smaller details less important than the bigger idea."

Musically and lyrically, he also says, "The vibe of it was to bring it from day time to night time. '12:59 Lullaby' is the first sort of interlude going into something that's going into the night ['Nico On The Night Train, originally inspired by a friend's ex-girlfriend who became a stripper], so not just because the song's 'night,' but because they sound a bit darker as well."

Armed with the new material, they enlisted Jenifer again. He suggested Bedouir Soundclash come down to Woodstock, NY, to record at Flymax Studio, where he had recorded a few small projects. "I just thought [it would be good] because of the gear that was there, the vintage gear, API and Neve," says Jenifer a few days later, sitting backstage at Toronto's Rogers Picnic, where Bad Brains and Bedouin Soundclash were both on the bill. "It wasn't a recording that was digital-based. It was more analog recording, a true to honest approach to what these

"It was in a cabin," says Pengelly of the studio. "This guy, Pete [Gaigan], who was the engineer on the record, lived in this house and then he had a studio on this property and the studio was in his cabin, so we slept in the cabin."

"We were there all day," adds

"Generally," says Sinclair, "Darryl would end up making his way [over] between 11 [a.m.] and 1 [p.m.], and then we'd start doing stuff and usually wrap between 10 [p.m.] and 11 [p.m.]. We were up and ready to go much earlier [laughs]."

"I think we really started to get on Darryl's nerves," admits Malinowski.

The band would rise early, around 9ish, and expect Jenifer, who lives just a few minutes away from Flymax, to be up and ready when they were.

"I tend to roll through," explains Jenifer with a laugh. "Bedouin's there. We're in the studic. We're in the spot. I live mearby. They would get up early. They're living there, so they're sitting around, and I'm there all night and I can get there at 11 [a.m.]. I left the studio at 1 [a.m.], and I gotta be back

The team has now worked together several times and the dynamic has changed (Jenifer and Bedouin Soundclash

CANADIAN MUSICIAN . [35]



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A Cup Of Cold Poison is a lean, badass set of live-off-the-floor mayhem that owes as much to Sabbath and Zeppelin as to blues and gospel. A blend of metal bluster, punk rock speed, and straight up rock served up raw, with a bit bottom end and as few chords as possible. "We started this band with the concept of 'why play two chords when you can play one?'" says bass player, Big Ben Richardson. Austin, TX, he explains, was the perfect breeding ground to make the concept a reality. "It's a music town, not a music business town.

Deft practitioners of the one chord stomp, Grady unapologetically starts its gigs with "Ride Like Hell," a perennial Big Sugar encore favourite. No big deal, considering many Grady tunes practically scream encore track - the kind of song bands whip out, tear up, and extend to wear the audience out at the end of the night. Just the kind of thing they did at their first gig...

"It wasn't even a gig," singer/guitarist/producer Gordie Johnson says, speaking to me from the family ranch in Alberta. "We just showed up at Grossman's Tavern in Toronto; they had no music and we said 'ls it okay if we get up to play?' We didn't give a shit about being hip - we just felt like playing and we came out of it with something none of us planned.

Like that gig, Grady's first record, Y.U. So Shady?, wasn't meant to be a record, but it sparked people's hunger in the band. Since, Grady fed that hunger regularly at its home venue, Austin's popular Continental Club, and on

BY KEVIN YOUNG

tours that have taken it across Canada, Norway for the Down On The Farm Festival, and now, back on the road to support the new record.

If there's more low-end bombast on this album, you can chalk it up to new member, Billy "Thunderball" Maddox, replacing ex-ARC Angel, Chris Layton on drums. "We went from having a guy who showed up with a kick, a snare drum, and a cymbal, to a guy who showed up with like six toms, 10 cymbals, two kick drums. I said 'hey man, run what you brung.' If you set it and I put a mic on it, you better hit it."

Recorded in Willie Nelson's Pedervales Studio, in Spicewood, TX, the album is extremely lean. After a summer of playing tracks from the record live, Richardson says, "Once we got in the studio we really knew what we were doing, and Gordie knew exactly what he wanted. We actually tracked the thing in three days. There's not a single instrumental overdub on it." Maddox' style melded well with both Richardson's playing and Johnson's recently rekindled love of metal, helping Grady both evolve and settle into its sound live and on record.

The lead track is, quite literally, a joke, told by Nelson and it sets the tone for the blunt, 12-song tour of the world-according-to-Grady that follows, covering love, lust, hope, and regret, before ending up squarely planted under the hangman's noose. It's not just the story you tell, though, it's how you tell it. And, like Nelson, Johnson and company have a way of telling a story musically

lyrically that's honest and clear, without getting too hung up on filling in every blank for you. It's something they take to the stage as well – where Johnson's old band. Big Sugar, did three-hour shows involving epic, reggae-influenced jams, Grady's live set tends to be more concise, but no less energetic, or quieter. Eut then, Grady, like Johnson and Richardson's move to Austin, was meant to be about starting over, not rehashing past glories ...

Gordie Johnson: It's a different kind of ethic. Big Sugar was more of a dancing kind of rock show. Grady's more like a bare knuckle boxing match, you don't want to see it go into extra rounds, it just gets too bloody.

Canadian Musician: The new record seems to owe something to soul as well?

GJ: Yeah, I've never really got that far from my musical upbringing. I grew up near Detroit, on the Canadian side of the river, listening to Detroit radio. Quite often I'd stay up all night listening glued to my radio and listening to gospel music.

CM: It's a really lean sound – pretty much live off the floor

GJ: It's not pretty much, that is exactly it. There are no added guitar parts; I didn't fix any guitar parts later. Nothing was fixed in Pro Tools. That's how it was and that's how it went to tape.

CM: What is it about Austin that drew you there, and keeps you there?

GJ: It's not a place to get a record deal. It's not a place to schmooze and be seen. There are gigs everywhere, starting at five in the afternoon and going all night, dozens of venues, every night of the week. A lot of people know Austin from SXSW. They'll go down there and go 'wow, Austin is great,' but they don't realize that any Monday night of the year it's great like that, only you can find parking, and you don't have to know somebody at a big, fuck you, record label to get into the gig. It's a great place to start over again. Your chances of getting on the front page of the newspaper are greater if you're the local guy that plays every Tuesday night, than if you're a multi-platinum artist that comes in once every five years. They appreciate the people that bring 'em the music all the time.

CM: Has Austin influenced your production career in any way?

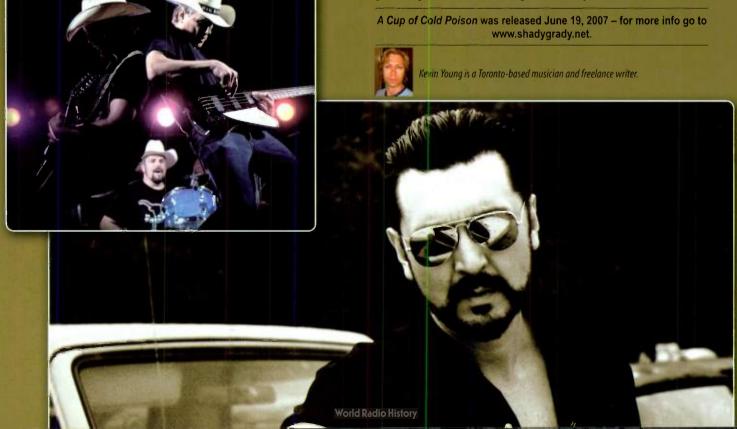
GJ. I had a great facility to work at in Toronto: Phase One Audio. I made all the Big Sugar records there, produced a lot of other albums there and recently did Joel Plaskett Emergency's *Ashtray Rock* there. In Austin I've got myself set up at Willie Nelson's private studio. It's like the Disney World of analog recording gear; I could build a fort out of Neumann microphones. It's incredible: big rooms, iso rooms, and a tile room natural reverb chamber, out in the hill country — nobody comes around except some of Willie's guys. There's no receptionist, there's no office. It's on the golf course. I mean, what do you want? You can see the lake from the control room. Do I feel inspired? Yes I do. Do artists feel inspired knowing that Merle Haggard sung into that mic, or Willie used that to play guitar? Yes they do.

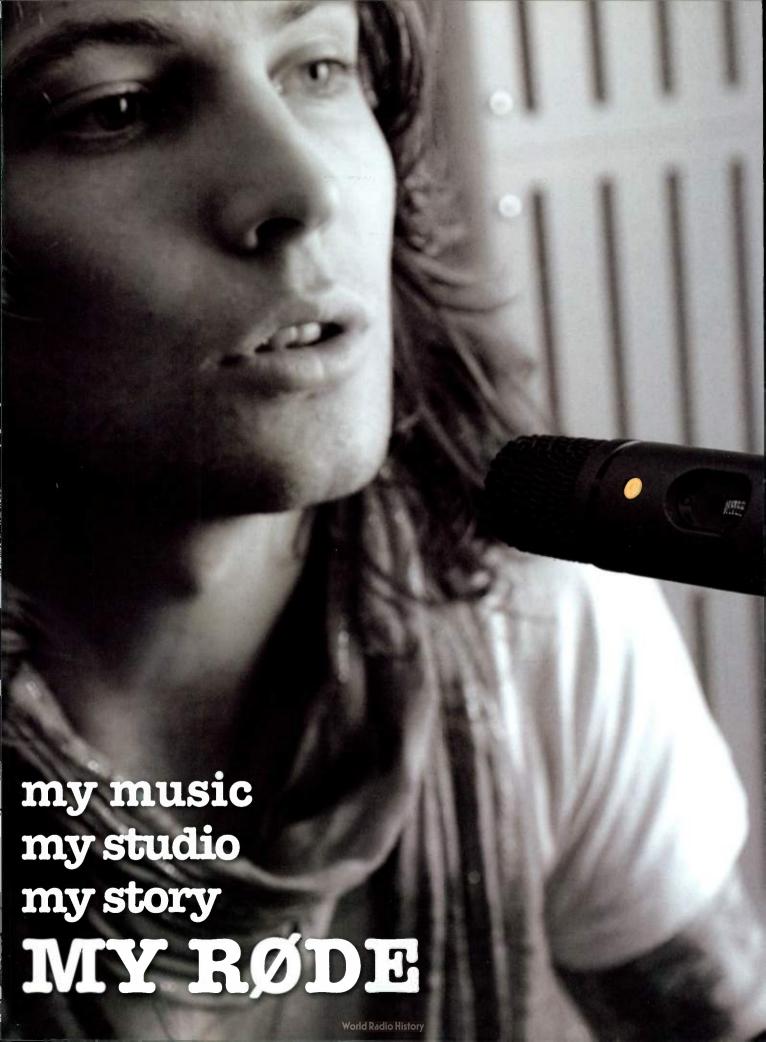
CM: Did starting over again remind you why you started doing this in the first place?

GJ: Absolutely. There was something liberating about throwing an amp in the car, driving to the club, throwing my stuff on stage, playing, and then changing into a dry shirt in the alley – no tour buses, no guitar tech, no dressing room, or stage manager. Don't get me wrong; I love having someone else tune my guitar, but every once in a while you gotta buck up and do a day's work.

CM: Do you think being from Canada, where the distances are so great, and the touring you've done, helped make the move to starting over easier to do?

GJ: I think that went a long way to my fearlessness as far as just getting on the plane and going. Texas has that kind of size and scope to it that's reminiscent of Alberta - lots of oil, land, and cattle. There's a cultural similarity north to south, more so than east to west. I think the thing that really prepared me for it was living in Toronto for so many years. There's an inferiority complex that doesn't need to be there - Canadian cities and music scenes can stand on their own. Maybe someday people will put up their hand and acknowledge it. Montreal's making a name for itself, Toronto's always had great music, but being from there, it's like you have to be noticed somewhere else for it to count. Going to Texas was like, 'If you're here you must be good. We'll put you on the radio.' We didn't even have a record, just a demo, and we were like, 'Well, we're gonna have to put a front on this record and shrink-wrap it so people can buy it.' It's a great way to get started. Whether you get national success, or just stay local, they still love you. I didn't go to Texas to make it big in the US. I was just looking for a place on the map - whether it was Canada or the US - that I could start over again. I've been going down to Austin for years, and if you're really good, all that attention will find you anyway. So, to go chasing after it, it's a little undignified in a way.





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Steve Pitrcco is a guitar player's unitar player, a master Telecaster picker. He possesses the gift - no matter what style of guitar player you are, you will be blown away by his musicality. by Levon Ichkhanian

Amongst his extensive touring, clinics, and recordings he has found the time to put out a new self-titled CD with guests — Don Helms on lap steel and a duet with his wife, vocalist Spike (Tracy McNaughton-Piticco) — and an instructional DVD entitled *Telecaster Master* (www3.sympatico.ca/spiticco/dvd), which is truly a masterpiece, filled with performances and in-depth looks and examples of banjo-like rolls, pedal steel quitar bends, and what Piticco does best — Telecaster chicken pickin'!

Piticco started playing guitar at age 11, at age 15 he purchased a Fender Telecaster, which is the same one he plays today.

Along the journey he has garnered many awards, including the

Canadian Country Music Association's 1990/91/92/93 "Guitar Player Of The Year" citation and the title of overall "Instrumentalist" in Canadian Country Music in 1985/90/91.

The Dutch Country Music Awards (DCMA) also honoured Piticco with five "Gram Awards" (named after Gram Parsons) for the "International Instrumentalist Award" in 1993/94 and 2001/02/03.

Piticco's band since 1989, South Mountain, has also received the honor of "International Group Of The Year" from the DCMA for the years 2001 and 2003!

South Mountain consists of Don Reed, fiddle; Kurk Bernard, bass guitar and vocals; Jay Riehl, drums and vocals; and Steve Piticco, lead guitar and vocals. The band travels extensively throughout Canada, Europe, and Scandinavia.

As I did this interview, South Mountain was gearing up for its 2007 Euro-Tour.

Canadian Musician: What inspired you to pick guitar for an instrument?

Steve Piticco: My dad played guitar and still does but never

played professionally. It seems that there were always guitars and a lot of players around on the weekends that were there to jam with my dad. The first time he put a guitar in my hand, I wanted to hold it left-handed and he took the guitar from me and turned it over so that I was holding it right-handed. I still am a right-handed guitar player, but I am left-handed when it comes to writing, eating, and drinking my tea.

CM: Who were your early influences?

SP: My earliest influences would be Chet Atkins, Jerry Reed, Roy Nichols, Mike Pepe Francis, Eddie Lequre, Frank Mussey, George Gill, Merle Travis, and Don Rich. These are some pickers that are famous and a few that are not so famous — but all are and were great influences for me and I learned more off of these players from just listening to their feels and styles of playing.

CM: Did you take lessons or are you self-taught?

SP: I think I had about three lessons from a guy that was a folk guitar player who gave my soon-to-be-friend, Mike Broughton, lessons. I noticed him walking every week down the street with a guitar so I asked him, "Where are you going with the guitar?" My friend Mike steered me to his church where he took lessons and I joined them for a couple of weeks or so. I would say that from listening and watching other styles of players and executing what I heard that I was self-taught. I used to be able to hear licks on the radio and play them. I have found throughout my career as a guitar player that "the best players are better listeners."

CM: What was the motivation behind the DVD?

SP: For 20 years, players have asked me if I had a DVD so that they could pick up some of my licks and they just wanted to figure out how I do a lot of things that I do on my Tele'. The DVD that I have done has no tab or notes, but it is full of info on what I do with five camera views so that you can at least see what I am doing from each angle. I do also try my best to slow some of the faster licks down so everyone can pick them out.

CM: How do you balance your music career with your personal life?

SP: My personal life consists of me, my wife Spike, and two cats: Elizabeth and Daisy. My musical career is so unpredictable that it takes a very special person like Spike to understand it. We have such a mutual love for each other and also a mutual understanding for each other. Spike has a salon called Foxy here in Belleville, ON that keeps her busy while I am on the road. When I am at home, like today, I am without Spike as she is working, but I at least know she will be home around 7 or 8 p.m. I also have a lovely daughter Callie (20) and son Bryce (23) who are on their own and working near Ottawa.

I think that balancing our professional and personal lives for me and Spike is pretty easy, as we are on the same wavelength. We both love Jesus and are totally forgiving of each other.

CM: Whose music are you listening to currently?

SP: I listen to country music, when I can find it on the radio. CHAM 820 The Legend is pretty cool as well as AM 740 or WSM 650 late at night. As far as listening on my own to music, it is usually music that I either have to learn to write Nashville number charts to or just the radio. The

odd time I will put on some Don Williams on the turntable, or Merle Haggard.

 \emph{CM} : Has anyone in the guitar world caught your ears recently that we should know about?

SP: There is a young fellow in Oshawa, ON named Randy Vouture who you will hear about eventually as he is building a great reputation, and he is a great picker. Randy is about 17 years young. I have known Randy since he was 14. There are other players in Canada here that are making noise in the country vein: Paul Chapman, Ivan from Johnny Reid's band, Derek Littlejohn, David Kalmuski, Rodney Alexander, Frank Young. All of these guys are class acts!

CM: Do you have a daily practice/playing routine?

SP: Actually, I do not practice much anymore as I keep myself too busy, which is a way of practice anyhow. Almost 100 per cent of what I have ever learned was learned on stage and while going through a set or a show

When I was a teenager and learning a lot, I never put the guitar down while I was awake. Every now and then I will pick up a flat-top and let out all that I have bundled up inside me. I should have a recorder going at that point.

CM: What's your advice for up-and-coming pickers?

SP: I think that anyone playing any instrument needs to listen first, understand, and play with feel, which can mean less is more or to just give'er all you've got, depending on who's turn it is in the band. I believe that when someone else is playing, that you can comp' to help the song feel as good as it can — and it can with playing nothing, as well, so it is a personal call. You can tell a great band that communicates by how tight it is and how the members work together. It is a gift to be able to work with guys and gals that all have the same goal in mind: "Make it sound like a song."

CM: What are your thoughts on the path that the music business is heading towards (downloading, indie CDs)?

SP: I kind of feel bad that South Mountain, the band I pick with, has not sent CDs to radio since 1996. We still produce a CD a year but just sell them at our live venues, which is OK for us, but I feel that there is a lot of music out there that the public needs to hear or be exposed to because of it being a special gift to someone who may need to hear it. The reason for not sending CDs to radio lately is that radio has changed from when we used to have top five releases in the early '90s. I do believe that there is so much great talent out there that doesn't know how to get music to the right people. I don't even have these answers, but I hope and pray that what needs to be heard, will be, by the right people. I play guitar because I honestly love it to pieces. I also have met a lot of people on my musical journey that I will never forget.



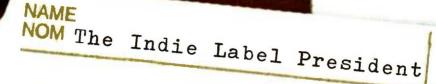
Levon Ichkhanian is a Toronto-based musician and freelance writer.
Check out www.levonmusic.com.

Steve Pitroco TELECASTER MASTER

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CANADIAN MUSICIAN • (49)



No



Name: Tim Potocic Title: President, Sonic Unyon Records File Under: Indie Rock Entrepreneur

Tim Potocic, and the rest of the members of the band Tristan Psionic, started Sonic Unyon Records in 1993, almost 15 years ago. The label was started while its founders were still in university and was responsible for signing many of the bands that led the vibrant indie rock explosion of the 1990s. The label has since grown into a well recognized and award-winning label with international distribution. Sonic Unyon has released albums for such bands and artists as Hayden, The Pixies, and Treble Charger.

Although Sonic Unyon has grown over the years, it is still very much an independent label, and as such it operates on a shoestring. According to Tim Potocic, the money he receives from licensing his artist's music is essential to the day-to-day operation of his label.

"Licensing assists in the all around marketing and developing of all Sonic Unyon/Goodfellow artists," he says. "Licensing plays a key role in building our artists brands and provides the always needed cash flow. It helps our bands to tour in support of their respective releases."

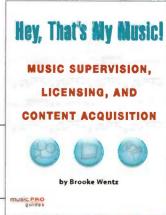
Every time a person finds him or herself unwillingly singing, "I'll Be There for You," the infectious theme song from the long-running sitcom Friends, they demonstrate the power of the tube in promoting an artist. Potocic says that the licensing deals he attracts for his artists are not only an effective way to promote his bands but are "absolutely necessary in building the story of a well-rounded act."

His belief in the importance of licensing deals is apparent by the enthusiasm in which he pursues them. In the month of April alone he obtained many placements for his bands, including: deals for Dirtmitts, who signed on to provide the theme song to CTV's Whistler, Tangiers who will be heard on the theme for MTV's Drive Thru; and Kittens, who will be featured on the highly-anticipated newest-installment of the

While Potocic has enjoyed success acquiring lucrative deals for the bands on his roster, he says that he owes his good fortune "to a combination of luck and hard work."

"I send out packages to a select list of contacts that I have developed over the last seven or eight years," he says. "Often these contacts pass along our music and contact information to others.

Hey, That's My Music! is published by Hal Leonard and is an excellent quide to the subject matter discussed here. The copyright information applies to the US, but Canadians will find the overall principles useful. Check out www.musicbooksplus.com or other online sources to obtain your copy.



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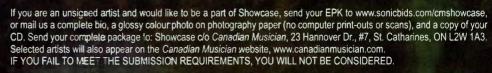
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ShowCase

by Karen Bliss





SOLIN MUNROE

Who: Colin Munroe
Where: Toronto
What: one man pop band
Contact: Marked Music, Andrew Kennedy,
akennedy@markedmusic.com,
416-669-6070,www.colinmunroe.com

After working behind the scenes, writing and producing for such R&B and hip hop artists as Glenn Lewis, Divine Brown, Saukrates, Ray Robinson, and Brassmunk, this 26-year-old Toronto-based musician is finally pursuing a solo recording career. Playing every instrument, his self-produced debut album, Don't Think Less Of Me, mixed by Mark Needham (The Killers, My Chemical Romance), is not what one would expect from a guy who has been an important peg in Canada's urban music community. His songs are pure pop with lyrics that are insightful and thoughtful, sometimes polar to the upbeat sound. From the incongruously chirpy "World of Pain" to the whoa-oh groove of "Will I Stay" to the more wistful and melancholy "Divine" and pounding pop of "One Draw (You Had Me)," it's not all smiles for Munroe lyrically. After volunteering at a hospice in Calcutta, India in 2004, he realized just how good the lifestyle is in the western world. "I saw a lot of that coming into the music, a frustration with the day-to-day lifestyle that can be so mind-numbing in its comfort, in its luxury, so life-sucking. And so there's a lot of frustration within a lot of the lyrics about that," he says.

DAN WANGAN

Who: Dan Mangan Where: Vancouver

What: folk - sung, sealed, and delivered Contact: Shannon Martin at File Under: Music, 604-628-5275, Shannon@file undermusic.com, www.myspace.com/danmangan

Mangan's debut album, Postcards & Daydreaming, features 12 self-penned songs, produced by Daniel Elmes at Dubvibe Productions and co-produced by Mangan and Simon Kelly. The first single is "Journal Of A Narcoleptic," which has received some love at CBC Radio 3, but "So Much For Everyone" is the cut with almost 16,000 plays on his MySpace page. The mournful song runs just under seven minutes and is so slowly delivered, one anticipates each line. The rough-voiced folk singer-songwriter has toured the UK twice and the US. He will soon try and get a foothold on his own territory after his 2007 North By Northeast showcase in Toronto impressed Canadian booking agent Julien Paguin at Paguin Entertainment. Mangan will tour in Australia in early October then across Canada in late October and November. Postcards & Daydreaming isn't his first recording. At 17, he released his first EP.





KIRAN

Who: Kiran

Where: Thornhill, ON What: so smooth

Contact: Lake City Entertainment Inc., 99 Bronte Rd., #150, Oakville, ON L6L 3B7, 416-697-0791, admin@lakecityent.com, www.kiran-funk.com

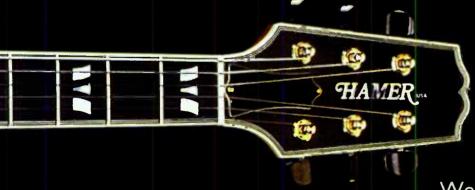
Adult-contemporary R&B/pop artist Kiran Singh was born in Ireland when his family left South Africa for a time. Moving back, they lived under Apartheid, learning to deal with the racist laws and segregation. At home, he was exposed to music by his parents and elder siblings, listening to everyone from Michael Jackson to George Benson and Nat King Cole. When Kiran was 10, the family immigrated to Canada to start a new life. Excitedly, he enrolled in piano lessons and for high school attended Cawthra Park Secondary for performing arts, where he learned to play acoustic guitar, bass, and percussion, in addition to composing his own songs. Not surprisingly, at the University of Toronto, he chose to study music, earning a Bachelor of Music in vocal jazz and a Bachelor of Education in music. It was while working at The Gap of all places that he met his eventual executive producer and co-writer, Mark Bronson. Along with producers Bryant Didier (also a co-writer), Larry Thompson (Neverending White Lights), and songwriter/producer Michael St. Clair (Jacksoul), they began creating what would become Kiran's selftitled debut album. It's a mellow recording, a lounge-y mix of R&B and piano-bar jazz, including "You Took A Bite," "Ready," and horn-inflected "You're The One For Me." More than two-dozen musicians guest on the tracks and help him realize his onceimpossible dream.



Karen Bliss is a Toronto-based music journalist, who operates her own Canadian music news column at www.jam.canoe.ca/Music/Lowdown and is the Canadian correspondent for RollingStone.com. She has also published an anti-racism children's picture book, The Girl with Pinhead Parents, available at warchild.ca.

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