

**BIG COUNTRY AWARDS
SPECIAL ISSUE**

REPM

Volume 63 No. 15 - May 27, 1996
\$3.00 (S2.80 plus .20 GST)
Mail Registration No. 1351

PAUL BRANDT

calm before the storm

Edmonton's Stony Plain celebrates 20th anniversary

Holger Petersen and Stony Plain Records, the label he launched in Edmonton 20 years ago have weathered the ups and downs of surviving in an industry where the norm doesn't exist.

Petersen has been described as "a rarity, an

artistic business person." He certainly is rare, and obviously, it's his creative business outlook that has enabled him to walk tall among his peers and gain the respect of the multi-nationals at the same time.

Although based in Edmonton, which some

might consider "out of the way, Petersen's label has tasted success domestically and internationally with Canadian and international acts. He credits MIDEM as contributing to some of that success. "I've been visiting MIDEM in Cannes for 18 years, and I've been able to introduce the Canadian music we release

CARAS box set raises more than 2 million for charity

Oh What A Feeling, the four CD boxed set released by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) this past January in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Juno Awards has raised more than \$2 million for a trio of charitable organizations.

Some 250,000 copies of the set have been sold since the January 24th release date, totalling approximately one million individual discs sold in just 75 days. According to CARAS, this makes the Oh What A Feeling set the fastest selling release to be certified at the million selling diamond plateau.

The principal beneficiaries of the proceeds from the set are The Starlight Foundation, which grants wishes to terminally ill children; Safehaven, which is focussed on the care and development of handicapped children; and the CARAS Music Education Program, which will allocate funding to music education projects.

According to CARAS president Lee Silversides, "The success of the Oh What A Feeling music box far exceeded our most optimistic projections. To sell a quarter of a million boxes in

seventy-five days is beyond comprehension. Thanks are due every component of our industry who so graciously contributed their resources and expertise and, of course, the fans who purchased this great collection of Canadian music."

Some controversy had developed over the boxed set in recent weeks, owing to the fact that one publishing company had tabled an agreement with CARAS stipulating that they would receive a reduced royalty for sales exceeding the 50,000 mark (the original goal of CARAS). However, other artists and publishers, who hadn't signed a similar agreement, had expressed concern over the dispensation of any royalties above and beyond the 50,000 mark.

According to CARAS, for all sales exceeding 50,000 boxes, a reduced royalty was legally owed one publishing company on the balance. But according to a legal clause known as 'most favoured nations', since one publisher is entitled to such a royalty, this royalty must be made available to all other artists, songwriters, publishers and record companies who made their songs available for the

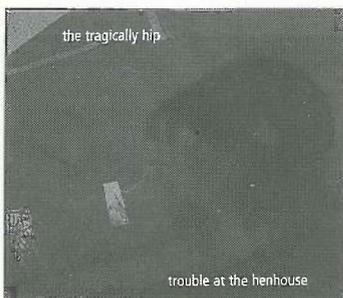
set.

Following a meeting of the CARAS board, it was announced that, "in honouring the 'most favoured nations' clause, all artists and songwriters, along with their publishing companies and record companies, will be presented with the option of taking receipt of the royalty owing or to waiving entitlement and redirecting those royalties back to The Starlight Foundation and Safehaven."

Following on this decision, Silversides noted, "It has been most encouraging to note that most of the major record companies have indicated that they would be prepared to waive their entitlement to any proceeds. This is particularly gratifying at a time when government cutbacks have eroded the base of support for so many charities."

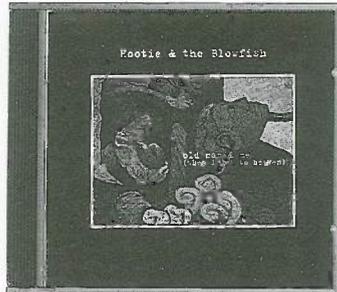
The eventual dispersal of the charitable proceeds is the final act in the CARAS 25th anniversary celebration which also included a commemorative historical booklet (also entitled Oh What A Feeling), a week-long radio documentary which aired the week preceding the Junos on the CHUM radio network, the first-ever Hall of Fame gala, and the 25th Junos, which attracted a record 2.3 million television viewers.

NO. 1 ALBUM



THE TRAGICALLY HIP
 Trouble At The Hen House
 MCA - MCSSD - 81011-J

NO. 1 HIT



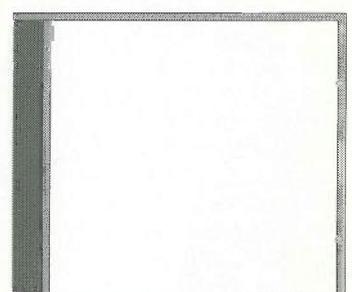
OLD MAN & ME
 Hootie & The Blowfish
 Atlantic

ALBUM PICK



SCORPIONS
 Pure Instinct
 East West - 14524-P

HIT PICK



UNTIL IT SLEEPS
 Metallica
 Elektra

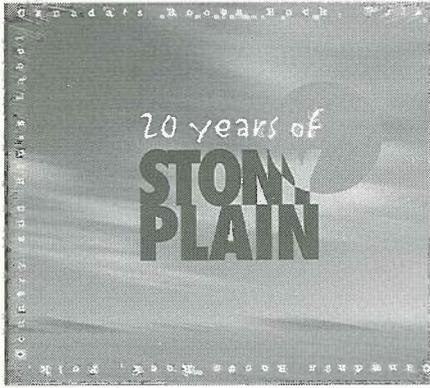
PLUTO

ALBUM IN STORES JUNE 25TH



to companies all over the world.”

Those connections have resulted in blues singers Rita Chiarella and Long John Baldry touring Europe frequently. As well, guitarist Amos Garrett is preparing to leave for his annual major tour of France and he has also toured Japan twice. Ian Tyson had a resurgence in the industry when he signed with Stony Plain, resulting in several successful album releases, including the platinum-selling Cowboyography, all of which are distributed in the



US by Vanguard. Fellow country artists South Mountain and Gary Fjellgaard are distributed in Europe and a UK company imports most releases from the label. In total, Petersen's label works with more than a dozen different distributors in various international territories.

Stony Plain has also been recognized by the Canadian music industry. Last year the label won Canadian Country Music Association and Big Country awards as independent company of the year, all by a company with a lean staff of only five employees.

Over the 20 years, Stony Plain has released 230 albums. In recognition of its 20th anniversary, a double CD set titled 20 Years of Stony Plain, has been released featuring a 40-song lineup of exceptional nostalgia that leaves no doubt that Stony Plain is Canada's primary roots rock, folk, country and blues label. Included are three tracks produced by Petersen before he started the label. Also featured are tracks by Tyson (with Suzy Bogguss), Jesse Winchester, Sylvia Tyson, Spirit of the West and Tom Russell, an unissued track by Rita Chiarelli with Prairie Oyster and Russell DeCarle, an unreleased duet with Amos Garrett and Maria Muldaur, Steve Earl's Mystery Train Part II, Tom Russell together with Ian Tyson on their co-written

classic hit Navajo Rug, Doug Sahn and the Formerly Brothers singing a Hank Williams song and tracks from Cindy Church, Gary Fjellgaard, Jr. Gone Wild, Bobby Charles, Grievous Angels and Jo-el Sonnier.

There are two previously unreleased tracks from Long John Baldry, Lowell Fulson, Johnny Shines, Professor Longhair and Duke Robillard, not to mention tracks by Downchild, Crowbar, King Biscuit Boy, Dutch Mason and Jim Byrnes along with tracks by the Holmes Brothers, Jimmy Witherspoon and Walter Horton.

Interesting enough, 20 of the tracks on the one CD covers the country and folk spectrum, while the other 20 covers the label's extensive blues catalogue. However, it's pointed out that as always with Stony Plain, "there's a raft of cross-genre material on both

records.”

As well as running a label, Petersen keeps the blues alive on radio through his CBC Radio show Saturday Night Blues, now going into its 10th season. As well, he has been host of Natch'l Blues on Alberta's CKUA network for 26 years, resulting in some treasured interviews with top name bluespeople. It's rumoured that most of them have autographed many of the 25,000 albums in Petersen's growing-by-the-day record collection.



Obituary

Cancer takes the life of young singer/songwriter

Eria Fachin struck down in prime of career

Well-known Canadian singer/songwriter Eria Fachin passed away on May 9 in Oakville, Ontario after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was 36 years of age.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Ms. Fachin had accomplished much in her too short career, including performing on numerous jingles, on movie soundtracks as well as appearing on several

syndicated television shows.

Ms. Fachin also achieved international recognition through the 1988 release of My Name Is Eria Fachin, her debut album. Savin' Myself, taken as a single became an international dance club hit in both the UK and US and gained chart action on US trades. She also experienced much success with the release of Your Love Just Came Too Late and the single/video release of I Hear A Symphony. All three of her singles gained chart action on the RPM 100. Savin' Myself was her biggest hit, climbing to the #22 position on July 2, 1988.

In promoting her album and singles and video, Ms. Fachin mounted a hectic performance schedule that took her to clubs and concert venues across both Canada and the US. The entertainment business was her life. She prided herself in entertaining others and often gave freely of herself in helping the less fortunate through fund-raising charity events, even during the initial stages of her own illness.

Although her career in the entertainment business was a priority, she became a devoted wife to guitarist/songwriting partner Louis Bartolomucci and a loving mother to Emma, their five-year old daughter. She is also survived by her mother and father and sisters Vivian and brother Lou.

Funeral services were held in Stoney Creek on May 13. As expressions of sympathy and gestures of support, donations to the Eria Fachin Fund would be gratefully appreciated c/o Vivian Fachin, Treasurer, Suite 32, 2272 Mowat Avenue, Oakville, Ontario L6H 5L8.



THE RECORD

ALBUM ROCK TRACKS >> 057*-39*
MODERN ROCK TRACKS >> 033*-32*

MUCHMUSIC

MEDIUM ROTATION

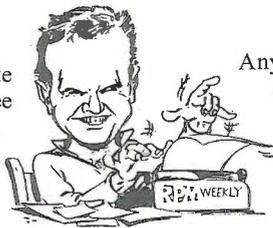
BDS CANADA

ALBUM ROCK TRACKS >> 049*-44*
MODERN ROCK TRACKS >> 038*-34*

PASTE

MONTREAL CHOM	TORONTO CFNY	WINNIPEG CITI-FM	EDMONTON POWER 92	VANCOUVER CFOX	OTTAWA THE BEAR	TORONTO Q-107	KAMLOOPS CIFM	KELOWNA THE LIZARD	ST. CATHARINES HTZ-FM
PETERBOROUGH THE WOLF	LONDON FM96	SUBURBY Q-92	LETHBRIDGE CKRX	PRINCE GEORGE CIRX	THUNDER BAY 94-FM	LONDON THE HAWK	BARRIE ROCK 95	PENTICTON CJMG	SAINT JOHN C-98

WALT SAYS . . . !



with Elvira Caprese

Ying and Yang!!! The late, very late Lord Brougham was quoted as saying "See Cannes and die," which he did. Cannes, of course, is where MIDEM has been held for the past 30 years. Nice town, but not that great where I would want to die. Well, the MIDEM people have now invaded the Pacific Rim countries with MIDEM Asia. This was the second year of the conference which was held in Hong Kong. Now, if Lord Brougham had seen Hong Kong, he wouldn't be too interested in dying. The place is a mad house of excitement. And, despite the crowds and the different culture, there never seems to be any threat of danger on the streets. Cutting off a journalists arm, of course, was just an isolated case, and a shoot-em-up clash between the Triad Gang and the police was also an isolated case. Taking a side trip into China was an experience and again, a bit of a culture shock. The Chinese aren't too interested in outside tourists. They've got a couple billion of their own. So one has to hurry up and wait, and hurry up some more and wait again. That's just getting across the border. Don't get there around lunchtime. They leave you waiting while they have lunch. But experiencing rural China is something else. Needless to say I met the real Ying and Yang, but, fortunately, no fricks nor fracks. The only problem with MIDEM Asia, is getting there. Unfortunately, you can't drive there. Sitting on an airplane for 18 hours gets a little numbing. (EC: *Do we need a travelogue on China???*)

The industry will survive!!! Guess what a lot of the talk among the Canadian delegates at MIDEM Asia was about? I hear the same thing was going on back home. Some noses were out of joint, and rightly so. But, thanks to a third and very concerned party who put a lid on the whole thing with a logical and very sound approach, this pause in the evolution of the industry just might be settled amicably, to pass on quietly. It certainly gave us a lesson on what can be done through the generous offerings of the creators in this industry. (EC: *It could have gotten very dirty!!!*)

An interesting quote!!! TB says "There's one thing worse than being talked about and that's not being talked about." (EC: *The price of fame!!!*)

What's up yer ass, doc??? A Canadian independent got rapped on the knuckles for taking liberty with a worldwide recognizable logo. In fact, there could be a legal action against them. Press releases, just like letters that tend to be a little on the edge, should be kept overnight and read again. I'll wager, most of them wouldn't be sent out.

Anyway, this young, maybe not too mature company, has ripped a piece off the cartoon people in a press release. Being in the business of working with copyrights, they should realize that a lot of time and effort, not to mention money, is spent in protecting copyrights and logos and if the door was left open allowing any infringement, they could lose that valuable piece of property. (EC: *Have they heard of lawyers???*)

The coolest Canuck tracks!!! Now, here's a music director who's going that extra mile. Matt Franklin hosts Canadian X-Ports, an hour-long weekend special, on Windsor's 89X (CIMX). He introduces Canadian and American listeners in Ontario, Michigan and Ohio to what he calls "the coolest Canuck tracks," that fit the 89X format. He's hoping to discover the next Canadian "new rock super-artist." If you've got a Canadian act that will fit the 89X format, send the CD down to him or give him a call at 519-258-8888. (EC: *That's cool!!!*)

Frank Sinatra's buddies??? Did you know that Frank Sinatra has never appeared in Toronto without having a meal cooked by Celestino (Posteraro). He also caters Frank and Barbara Sinatra's parties, golf tournaments and charitable functions down in the US, and he's a hit with Julio Iglesias. Well, that's a pretty good endorsement for Celestino's Toronto restaurant, which carries the name of Favoloso Ristorante & Bar. The short of it is that Sinatra introduced Celestino to Frankie Randall, who you all must know is an internationally-acclaimed pianist/singer. So now, we'll have a chance to sample both Celestino's cooking (EC: *I hope he knows how to cook up a negroni!!!*) and Randall's keyboard and vocal work at an opening night cocktail party, introducing a switch in the entertainment policy at the restaurant. (EC: *Another opening???* *It must be true what they say about you and openings!!!*)

He wants out!!! When you have a unique talent, unique being that your mother thinks you're the cat's ass and you can attract a gaggle of close friends/fans, and if you can talk a major label into signing you, man you've got a silver horsehoe up that cat's ass. Being a unique talent, sometimes it takes a bit longer than usual to convince the masses, meaning enough of the buying public that they like your talent so much they'll buy a CD. Like the Chinese say, "patience is virtue," something I learned on my recent trip to China, where waiting becomes second nature. Better still, as they say in North America, "don't push your luck." At least you have a foot in the door. (EC: *You've lost me completely!!!*)

A tribute to Domenic Troiano!!! The Famous People Players and Consumers Gas are holding a tribute dinner and performance evening on June 21 for industry veteran Domenic Troiano. It's going to be a great night at the Famous Peoples Players Theatre Centre in the west end of Toronto. Danny B and the Rhythm and Blues All Star Band featuring Doug Riley, will be supplying the entertainment. Who in the industry doesn't know

Domenic? He's been pickin' and writin' for more than 30 years and just this year at the Junos was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. Give Diane Dupuy a call at 416-532-1137 for more ticket information. (EC: *Has it really been 30 years???*)

What do you do??? It must be frustrating and very disappointing to be sold a bill of goods about a label and after signing, finding out there has been a major shift in priorities, meaning you're just another number. What do you do? You walk, of course, if you can. But where do you go now that you've burned the bridge behind you? (EC: *That sounds like a serious problem!!!*)

There's that rumour again!!! As a couple of radio stations in a major market discover a big yawn over their format change, there's a giant lurking in the background who has discovered that by going into the street themselves they get a REAL spin on what listeners want. Well, they weren't too happy to say the least. The REAL spin was country. Can you believe it. Now, it's going to be a real cliff-hanger. Do they go Triple A, like our friend down Windsor way, or do they go country? (EC: *Now that's a real serious problem, wouldn't you say???*)

RPM

published weekly since
February 24th, 1964, by
RPM Music Publications LTD.
6 Brentcliffe Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4G 3Y2

416-425-0257 FAX : 416-425-8629

Walt Grealis, O.C.

Publisher

Sean LaRose

Editor-in-Chief/Production Manager

Ron Rogers

News Editor

Rod Gudino

Alternative & Chart Editor

Stan Klees

Movies, Theatre, Books

& Photo Spread Editor

Bill Watt

Classical & Jazz

MAPL Cancon

The MAPL logo was created by Stan Klees for RPM in 1970 and is used extensively by Canadian record companies to identify the quantity of Cancon on label copy.



M - Music was composed by a Canadian
A - Artist who is featured is a Canadian citizen
P - Production was wholly recorded in Canada
L - Lyrics were written by a Canadian

Advertising rates supplied upon request.

Second class postage paid in Toronto.

Publications Mail Registration No. 1351

Printed by Hayes Printing Services

Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 3G4

PRINTED IN CANADA

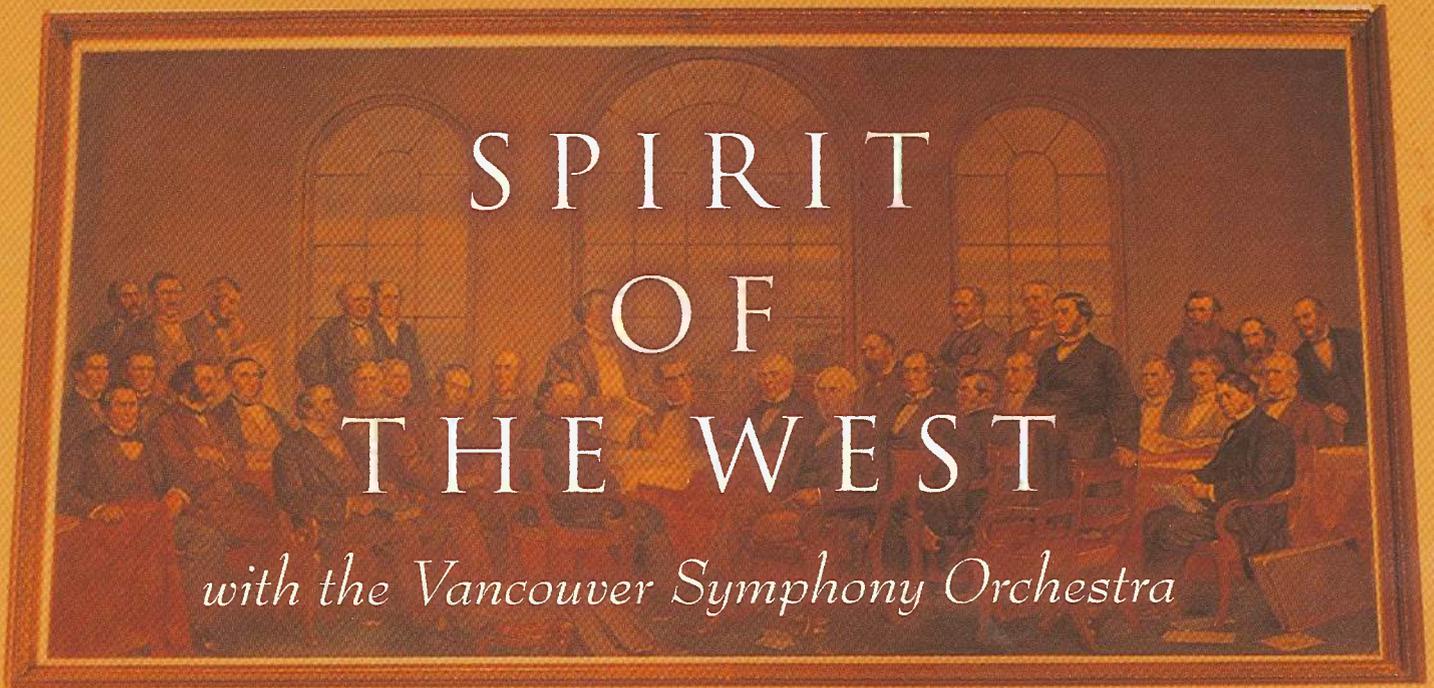
*From a very special performance
with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra*



Street date — May 21ST

First single — Williamson's Garage

Broadcast Nationally on *Bravo!* June 8TH



SPIRIT OF THE WEST

with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Open Heart Symphony

*"A very exciting
collaboration."*

*Peter Gzowski
CBC Morningside*

"A fabulous record!"

*Larry LeBlanc
Billboard Magazine*

BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

**RPM
BIG
COUNTRY
AWARD**

HONOURING
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE
CANADIAN
COUNTRY MUSIC
INDUSTRY

And the Nominees are...



1996 **BIG COUNTRY AWARDS**

host
Carroll Baker

Carroll Baker, affectionately known by her fans and the industry alike as the matriarch of Canadian Country Music, once again hosts the Big Country Awards show.

Born in Hank Snow country down in Nova Scotia, Baker won her first Big Country Award in 1975 as the top country female vocalist. She went on to win in the same category for the next four years, winning again in 1980, 1981 and 1987, a record that has yet to be equalled.

At the suggestion of Big Country founders Stan Klees and Walt Grealis that Baker would "steal the show", CBC producers scheduled her to perform on the 1976 Juno show. She did indeed, "steal the show," which led to a CBC-TV special the following year, followed by another CBC-TV special in Nashville at the Grand Ole Opry. This was the first time a Canadian network had ever taped a special in Nashville with a Canadian country recording artist.

As Baker recalls, "It seemed like I went from nowhere to everywhere. I had a lot of firsts in my career, and I think that's what helped me to last so long."

Over the years, Baker has had several chart-topping releases and she pays tribute to her producer/manager Don Grashey. "It was tough being a country artist in Canada in those early days. Don was a real friend and very comforting to me. It seemed like it was all rock 'n roll back then. But I am thankful for the support I did get from country radio."

One of Baker's greatest achievements was her gospel album that went double platinum (200,000 units), another first for her.

Baker's legion of fans continue as the stabilizing factor in her still somewhat hectic career. "There's one thing about growing old in this business and that's the friendships that continue to grow stronger each year. My fans are my friends, and this has always been important to me."



BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

**Sunday
May 26th, 1996
Toronto Colony Hotel**

7 pm

RECEPTION

Colony Grande Ballroom

8 pm

AWARDS DINNER

Country Spring Vegetable Soup
Traditional Caesar Salad

Roast Top Sirloin of Beef
Cabernet Sauvignon Jus
Chef's Selection of Vegetables

Roasted Baby Potatoes

Tiramisu with Cappuccino Sauce
Coffee, Tea

Wines

La Cour Pavillon, Blanc
La Cour Pavillon, Rouge

9:15 pm

AWARDS PRESENTATION

**Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors
for their support**

*Timmins native anxious to get back into studio***Shania Twain not pressured with incredible success**

by Sean LaRose

While in transit on her way back from the World Music Awards in Monte Carlo, Canadian country sensation Shania Twain took time out of her busy schedule to call RPM and chat about her plans for the near future. Although Twain is anxious to work full time on her follow-up to *The Woman In Me*,



status in Canada and has sold in excess of 6 million copies collectively worldwide. Twain and her second Mercury release have set new sales records but she doesn't concern herself too much with that end of the business. "People tell me that I'm the first woman to do this or that I'm the first woman to do that. It's all very flattering and along the way it has been really really great. There have been so many

rewards that at the beginning I wasn't expecting or even aware that they could happen. There have been a lot of surprises along the way. Everyone has been very generous."

Although the writing of new material is underway for the forthcoming release, Twain asserts her hectic schedule, travelling and time spent away from her husband (co-writer and producer Robert John "Mutt" Lange) has slowed the process down considerably. But she feels that when she gets back home it won't take long to get it together. "We do everything ourselves. So we work in stages. It's kind of an evolving process. Some artists just go in to the studio, lay down a vocal track and that's it. I have a hand in every aspect of the record. I basically have to block off time with Mutt. I can't go on the road for a couple of months, go in the studio record a few tracks and then go back on the road again."

With the obvious success Twain has reached with *The Woman In Me* both at

retail and on the airwaves, one might think the pressures of putting out a follow-up that will stand up to the previous release would be agonizing. Twain confidently explains "Not necessarily a pressure. I think the album after this one will be the most difficult one. That will be a real challenge -- a test of longevity. I think the one that we are working on right now we'll fair okay. Mutt and I have come such a long way as partners and in our relationship as co-writers that we have a lot more to give. I'm actually more excited about this album than afraid. I don't have any real anxieties right now."

In addition to her strengthened confidence in the combined talents of herself and her husband, Twain also takes other variables into account when discussing an equally or even more successful follow-up.

"Right now, most of my record sales are in North America. That may only be half of my record buying audience if you consider the rest of the world out there. I'm just starting right now to tap into the international marketplace. With international recognition, it's bound to be more successful at that end. I haven't reached the point of success that I want to reach yet and I'm hoping the next album will take me there."

Twain hopes the achievements and milestones she has accomplished in the past year won't go unnoticed and that inspiring young artists (not necessarily recording) can see that it is possible to break down that border and become internationally known. "I hope I've instilled a new sense of confidence in a lot of people as artists, not necessarily female. The borders are not as dividing as people may grow up believing. Not in regards to the arts anyway. Culturally we exchange the arts, not worrying about borders. I hope that's what may success has demonstrated."

When asked if she or her team had contemplated a cross-over release, Twain replied, "I think I've already crossed-over. You can't sell this many albums to one genre. Those kind of numbers reflect that you're reaching a few genres. I know I have fans out there who listen to pop or rock stations, but still buy my record. I always perceived pop music as popular music, and my music seems to be popular."

There is no scientific formula to determine how Twain and *The Woman In Me* became so successful. She proudly admits that she started singing in a small northern town in Ontario, and affirms her parents' supportive role in encouraging her career and recalls, perhaps not too fondly, singing in local country bars. Twain ponders "I am tremendously lucky. It could have been a matter of timing or just giving the public what they wanted. I can't tell you why or how it happened but I can tell you that my head is spinning and I'm looking forward to another great year."

With success comes the unfortunate position of being at the media's whims, since Twain began gaining international attention the media have been having a hay-day, questioning her talent, her heritage, her wardrobe, her timely marriage to a world famous record producer and her style of music. Twain explains the media hype doesn't really bother her "I expected that kind of thing. It affect me in a very indirect way -- let me put it that way. I take it with a grain of salt. I'm kinda two people, myself and Shania Twain, I see my self as a performer and as an every day person."

"I don't feel their picking on the person their picking on a celebrity. That's the difference. I think as long as you maintain your own sense of morality and your own sense of reality then you're fine."

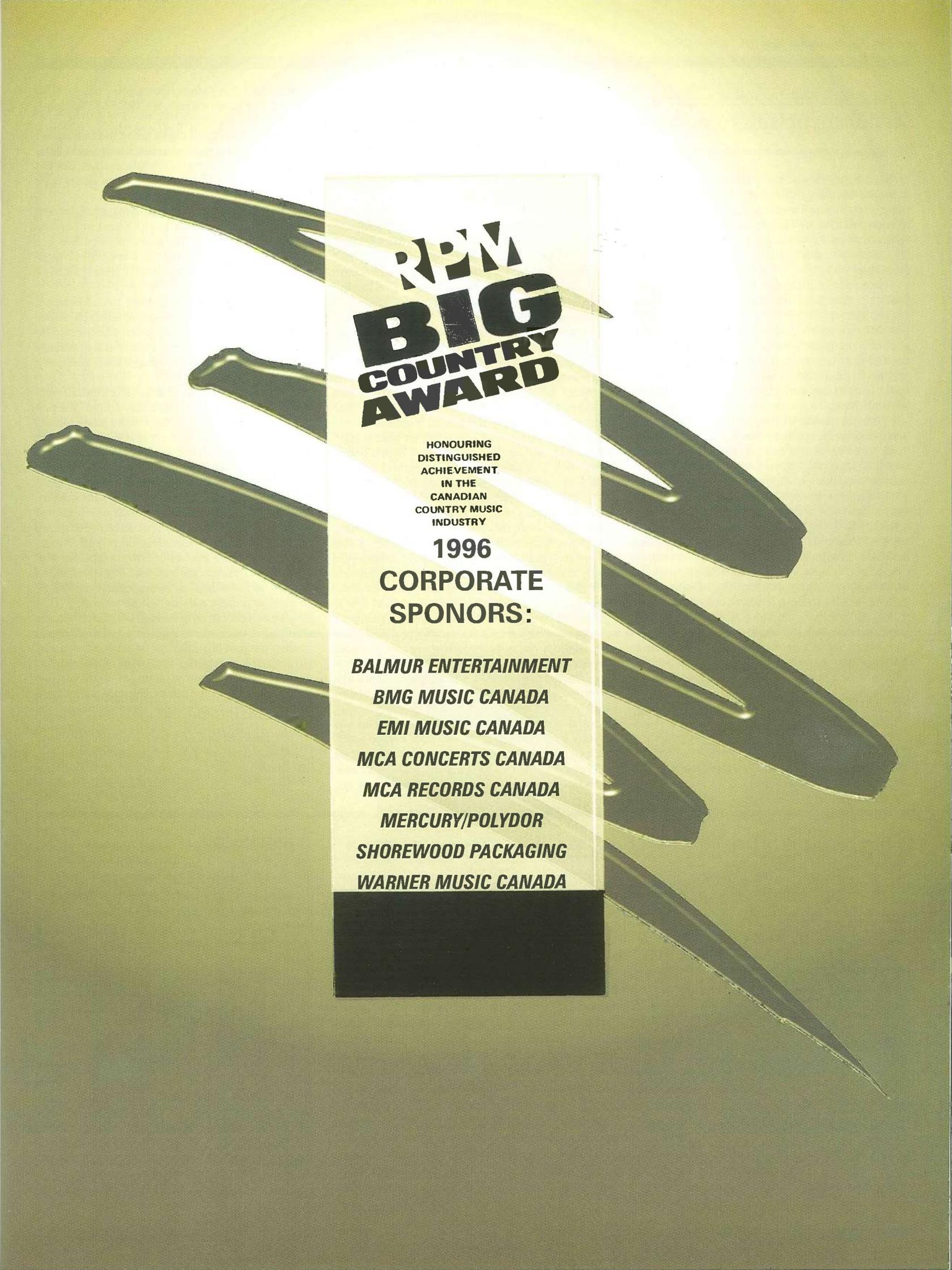
Shania, who couldn't attend the Big Country Awards this year because of prior engagements, expressed her deepest apologies about missing the show. "I really wish I could be there. It would be a nice anniversary marker as it was this time last year when I won the outstanding new artist award. That was my very first award, which would make it that much more special to be there, but also a bigger loss for me not to attend. It was really the beginning of what turned out to be a very rewarding year for me. Please say hello to everyone."

Twain is planning on touring when her follow-up album is released some time next year.

which has spawned numerous top ten singles and has spent a good deal of time atop the charts both domestically and in the U.S., she admits that her head is still spinning from the popularity and attention it has garnered in what seems like one short year.

When asked if she had as high expectations for *The Woman In Me* in comparison to the level of success it has already achieved in North America, Twain explains "I had high expectations but I didn't have a set number in my head of how many albums I thought it would sell. As an artist I guess I was more concerned with acceptance in general and not really thinking on a statistic level. As time goes by I have become more aware of the number side of things."

The *Woman In Me* has surpassed diamond

A large, stylized graphic of a hand holding a guitar pick is the background of the entire page. The hand is rendered in a dark, almost black color, with the fingers spread out. The guitar pick is held between the thumb and index finger, and it is also dark. The background is a light, yellowish-green color with a subtle gradient.

**RPM
BIG
COUNTRY
AWARD**

HONOURING
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE
CANADIAN
COUNTRY MUSIC
INDUSTRY

1996

**CORPORATE
SPONSORS:**

BALMUR ENTERTAINMENT

BMG MUSIC CANADA

EMI MUSIC CANADA

MCA CONCERTS CANADA

MCA RECORDS CANADA

MERCURY/POLYDOR

SHOREWOOD PACKAGING

WARNER MUSIC CANADA

Does country music sell in Canada?

Retail surprisingly sluggish for the country genre

by Ron Rogers

From a cursory viewpoint, country music in Canada seems to be doing extremely well from a retail standpoint. Shania Twain has reached sales of more than one million in Canada, while artists such as Reba McEntire, Vince Gill and Garth Brooks consistently reach multi-platinum sales in this country as well.

But what of the artists the average pop music fan doesn't know about? What of artists like Charlie Major, Patricia Conroy, George Fox or Michelle Wright? Are they consistently reaching gold and platinum status as many of their pop peers might? Or has the country music phenomenon already reached its peak, and is now on the slow, downward spiral, back to the comfortable niche it occupied for so many years.

Ask the people at the majors and they'll tell you that Canadian country music is doing just fine, thank you very much. But talk to the retailers, the people that actually move the product, and they'll tell you something of a different story.

As an example, look at an artist such as Charlie Major. The Ottawa Valley native's first major label release, *The Other Side*, was about as successful as any first-time country album could be, at Canadian RADIO! The album spawned six, count 'em six, #1 singles, surely some kind of record for a first album in Canadian country circles. Yet, despite such incredible radio success, it wasn't until shortly after that sixth number one song that Major finally surpassed platinum in Canada.

Major wasn't necessarily an isolated case. Patricia Conroy has had numerous top ten singles off her latest album, *You Can't Resist* (including a couple of #1's), yet she too has struggled to get to gold (50,000 units shipped) in Canada. Michelle Wright had reached double platinum with her highly successful *Now & Then* album (featuring *Take It Like A Man*, her biggest hit), but her last album, *The Reasons Why*, still hasn't reached platinum after more than a year.

The record clubs have certainly aided the sale of country records, but it's worth remembering that albums sold via the clubs don't generate nearly as much income for the artists (and labels) as those sold at retail.

Tim Baker, the head buyer at Sunrise Records, feels that the big country music wave that hit about five or six years ago has subsided significantly, and the sales of domestic artists have suffered because of it. He also feels that the decided lack of touring by many Canadian country acts has been very detrimental to their sales.

"It's certainly not what it was a couple of years ago, with the big explosion of Billy Ray Cyrus and everything else. A long time ago when this was all happening, I was really worried I'd wake up one morning and find I was in *Urban Cowboy*, *The Sequel*. And then I discovered that I was. But country music is now at the level it should be, it's never again going to be at the level it was, at least for another ten years, until you start hitting a new generation. Everything goes in cycles, and now I'm really worried that the latin thing will follow suit.

"People like Reba (McEntire) are superstar acts, and it doesn't matter whether they're country, pop, rock or latin, they will stay in my top 50 for a long time. But for most country artists, there's still a long road to hoe because the live thing has never really taken off, certainly at the club level. There's a shortage of venues for country acts to play, Canadian acts in particular. Look how hard it is to get artists like Charlie Major or *Prairie Oyster* to the status of their American counterparts, look how much money has to be poured in to get them to gold or platinum."

Baker says that in terms of newer artists like Jason McCoy or Lannie Wallace, "I'll be honest with you, we really haven't had any success with them at all in southern Ontario. We still do our regular advertising on CHAM (Hamilton's country outlet), we promote country to the same degree we did before. But I don't know, is it necessary to blame someone for it not happening, or is it just not

happening? I don't know what's going on. And I'm sure they're being played on CISS-FM (Toronto), but does that sell records, no."

"The whole thing is just going through a lull I think. It's settling in to where it belongs right now, which is a decent percentage of the market. But it's not where it was a few years ago, when all the hype was on."

Bob Zimmerman, general manager of the new Tower Records outlet on Yonge Street in Toronto says that country in his store is very much a specialized zone, and that even some of the bigger names have been moving out of the store at a snail's pace.

"Typically at a Tower store in a downtown location, we sell a decent amount of artists like Mary Chapin Carpenter, k.d. lang when she used to be country, Lyle Lovett - those type of fringe country artists. But we're not even seeing a lot of that going on."

Zimmerman notes that artists like Shania Twain and Brooks do well "because they sell off the pop floor, but even that Garth, the *Fresh Horses* album, that really stiffed for us. I don't know what it was but with the Garth we took a real nosedive. The Shania we continue to do really well with, but that's almost beyond a country album at this point."

Judging from many in the retail side, country would seem to have settled in to the zone it occupied 10 years ago, when it was essentially a specialized field of music, much like classical or jazz. Artists like Shania, Garth Brooks or Dwight Yoakam will always sell well. But the vast majority of Canadian country acts continue to struggle, as they did 10 years ago, to make a living selling records.

Jason Sniderman or Roblan Distributors is one retailer, however, who doesn't buy into the idea that country has past its peak, or is on a downward slide. He feels it's simply the conditions of the market, and that country, like other forms of music, has just hit a low point in the cycle. He thinks that cycle could easily peak again two or three years down the road.

"Compared to where they were ten years ago, I think Canadian country artists are selling alright. The inroads country music has made in both cycles

1996 BIG COUNTRY ALBUM NOMINEES

Here's a sampling of what RPM's writers thought of the six albums nominated for album of the year when they were first released.



SHANIA TWAIN
The Woman In Me
Mercury-314 522 886-Q

This Timmins native has already made a few waves in the US with her debut album, but with this sophomore release, she's ready to tackle the Nashville giant head-on. Twain definitely has all the key parts in place, and with the strong support of PolyGram, she should be on her way. Twain has always had a strong voice for country, but what makes her distinctive is her songwriting ability, something that wasn't in evidence on her first record. Twain has a good ear for a hook, and mixed in with the subtle touches of her co-writer/producer/husband Mutt

Lange, the result is a core of strong country tracks that will fit right in to most stations' new country format. Twain has everything it takes to make it in the tremendously crowded new country field - the question is, will PolyGram help her get that far?

-RR

JASON MCCOY
Self-Titled
MCA-11290-J

It seems as if this Minesing, Ontario native has been around for a dog's age. In fact, he began his professional recording career at age 16 and now, five years later, is catching on like a



grassfire. His star began to sparkle with the release of his first three independent singles, included here. But now that he has signed with

of popularity have made a lasting impression. I don't think we could have Paul Brandt unless we had

George Fox first. I don't think you could have had George Fox unless you first had the Urban Cowboy thing. Sure, there's a lot of country artists that come out and don't sell, but per capita, there's just as many

in pop or rap or rock that don't sell. But if you look at the charts, Paul Brandt is at the top, and I just don't think that would be possible without the inroads that were made ten years ago."

New Country is Now Country

by Rod Gudino

New country. It's a term that has given some of the purists to stuttering at the mere mention. But one can't argue with the figures and the figures are nothing short of phenomenal. Take the New Country Network (NCN), for instance. Launched a mere eighteen months ago, NCN is sitting on four and a half million viewers weekly, making it one of the top specialty channels of its kind and the nation's top video programming station. Doug Pringle, NCN's Director of Programming (RAWLCO) echoes the words of stunned programmers: "Nobody expected [NCN] to become Canada's number one music channel outranking MuchMusic," he says.

More to the point, Pringle insists that the single reason for the station's overwhelming success is its namesake. "It is entirely due to new country," he says. "New country is completely different from old country. It's as different from old country as rock is to adult contemporary. Really this whole country boom is being driven by the new acts."

So what is behind the phenomenon known as new country? It is certainly distinct from the traditional country music that dominated the title for so long and arguably kept it in Nashville. There are a few theories.

"It's a combination of a lot of factors," offers

Jason Mann from Kelowna's 99.9 The Bullet. "Primarily disenfranchised rock and top forty listeners who couldn't relate to the ghetto influenced music that ended up seemingly dominating a lot of the charts. That's what music is all about. It's about relating and about a bit of a reflection of society. New country accurately portrays and reflects middle and upper class Canadian citizenship."

Pringle agrees that disappointment at the pop rock level shifted the attention to new country which more acutely met the attitudes of the forty something generation. According to Pringle, the time of profound disenchantment followed a long period of high creativity that began with Elvis and ended around 1975, having played like a soundtrack to the baby boomer generation over the years. "All of a sudden it has begun again where there is this huge explosion of talent lyrically writing about all the stuff that the baby boomers are going through," he says. "Except its not rock pop anymore, it's called new country."

Of course, the new country does owe a lot to that music that made up Pringle's baby boomer generation soundtrack. Pringle himself estimates that new country is only one fifth traditional country music. He cites a mixture of rock'n'roll ("50s rock artists were new country artists of their day," he says); country folk of the Woodstock era; country

rock (The Eagles, Linda Ronstadt) and country blues (Hank Williams Sr., The Judds) as the other four parts.

"A lot of people mistakenly feel that today's new country is just a straight progression from the traditionalists of the past," he says, "but one of the reasons for its much broader success is that it has a much broader base of influence."

Not surprisingly, Canadian acts have expanded that broad base considerably, bringing a host of very un-Nashville like influences to bear on the music.

"In Canada there's a lot bigger regionalty," says Phil Kallsen, Music Director for Calgary's CKRY-FM. "You've got everything from the Rankin Family to a straight ahead country like Paul Brandt and that's what makes it different from the States." He cites celtic and first nations interests and believes that the latter especially will be a significant factor for Canadian country in years to come.

"Canadian country is completely distinctive," agrees Pringle. "I think that it is completely putting to rest the myth that there is only one kind of country and that it comes from Nashville. One of the great things about Canadian country is that it is not inherently western. There's a very thin line between a Charlie Major and a John Cougar Mellencamp or a Bruce Springsteen."

"Canadian country music has never sounded

MCA, the star status is almost complete. This *Used To Be Our Town*, the first focus track from this Scott Baggett production, is already heading to the top of the charts. There is a world of difference from McCoy's first recordings to now, where his vocal properties and projection have been masterfully parleyed into a keen sense of what communication in the country genre is all about. He is obviously on a serious tact, and the future should be an open end to success. McCoy teamed with Nashville writers Denny Carr and Chris Lindsey for the *Town* track and with Lindsey for *All The Way* and with Carr for *Cornelia*, all key tracks. Also impressive is *Candle*, a song he co-wrote with Terrine Barnes, and his solo penning of *Country Side* and *Fastest Man Alive*. McCoy has a vocal charm that has great depth and warmth. **-WG**

TERRI CLARK

Self-titled
Mercury-314 526 991-Q

Growing up in Medicine Hat, Alberta certainly had its impact on Terri Clark. The prairie weather and non-pollutant air must have been contributing factors to the development of this 5'11", 26 year-old discovery. The powerful vocals leave an immediate impression that Clark is hellbent in gaining a foothold in the business. *Better Things To Do*, written by Clark, Tom Shapiro and Chris Waters, has been taken as the first single. Clark contributed to the writing of 11 of the tracks, and solo wrote



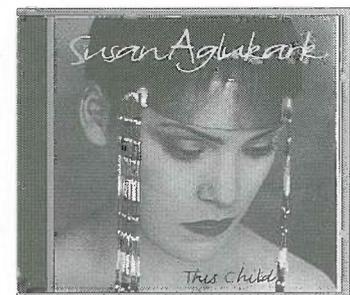
If I Were You, a key track. Unfortunately, there's no Cancon credits here, but Clark doesn't need that crutch. She has the talent to match anything coming out of Nashville, and if guided properly, could become one of the big names in country. Produced by Keith Stegall and Chris Waters, this album should spawn half-a-dozen chart singles. Check out *Tyin' A Heart To A Tumbleweed*, *The Inside Story* and *Something You Should've Said*. *Catch 22* could be a left-fielder. Great cover photo. Will attract is front-racked. **-WG**

SUSAN AGLUKARK

This Child
EMI Music Canada-32075-F

Now that aboriginal music has become the latest avenue of exploration for the major labels, everyone seems to be stumbling over themselves trying to find 'the real thing', in other words, anything other than Cher singing *Half Breed*. That likely why EMI is tripping

over itself in its haste to get Susan Aglukark as much into the spotlight as possible. Aglukark is the real thing, a native of Arviat, NWT, who has seen the trouble times her people have endured and has the exquisite voice to sing about it. Aglukark first forayed into music in 1992 with her independently releases album *Arctic Rose*. The album scored with both the critics and the fans in the far north, and sold well over 10,000 copies in the northern clime. EMI obviously liked what they heard, and picked up distribution rights to the album, re-



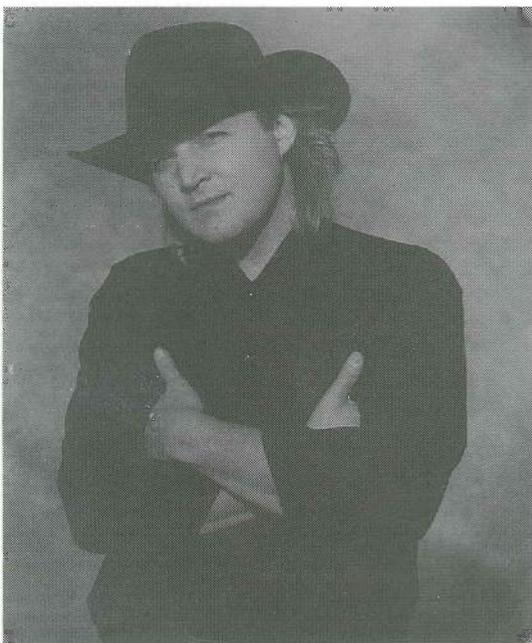
releasing it to mainstream radio in April, 1994. What seems to separate Aglukark from many of the other newfound aboriginal artists is her unabashed honesty. She isn't afraid to speak her mind, whether it's about the government's treatment of her people, or her own struggles with child abuse. Aglukark has always maintained a strength and courage that most of us would find difficult to match. Her music, of course, reflects that. She embraces her heritage,

BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

MALE VOCALIST HOPEFULS

JOEL FEENEY

Being the son of one of the founding figures of Canadian country music history, Joel Feeney grew up listening to the sounds of Canadian country. But father Jack wasn't his only source of inspiration, as artists like The Eagles and Poco also helped mold Feeney's country/pop sound.



That sound first rose to prominence on his first release, Joel Feeney And The Western Front, an album that produced five charted singles and led to a Juno Award as top country group for 1992. The album also garnered Feeney a Big Country Award for outstanding new artist.

Two years later, Feeney released his debut on MCA Records Canada, *Life Is But A Dream*, working closely with friend and collaborator Chris Farren, who co-wrote many of the tracks and also co-produced the album.

Life Is But A Dream has firmed up Feeney's place among the elite of Canadian country artists, as well as one of its top songwriters. The album produced four top 20 singles, including the title track, *Say The Word, By Heart* and *What Kind Of Man*. The latter became Feeney's first-ever #1 hit, reaching the top of the RPM Country 100 on May 29/95.

With Canadian country circles still eagerly anticipating Feeney's newest release (which he's currently working on with fellow songwriter Tim Thorney), Feeney is nominated for top male artist at this year's Big Country Awards.

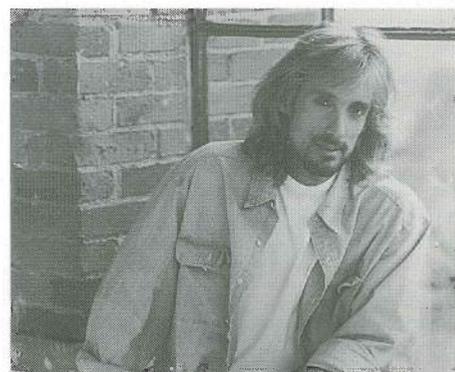
GEORGE FOX

As Fox said himself, "It's been six years since Warner Music Canada turned over a rock somewhere in the foothills of Alberta to discover me and my music." And it's been a pretty impressive six (now make that seven) years for the Cochrane native.

It was in 1988 that Fox first appeared on Canadian country radio with his debut album on Warner Music. A year later, he released his sophomore effort, *With All My Might*, an album that earned him Big Country Awards for male vocalist, single and composer (*Angelina*), and ultimately, album of the year. He also garnered Juno and Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) honours for country male vocalist.

In 1991, Fox released *Spice Of Life*, which again earned him country male vocalist honours at Big Country, the Junos and the CCMA Awards.

It was in 1993 that Fox released the album he says he always wanted to make, *Mustang Heart*. And once again, the kudos rolled in, as Fox won for top



on songs like the lead track, *O Siem*, as well as *Hina Na Ho* (*Celebration*) and *Shamaya*, songs that touch on the traditions of the Inuit people. But she also veers into the modern-day troubles, on tracks like *This Child*, *Casualties Of War* and *Suffer In Silence*. Many aboriginal artists feel the need to stand on a stump and rage on into the night. Aglukark conveys power with a whisper. **-RR**

GEORGE FOX Time Of My Life WEA-98851-P

As the release sheet points out, Fox is back with album five "sporting a new attitude, image and appeal", which is pretty bang-on. Fox hangs in with Bob Gaudio who also produced *Mustang Heart*, and the connection could pay



off in spades with this release. Fox is obviously culturing his songwriting talent and feeling much more confident, particularly on *Rodeo Man* and *Colt Thunder*, both of which should be considered as priority tracks. The initial focus track is *What's Holding Me*, a song he co-wrote with Kim Tribble. Also key is the straight-ahead countryfied *Here's Hoping* (*There'll Always Be A Cowboy*), written by Fox and Gaudio. That Fox vocal charm however, is what puts the song material, production and pickin' talent all in the proper perspective. Fox has never forgotten where he came from. He keeps it simple with that boots and saddle image that so many country fans can relate to. Great cover artwork. **-WG**

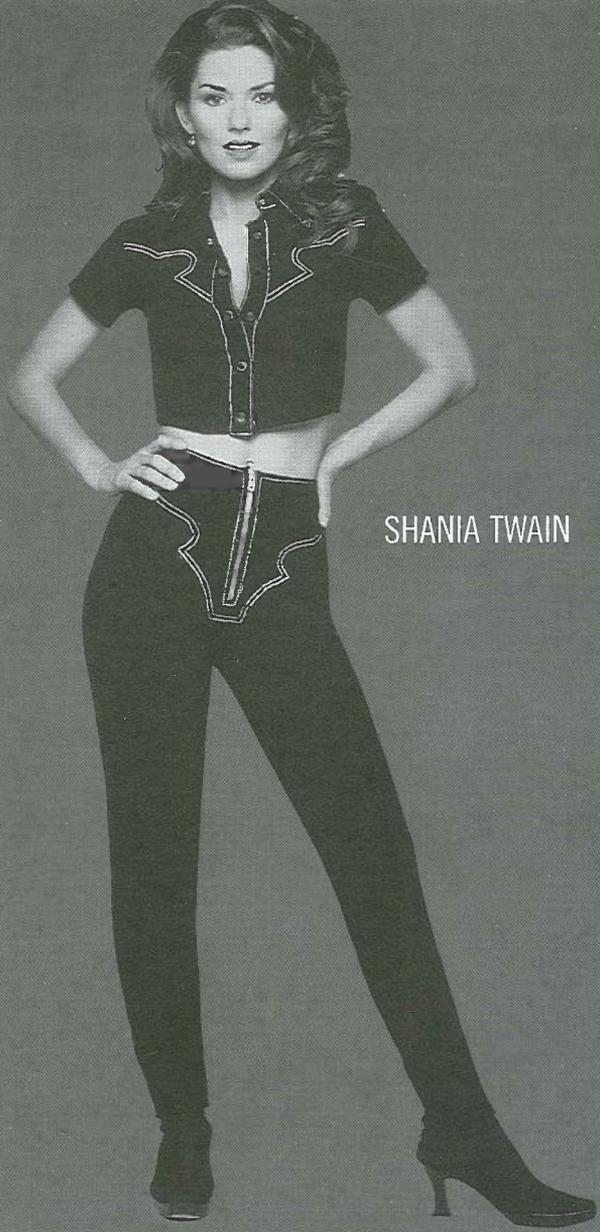
ANNE MURRAY The Best...So Far EMI Music Canada-31158-F

Putting together a collection of an artist's best material is always a guessing game at the best of times. If an artist is truly prolific and successful, the process becomes almost a matter of throwing darts at a board. It would be easy to compile a listing of the biggest songs simply based on chart success. But all too often, particularly for artists who shine in the live setting, there are great songs that never even

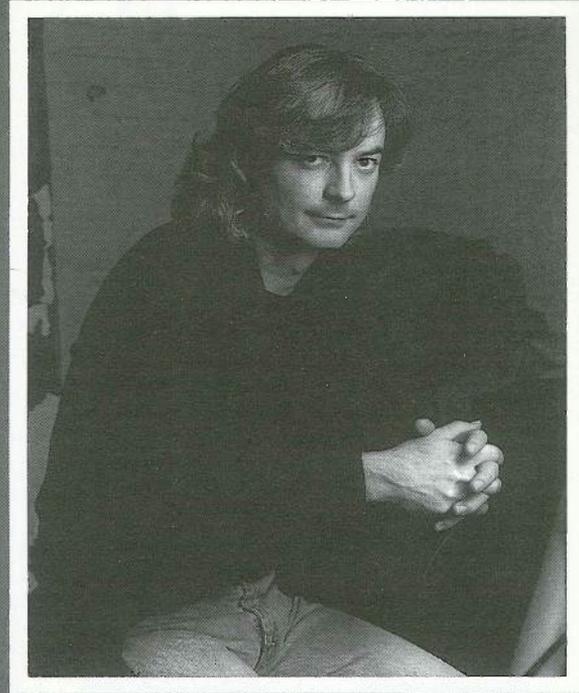


appeared on the charts. In this day of disposable artists, a great many acts put out greatest hits albums before they've even had one decent hit. That's why it's good to finally see one come out from an artist that truly deserves one. Anne Murray's 20-track compilation covers the gamut of her impressive career, from *Snowbird* to *You Needed Me*, from *Could I Have This Dance?* to *Make Love To Me*. Also included is *Over You*, a song that was originally recorded with David Foster in 1985, which could give this already powerful collection an even bigger boost. EMI is set to deliver a Murray box set later in the year, and this will serve as an excellent teaser for her fans. With this release, it's easy to see why so many call her Canadian music's greatest star. **-RR**

Mercury Rising



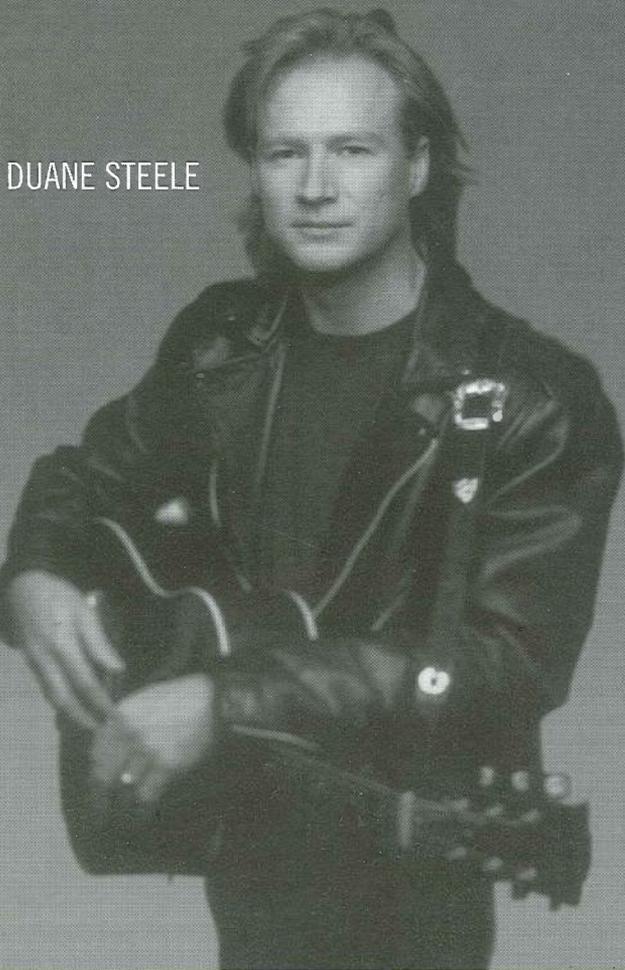
SHANIA TWAIN



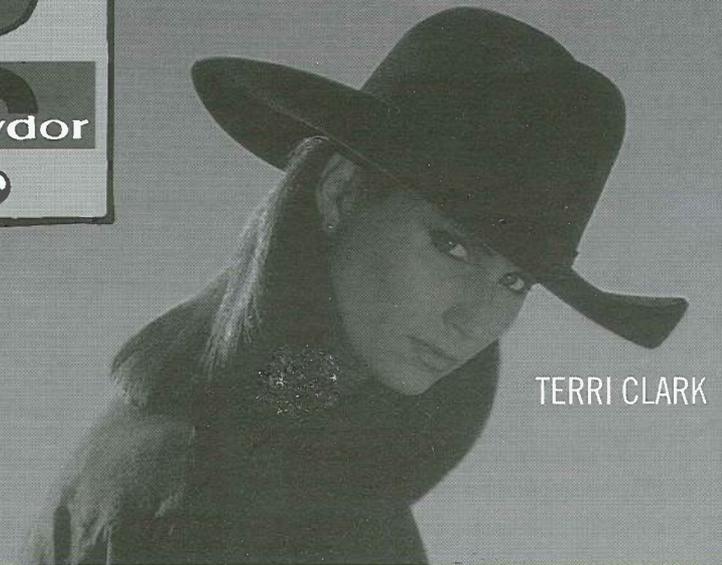
JAMIE WARREN



THE BARRA MacNEILS



DUANE STEELE



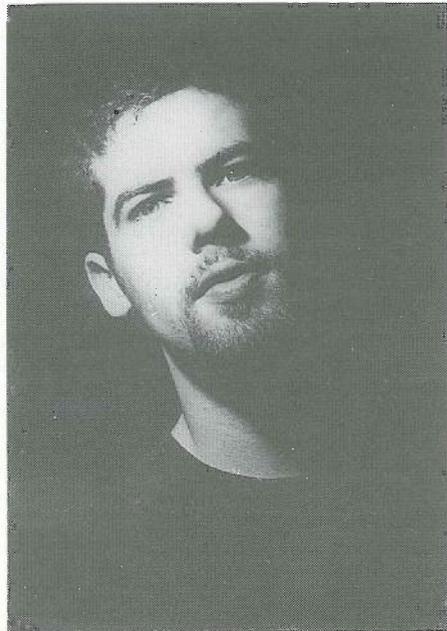
TERRI CLARK

male vocalist at both Big Country and the CCMA Awards.

The host of the CCMA Awards for four straight years (1991-94), Fox has never strayed too far from the camera lights, having hosted three previous country music specials of his own, including last year's *Time Of My Life*, which was (not coincidentally) the title of Fox's most recent release.

ASHLEY MACISAAC

Ashley MacIsaac picked up his first fiddle at the age of eight. Like most of his fellow Cape Bretoners, MacIsaac explored the music of his island heritage. But unlike his peers, MacIsaac took that traditional sound and turned it on its ear.



It was his electrifying performance at the 1994 East Coast Music Awards, before a captive industry crowd, that led to veritable major label feeding frenzy for this untapped talent. Although MacIsaac had released a solo independent album of his own, his signing with A&M Canada marked his first adventure with a major label.

MacIsaac's energetic live shows and ferocious fiddle playing have grabbed the attention of the likes of new age composer Phillip Glass, who invited MacIsaac to New York to experience the sights and sounds of the Big Apple, particularly the urban dance sound that would eventually filter into his own music. The trip to New York would eventually see MacIsaac working with the likes of Paul Simon, Edie Brickell, and David Byrne, appearing in concert with all three at the legendary Carnegie Hall.

In 1995, A&M Canada (via PolyGram) released MacIsaac's major label debut, *Hi, How Are You Today?* Blending traditional east coast celtic influences with modern day dance and pop rhythms. MacIsaac's music has introduced an entire new generation of pop/country fans to the fiddle. The album even produced a hit single in the song *Sleepy Maggie*, featuring the vocal contributions of

Time Of My Life earned Fox a lengthy stay on the RPM Country Albums chart, spawning a handful of singles, including a pair of #1 hits in *First Comes Love* and *What's Holding Me*.

For the 1996 Big Country Awards, George Fox is nominated for four awards: top album (*Time Of My Life*), country song (*First Comes Love*), male artist and songwriter (with Bob Gaudio, for *First Comes Love*).

immediate #1 hit in the lead single, *(I Do It) For Money*, and was followed up the chart by another #1, *It's Lonely I Can't Stand*. *Lucky Man* continues to reside in the top 20 on the RPM Country Album chart, after 33 weeks.

This year, Charlie Major is nominated for three Big Country Awards: top country song (*I Do It For The Money*), male artist and songwriter (also for *I Do It For The Money*).

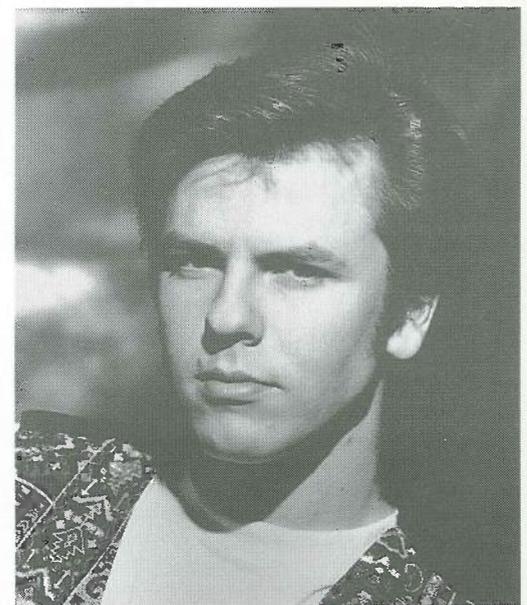
JASON MCCOY

The term 'young country' has often been used to describe the almost rock and roll sound that has seeped into the genre in the past few years. And they don't get any younger, or more vibrant, than this Minesing, Ontario native.

The 25-year old McCoy has actually been playing guitar and writing songs for more than a decade. In 1986, McCoy won a songwriting contest in nearby Barrie, Ontario, and the connections he made through that victory enabled him to head to Nashville to record his debut with veteran Canadian producer Ray Griff.

Just 18 years old at the time, McCoy may have been jumping the gun somewhat, as the album, *Greatest Times Of All*, failed to spark any interest at radio. After taking a hiatus to study accounting in college, his strong songwriting skills caught the ears of MCA country product manager Ed Harris, who agreed to release a string of McCoy's singles under the MCA banner.

The singles all enjoyed strong chart success, encouraging MCA to sign the artist to a full-album deal. It was a decision that MCA can look back upon



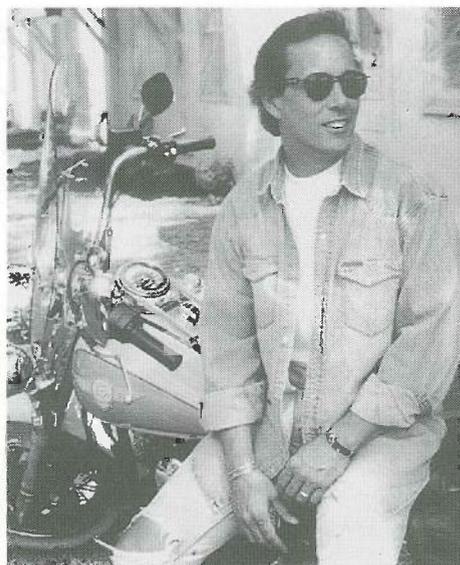
as genius. McCoy's self-titled debut rocketed up the country charts, reaching as high as #3, held out of the top spot by the likes of Shania Twain, Garth Brooks and John Michael Montgomery. The album, produced by Scott Baggett, has offered a handful of hits, including a trio of #1's in *This Used To Be Our Town*, *Learnin' A Lot About Love*, and *Candle*.

This year, McCoy is nominated for five Big Country Awards: top album, male artist, outstanding new artist, country song (*Learning A Lot About Love*) and songwriter (with Terrine Barnes, for *Learning A Lot About Love*).

CHARLIE MAJOR

Success has come fast and furious for Charlie Major in the last two years, but its a success story that has been building for some time. It only took the release of Major's Arista debut, *The Other Side*, for that success to be fully realized.

Major's career, in fact, was up and running long before *The Other Side* came into being. Many in the country community will remember that Major first earned his stripes as a songwriter, with his 1990 penning of *Backroads* becoming a #1 hit stateside for American country star Ricky Van Shelton. But Major wasn't



quite ready to do his own album just yet, saying "I couldn't do it because I hadn't fully realized who Charlie Major was."

When the right time came, he made all the right moves, signing with Arista/BMG, and traveling down to Nashville to record with red-hot producer Steve Fishell and a core of veteran players. The results have been nothing short of a Major phenomenon.

The Other Side went on to produce an incredible six #1 country singles, unprecedented for a domestic country act. The title track, *I'm Gonna Drive You Out Of My Mind*, *I'm Somebody*, *Nobody Gets Too Much Love*, *It Can't Happen To Me* and *I'm Here* all topped the RPM Country Tracks chart, with the album also hitting #1 on the Country Albums chart, eventually lasting on that chart for more than 100 weeks. The album also earned Major a slew of Big Country and CCMA honours, as well as two straight Junos for country male vocalist.

Major returned in September of '95 with his sophomore release, *Lucky Man*, which spawned an

BALMUR

ENTERTAINMENT



proudly congratulates

GEORGE FOX

for his Big Country nominations

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

COUNTRY SONG OF THE YEAR • FIRST COMES LOVE

ALBUM OF THE YEAR • TIME OF MY LIFE

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR (with BOB GAUDIO) • FIRST COMES LOVE



and Balmur writer

JOIE SCOTT

for her first Number One Single

NOT THAT DIFFERENT *by* COLLIN RAYE



SUITE 2400, MADISON CENTRE
4950 YONGE STREET
TORONTO, ONTARIO M2N 6K1
(416) 223-7700
FAX (416) 223-7808

1105 17TH AVENUE SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
37212
(615) 329-0230
FAX (615) 321-0240

BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

FEMALE VOCALIST HOPEFULS

SUSAN AGLUKARK

Born in Churchill, Manitoba, Susan Aglukark and her family moved around the Northwest Territories for the first 12 years of her life before finally settling in Arviat, NWT.

Initially, Aglukark seemed destined to involve herself in the political life, first employed by the department of Indian and Northern Affairs as linguist, later taking a position with the political lobby group Inuit Tapirisat. It was almost by accident that she forayed into the world of music.



In the four years since she gave her first public performance in Canada's north, Aglukark's career has taken off. First, she appeared on a CBC Radio eastern Arctic compilation, eventually releasing her own contribution independently. In 1992, her first full-length independent album, *Arctic Rose*, was released in the northern provinces. Despite its very regional distribution, the album sold more than 10,000 copies, prompting EMI Music Canada to immediately sign the artist.

EMI released her Christmas album in December of 1993, which was followed in the spring of 1994 by the re-release of her *Arctic Rose* album, an album produced by country veteran Randall Prescott.

In the months following the release of *Arctic Rose*, Aglukark became a household word in this country. She was featured in such notable publications as *Saturday Night* and the *New York Times*, and *MacLean's Magazine* named her one of Canada's Leaders To Watch For. She's performed before a pair of Prime Ministers and Queen Elizabeth II.

In March of '95, Aglukark released her first full-length album for EMI, *This Child*. The album quickly rose up the charts, topping the RPM Country Albums chart on May 22. The lead single, *O Siem*, hit the #1 slot on both

the AC and Country charts, and was later followed up the charts by the hits *Hina Na Ho* (Celebration Song), *Breakin' Down* and *Shamaya*.

Aglukark has received three 1996 Big Country Award nominations: female artist, album, and songwriter (with Chad Irschick, for *O Siem*).

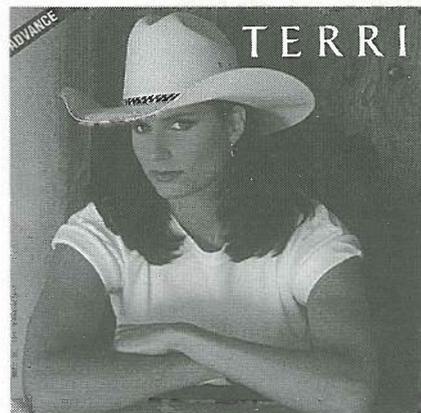
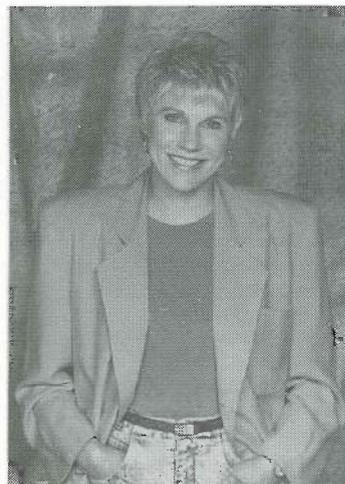
ANNE MURRAY

This Springhill, Nova Scotia native is truly a Canadian original. Since her first charted single in 1970 with *Bidin' My Time*, which reached #48 on the RPM Country 100 (it was immediately followed by the #1 smash, *Snowbird*), Murray has charted more than 50 singles on the country charts, including 37 top ten hits and 21 #1 songs. Her unparalleled success has made her one of the most recognizable Canadian faces internationally.

Over her lengthy and impressive career, Murray has won a total of 25 Juno Awards (a record), and nine Big Country Awards. Her first Big Country nod was for top female vocalist back in 1979, while her latest victory was in the same category in 1988. It's this type of incredible longevity that has made Murray an icon in her native country.

Murray continues to be a tremendous concert draw wherever she plays, and remains one of the country's most high profile stars, as evidenced by her being chosen to host the 25th anniversary Juno Awards this past March.

In 1995, EMI Music Canada released *Now And Then*, a four-CD box set spanning Murray's impressive 35-year career. Shortly thereafter, EMI released *The Best...So Far*, a compilation featuring the biggest hits of her career. That album is nominated for album of the year at the 1996 Big Country Awards, while Murray herself is again nominated for top female vocalist.



TERRI CLARK

As with many artists in the country field, this Medicine Hat native's arrival as a country artist is no accident. It's a result of a family life filled with the sounds of country music, particularly via her maternal grandparents, Ray and Betty Gauthier, veterans of the Canadian country circles, who even appeared at the Grand Ole Opry alongside George Jones, Johnny Cash and others. Clark remembers being captivated by her grandparents collection of country records, featuring her early influences, Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline.

After making enough money waiting on tables to move to Nashville right out of high school, Clark boldly grabbed a job as a house singer at the legendary Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, a job she would hold on to for her first 18 months in Music City. She tried, valiantly, to secure a recording deal, but in a town like Nashville, recording deals are precious commodities to gain.

It was in May of 1994 that the 5'11" Clark got her break. Mercury Records VP Keith Stegall, an old friend and fan, gave Clark a live audition before the label's president, Luke Lewis. Lewis was so impressed he signed her the next day.

Clark's self-titled debut album was released in the summer of 1995. The album features 12 songs in the typical laid-back Nashville style, 11 of them co-written by Clark herself.

Her days waiting on tables now firmly behind her, Clark has gained a strong foothold in the Nashville scene with this debut release, fuelled by a pair of chart-topping singles (*When Boy Meets Girl* and *Better Things To Do*), with her current single, *If I Were You*, fast approaching that same high watermark. Clark is nominated for a trio of 1996 Big Country Awards: female artist, outstanding new artist, and album of the year.

PATRICIA CONROY

This Montreal native arrived on the country scene back in 1990 with her debut album, *Blue Angel*, an album that displayed enormous promise for the future.

That promise was kept in 1992 with her successful follow-up, *Bad Day For Trains*. The album yielded four top 10 hits on the RPM Country 100, and was eventually tabbed as album of the year at the 1993 Canadian Country Music Association Awards. What was particularly gratifying for Conroy was that the album contained three of her own compositions, including the hit *Blank Pages*, which earned her a 1994 Big Country Award nomination for country composer.

Conroy's arrival on the crowded Canadian country music scene was cemented at the 1994



MCA CONCERTS CANADA

Congratulates

all of this year's nominees for the

BIG COUNTRY AWARDS



AGGRESSIVE AND COMMITTED SUPPORTERS OF GREAT CANADIAN TALENT

BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

Listed are the nominees for this year's awards. Vote by placing an X in the square beside your choice.

Choose ONLY ONE nominee in each of the categories. With the write-in categories, please PRINT your choice. Only one choice is allowed

COUNTRY ALBUM

- THIS CHILD
Susan Aglukark
- TERRI CLARK
Terri Clark
- TIME OF MY LIFE
George Fox
- JASON MCCOY
Jason McCoy
- THE BEST...SO FAR
Anne Murray
- THE WOMAN IN ME
Shania Twain

COUNTRY SONG

- WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
Patricia Conroy
- FIRST COMES LOVE
George Fox
- (I Do It) FOR THE MONEY
Charlie Major
- LEARNING A LOT ABOUT LOVE
Jason McCoy
- ANY MAN OF MINE
Shania Twain
- WHOSE BED HAVE YOUR BOOTS BEEN UNDER?
Shania Twain

OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST

- JASON MCCOY
(MCA)
- ASHLEY MACISAAC
(A&M)
- TERRI CLARK
(Mercury)
- RENA GAILE
(RDR)
- RICK TIPPE
(Moon Tan)

VOTING BALLOT

Return the ballot in the envelope supplied before

NOON
FRIDAY
MAY 17, 1996

to: BIG COUNTRY AWARDS VOTING
6 Brentcliffe Road
Toronto, ON
M4G 3Y2

FEMALE ARTIST

- SUSAN AGLUKARK
(EMI)
- TERRI CLARK
(Mercury)
- PATRICIA CONROY
(WEA)
- ANNE MURRAY
(EMI)
- SHANIA TWAIN
(Mercury)
- MICHELLE WRIGHT
(Arista)

MALE ARTIST

- JOEL FEENEY
(MCA)
- GEORGE FOX
(WEA)
- ASHLEY MACISAAC
(A&M)
- CHARLIE MAJOR
(Arista)
- JASON MCCOY
(MCA)
- CALVIN WIGGETT
(Royalty)

GROUP

- BLUE RODEO
(WEA)
- THE GOODS
(Xxxx)
- THE JOHNER BROTHERS
(Xxxx)
- ONE HORSE BLUE
(Xxxx)
- PRAIRIE OYSTER
(Xxxx)
- THE RANKIN FAMILY
(EMI)

PRODUCER

- BILL BUCKINGHAM
Hopeless Love - One Horse Blue
- JOHNNY DOUGLAS
Chevy Coupe - Jim Witter
- CHAD IRSCHICK
O Siem - Susan Aglukark
- RANDALL PRESCOTT
Listen To The Radio - Rebecca Miller
- R. HARLAN SMITH
Missing You - Calvin Wiggett

SONGWRITER

- SUSAN AGLUKARK
(with Chad Irschick)
O Siem - Susan Aglukark
- GEORGE FOX
(with Bob Gaudio)
First Comes Love - George Fox
- CHARLIE MAJOR
(I Do It) For The Money - Charlie Major
- JASON MCCOY
(with Terrine Barnes)
Learning A Lot About Love - Jason McCoy
- SHANIA TWAIN
(with R.J. 'Mutt' Lange)
Any Man Of Mine - Shania Twain

INDEPENDENT LABEL

- GUN
- ROYALTY RECORDS
- STONY PLAIN
- STUBBLE JUMPER
- WOLFE LAKE

MAJOR RECORD COMPANY

- BMG MUSIC CANADA
- EMI MUSIC CANADA
- MERCURY/POLYDOR
- MCA MUSIC ENT. CANADA
- SONY MUSIC CANADA
- WARNER MUSIC CANADA

WRITE-IN CATEGORIES

CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY

COUNTRY RADIO STATION

DEADLINE FOR BALLOTS - NOON FRIDAY MAY 17, 1996

DO NOT FAX YOUR ENTRY
RETURN THE BALLOT IN THE ENVELOPE SUPPLIED.



CCMA Awards in Calgary, where she surprised everyone by winning top female artist honours.

It was just after that '94 CCMA win that Conroy released her third album with Warner Music Canada, *You Can't Resist*. As Conroy herself put it, "I set out to find my own sound, and I did." Produced by Mike Wanchic, the album once again features three Conroy originals (*I Don't Wanna Be The One*, *Crazy Fool* and *Keep Me Rockin'*), and spawned major hits in the title track, *Somebody's Leavin'* (which topped the charts at #1), *What Else Can I Do*, *Let Me Be The One* and the aforementioned *Keep Me Rockin'*.

Currently riding on the success of the *Keep Me Rockin'* single and video (in regular rotation at NCN), Patricia Conroy is nominated for a pair of 1996 Big Country Awards: top female artist and top country song (*What Else Can I Do?*).

SHANIA TWAIN

This Timmins, Ontario native's musical focus began at an early age, with her parents pulling her out of bed as a child to go to perform at local clubs after the liquor sales had stopped at 1 am. Soon, Twain was performing at every TV station, radio station and community centre in the area, developing what looked to be a most promising career.

Things took a tragic turn, however, when both of Twain's parents were killed in a car accident when she was just 21. Despite her relative youth, the accident suddenly made Twain responsible for her entire family, and in a strange twist of fate, propelled her even faster into the world of professional music.



Forced to put food on the table for her siblings, Twain took a job at nearby Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, singing in the resort's nightly showcase, honing her skills on everything from country music to show tunes.

The word got out, however, and instead of Twain heading to Nashville, Nashville came to her in the form of entertainment lawyer Richard Frank, who came to see her Deerhurst show. It was via Frank that she met producer Norro Wilson, who in turn introduced her to Mercury/Nashville's Buddy Cannon. Just like that, Twain was signed to Mercury/Nashville.

Her self-titled debut spawned charted songs in *What Made You Say That* and *Dance With The One That Brought You*, and earned her a Rising Video Star Award from CMT Europe.

Twain's life and career took a significant turn in the summer of '94 when she married mega-producer Robert John 'Mutt' Lange, who, not surprisingly, lent his writing and producing talents to Twain's sophomore release, *The Woman In Me*. The rest has been truly phenomenal. The album resided in the #1 slot on the country albums chart for 10 weeks, pushed out of the top slot by none other than Garth Brooks (*The Hits*). The album has produced five #1 country singles (*Any Man Of Mine*, *Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?*, the title track, [*If You're Not In It For Love*] *I'm Outta Here*, and *You Win My Love*), topped sales of one million units in Canada, and over four million in the US.

Twain's momentum looks to be still strong in 1996, thanks to her win as entertainer of the year at the Junos in March. This year, Twain is nominated for five Big Country Awards: top album (*The Woman In Me*), female artist and songwriter (with Lange), and two nods for song of the year - for *Any Man Of Mine* and *Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?*

MICHELLE WRIGHT

The most recent winner of the Bud Country Fan's Choice Award as entertainer of the year at the CCMA Awards (September '95), Wright, like many of her peers, had an early start in the world of country music. Growing up in smalltown southwestern Ontario, Wright often tagged along with her parents when they performed at various clubs and community centres.

After playing in various bands in high school, she ventured out on her own, touring throughout Canada and the US, and eventually signing with Savannah Records, who released her Canadian debut album, *Do Right By Me*, in 1988.

Through some arduous touring and independent record releases, Wright's popularity steadily grew. Eventually, her talent received some notice in the US, which led to Wright's signing with Arista Nashville.

While her 1990 self-titled Arista debut drew some raves in country circles, it wasn't until the release of her second album, *Now & Then*, that Wright was on her way to stardom. That album went on to produce five #1 hits, including the title track, *He Would Be Sixteen*, *Guitar Talk*, *One Time Around*, and the biggest hit of her career, *Take It Like A Man*, which hit the top 10 in the US, with the video reaching #1 with CMT.

The Academy of Country Music named Wright the top new female vocalist in 1993, while back home, she picked up an astonishing 15 awards based on the success of *Now & Then*, including CCMA artist of the year, Big Country's artist of the year, and a Juno for country female vocalist. *Now & Then* eventually surpassed double platinum in Canada.

In 1994, Wright released her third Arista album, *The Reasons Why*, produced by longtime friend Steve Bogard, Val Garay, Mike Clute and John Guess. The album shipped gold, eventually rising to platinum in a few short months.

Wright's upcoming new album, *For You It's Me*, is due out in mid-June, led by the first single, *Nobody Knows* (penned by Gretchen Peters). This year, Wright is nominated for top female vocalist at the Big Country Awards.



BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

TOP GROUP HOPEFULS

THE RANKIN FAMILY

East coast families tend to be very close-knit groups, and this family from Mabou, Cape Breton, is really no exception. What is exceptional is that the group has transferred those tight family bonds into their music, with the results being the kind of success most families only dream of.

The Rankin Family success story really began with the album and song *Fare Thee Well Love*. The song became an instant classic at radio, crossing the boundaries of numerous formats to become a hit at both adult contemporary and country radio. The album went on to be the second biggest country album in Canada in 1994.

That same year, 1994, the band quickly came back with a follow-up album, *North Country*, which offered a series of country and AC hits. That album also popped up on both the 1994 year-end albums and country albums charts. While the chart success signified the Rankins' arrival in the industry, they didn't really become a household word in the public's mind until their stunning showing at the '94 Juno Awards, when they swept away four awards, including entertainer of the year.

The Rankins are once again riding some strong chart success, courtesy of their latest EMI release, *Endless Seasons*. The album, already certified platinum in Canada, recently garnered the Rankins a group of the year win at the East Coast Music Awards, and has helped earn the band a '96 Big Country nomination for group of the year.



BLUE RODEO

The story of Blue Rodeo begins with a pair of high school friends, Greg Keelor and Jim Cuddy, who, after trying their luck in New York, came back to Toronto to form a band with bassist Bazil Donovan, and keyboardist Bobby Wiseman.



The first album of the new venture, 1987's *Outskirts*, became an instant hit in Canada, led by the infectious hit single, *Try*. *Outskirts* has gone on to sell more than 400,000 units in Canada. *Outskirts* was followed by the critically-acclaimed *Diamond Mine*, which again spawned a hit in the title track, and certified the place of Keelor and Cuddy among the first rank of Canadian songwriters.

The two albums that followed, 1991's *Casino* and 1992's *Lost Together*, were also well-received critically, although they didn't gain the commercial acceptance of the previous two. *Lost Together* also marked a significant demarcation point for the band, with the departure of Wiseman, and the additions of new keyboardist James Gray, drummer Glen Milchem and multi-instrumentalist Kim Deschamps.

In 1993, seeking to blow off some steam after a lengthy tour, the group gathered for a lengthy songwriting session at Keelor's farm north of Toronto. The original plan, to record an acoustic EP, soon developed into the highly successful *Five Days In July* album, which eventually found its way past quadruple platinum.

Not wanting to be placed in one corner or format, the group again used a portable studio in Keelor's farm to record the eclectic and definition-defying *Nowhere To Here* album. The group's sixth album for Warner Music Canada, it's also the second under the group's recently-signed US deal with Discovery Records. *Blue Rodeo* has earned a nomination for group of the year at the '96 Big Country Awards.

ONE HORSE BLUE

One Horse Blue has evolved over its 15-year history into one of western Canada's premier new country vocal groups. A series of lineup changes during the years has resulted in its current roster as it appears on *Starting All Over Again*, the band's debut on the Savannah Records label.



Part of what makes One Horse Blue such a unique act is the fine three-part harmonies between the three vocalists - Michael Shelland, Rocko Vaugeois and Gord Maxwell. According to Vaugeois, the reason for the harmonic convergence is history. "None of us wants to carry the load alone. We've matured way beyond that kind of glory trip."

The group has experienced tremendous success in western Canada, particularly in Alberta and Saskatchewan. British Columbia has been kind to the quartet as well, where the group won three consecutive BC Country Music Association Awards for group of the year (1992-94).

In a short space of time, with still just one album under their belts, One Horse Blue has become a perennial attendee at awards shows. At the most recent Canadian Country Music Awards, the group was nominated for group of the year, with band members Shawn Soucy (drums), Rocko Vaugeois (drums), Gord Maxwell (bass), Jim Foster (guitar) and Larry Pink (keyboards) receiving band citation awards.

This year, One Horse Blue is once again nominated for group of the year at the Big Country Awards.

PRAIRIE OYSTER

It was the album *Everybody Knows* that really propelled this former Toronto bar band into the first rank of Canadian country artists. That album became the band's first platinum seller, produced several charted singles, and earned the band numerous honours, including two Junos (country group in '92 and '93), five Big Country Awards (artist, group, single, composer and album) and five CCMA Awards (song and group in '91; album, song and group in '92).

Only One Moon, released in the summer of 1994, was perhaps the band's strongest effort to date, offering the group's usual compelling mix of classic country, bluegrass and folk. As lead singer/songwriter Russell deCarle noted, "It's probably the most purely Prairie Oyster album we've done."

Co-produced by the band and Steve Fishell, the album produced several charted singles, including *Such A Lonely One*, *Louisette*, *Black-Eyed Susan*, *Don't Cry Little Angel* and the title



track. The album peaked at #6 on the RPM Country Albums chart, and remained on that chart for more than 80 weeks.

At the 1994 Big Country Awards, the band once again earned group of the year honours, while at the CCMA's that year, the band copped awards for top duo or group, as well as the coveted entertainer of the year award. Following another country group of the year award at the '95 Junos, the group picked up three '95 Big Country Awards, for country song (*Such A Lonely One*), album and group. At last September's CCMA Awards, the Oysters were once again named country group of the year.

For the 1996 Big Country Awards, *Prairie Oyster* is nominated for group of the year.

THE JOHNER BROTHERS

Born and raised in Midale, Saskatchewan, Brad and Ken Johner earned their stripes playing in the family country band. Ten years later, they hit the road full-time. Some eight years and four albums later, the Johner Brothers are solidly certified as one of Canada's top country duos.

The band's first album, *Some Kind Of Magic*, spawned their first charted single, *Goodbye For Good*, which peaked in the top five. The video for the song got extensive airplay on CMT and MuchMusic's now defunct *Outlaws And Heroes* country program. In 1991, the same year *Some Kind Of Magic* was released, the duo released *One Winter's Night*, a collection of Christmas carols, featuring the Johner original, *Merry Christmas From Me*. That year, the Johners were named top country duo at the CCMA Awards.

**Canada's weekly music industry news source
for over 30 years!**

RPM

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

MAPL Logo

•
Juno Awards

•
Big Country Awards

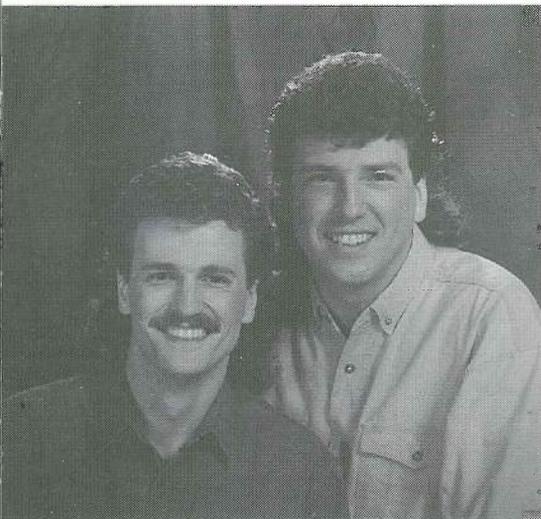
•
Gold Leaf Awards

•
Three Days in March

RPM Magazine

6 Brentcliffe Rd., Toronto, Ontario M4G 3Y2

Tel: 416-425-0257 Fax: 416-425-8629



In October of '93, Warner Music Canada signed the duo and released their first major label effort, appropriately titled *My Brother And Me*. Videos for the songs *One Horse Town* and *Starting Right Now* received heavy airplay on the New Country Network. The album also featured the duet, *Light Of My Life*, recorded with Lisa Brokop.

The group has been consistently honoured by their native Saskatchewan Country Music Association, winning for single, song, entertainer, group, manager and producer in 1992, '93, '94 and '95. The duo also earned a pair of 1994 CCMA nominations, for top duo or group and vocal collaboration (with Brokop), and a '95 Juno nod for duo of the year.

In November of '95, the Johner Brothers released their latest effort, *Ten More Miles*, with nine of the ten songs by the Brad and Ken Johner. The Johner Brothers are once again nominated for group of the year at the Big Country Awards.



THE GOODS

The duo of Brian and Bruce Good were born, as many country artists are, into a musical family in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill. The pair began their musical ventures back in the early '70s as part of a folk group known as *The Kinfolk*. The pair first earned serious public attention as members of a band that became known as *James And The Good Brothers*, featuring Winnipeg's James Ackroyd.

Eventually breaking off on their own, *The Good Brothers*, now with third brother Larry on banjo and vocals, built a reputation as one of the more entertaining country acts on the Canadian circuit.

The band's reputation has earned them numerous accolades and awards over their twenty year career, including eight Junos as country group of the year. The group has done command performances for Canadian prime ministers, along with former US president Ronald Reagan. The band has headlined country bills across North America, and shared the stage with the likes of Janis Joplin, *The Band*, Frank Zappa, Kenny Rogers, *The Doobie Brothers* and Roy Orbison.

In the spring of 1994, the band embarked on a new direction, with brother Larry departing to make room for the newest band member, nephew Travis. Now known as simply *The Goods*, the group released their 10th album that same year, *So Many Roads*, featuring covers of Bob Seger's *Against The Wind*, Gordon Lightfoot's *Alberta Bound*, *The Band's Shape I'm In*, as well as a cover of their own *Fox On The Run*. The group is also being heard in hockey arenas around the world courtesy of their cover of Stompin' Tom's classic, *The Hockey Song*.

Later this year, *The Goods* will release a new live CD (in Europe only) which was recorded on a European tour, and they were recently nominated as international group of

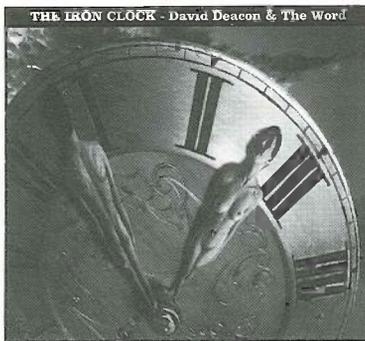
David Deacon & The Word "A Little Magic"

1st single from the album

"The Iron Clock"

TCR-CD-3000

on your desk now!



"The Iron Clock" is a journey into the future of Spoken Word. While the first album received favourable reviews and comparisons from Tom Waits to Robbie Robertson, this album is incomparable - literally. Deacon has established a style of delivery that is completely unique and emotionally compelling.

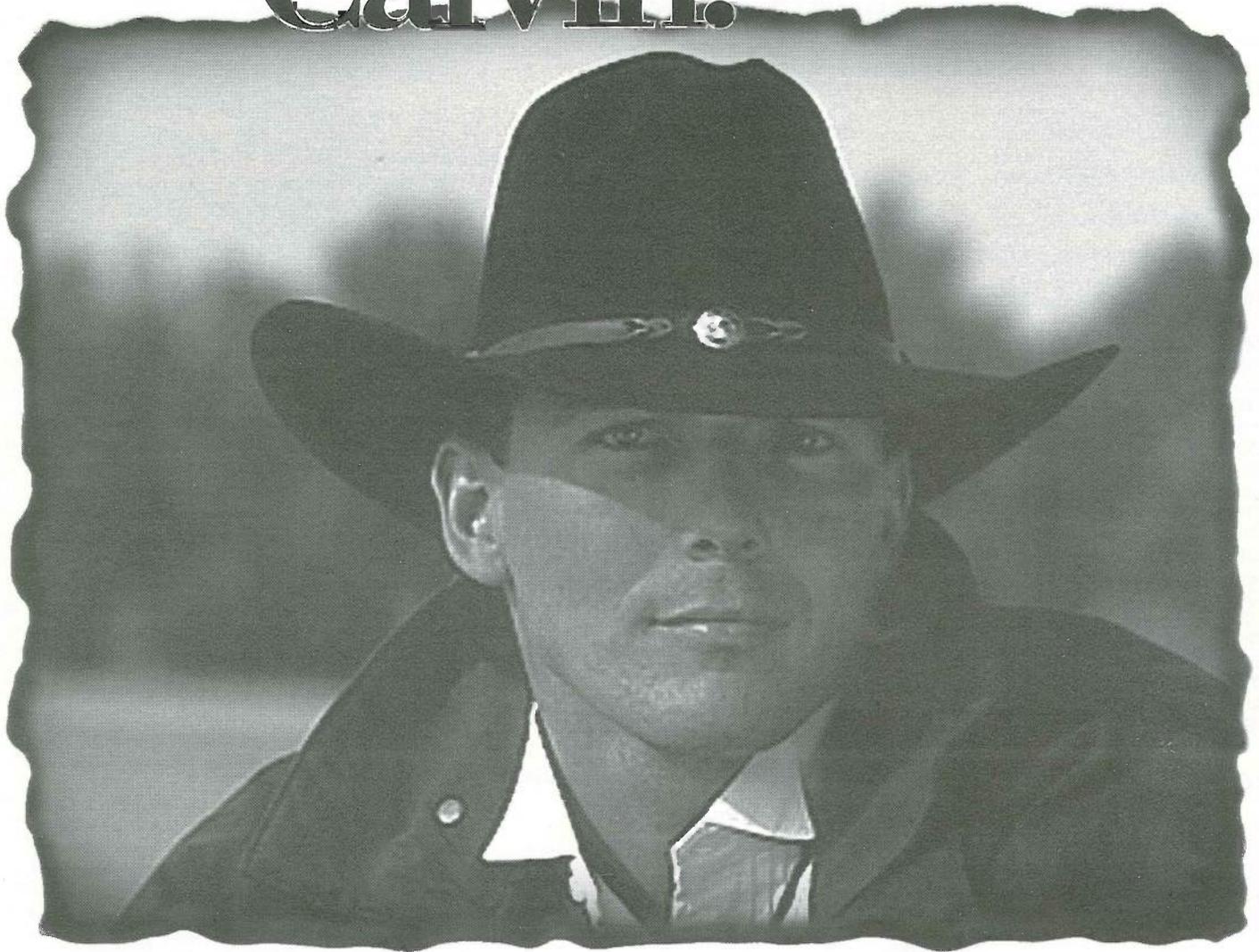


Silver Star Promotions - Nancy Mayer
Tel: 416-504-6644 E-mail: sstar@passport.ca



Select Distribution - Keely Kemp
Tel: 416-595-9491

Congratulations Calvin.



**You've got
what it takes!**

MARY BAILEY MANAGEMENT

SHOWCANA CORPORATION

CONTACT: GILLIE CROWDER - MARY BAILEY MANAGEMENT
SUITE 403, 2000 GRAND AVENUE, NASHVILLE, TN. 37212
PHONE: (615) 327-1388 FAX: (615) 327-3290

BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

PAST WINNERS

1975

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
CARROLL BAKER
TOP COUNTRY MALE SINGER
GARY BUCK
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
EASTWIND
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - FEMALE
SYLVIA TYSON
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - MALE
IAN TYSON
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER GROUP
BOB MURPHY & BIG BUFFALO
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
PAPER ROSIE
Dallas Harms
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
'OL EON
Ian Tyson
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
DALLAS HARMS
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
GARY BUCK
TOP COUNTRY D.J.
CHARLIE RUSSELL
CJCJ Woodstock, New Brunswick
TOP RECORD COMPANY
BROADLAND RECORDS
TOP CANADIAN COUNTRY TELEVISION SHOW
IAN TYSON
Glen Warren Productions

1976



TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
CARROLL BAKER
TOP COUNTRY MALE SINGER
DICK DAMRON
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER FEMALE
SYLVIA TYSON
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - MALE
RONNIE PROPHET
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - GROUP
THE GOOD BROTHERS
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
GEORGIA I'M CHEATING ON YOU TONIGHT
Dallas Harms
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
CARROLL BAKER
Carroll Baker
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
DICK DAMRON
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
R. HARLAN SMITH
TOP COUNTRY D.J.
JOHNNY MURPHY
CHML
Hamilton, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.
TOP CANADIAN COUNTRY TELEVISION SHOW
GRAND OLD COUNTRY
Ronnie Prophet
Producer: Cy True
Glen Warren Productions

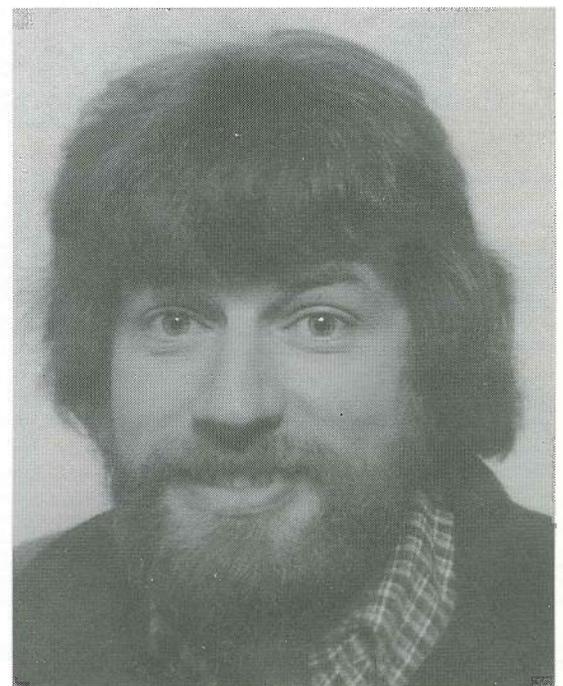
1977

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
CARROLL BAKER
TOP COUNTRY MALE SINGER
DICK DAMRON
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - FEMALE
MYRNA LORRIE
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - MALE
BARRY BROWN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - GROUP
THE CARLTON SHOWBAND
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
SUSAN FLOWERS
Dick Damron
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
HERE COMES YESTERDAY
R. Harlan Smith
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
DALLAS HARMS
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
JACK FEENEY
TOP COUNTRY D.J.
TED DAIGLE
CKBY-FM
Ottawa, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.

TOP CANADIAN COUNTRY TELEVISION SHOW
GRAND OLD COUNTRY
Ronnie Prophet
Producer: Cy True
Glen Warren Productions

1978

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
CARROLL BAKER
TOP COUNTRY MALE SINGER
DICK DAMRON
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - FEMALE
GLORY-ANNE CARRIERE
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - MALE
ORVAL PROPHET
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - GROUP
TERRY CARISSE & TENDERFOOT
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
EDDIE EASTMAN
TOP COUNTRY INSTRUMENTALIST
AL CHERNY/EASTWIND
TOP COUNTRY SINGLE
WILD HONEY
Johnny Burke & Eastwind
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
THE FASTEST GUN
Dallas Harms
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
DALLAS HARMS
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
DALLAS HARMS
TOP COUNTRY D.J.
BILL ANDERSON
CFRB
Toronto, Ontario
TOP CANADIAN COUNTRY TELEVISION SHOW
TOMMY HUNTER COUNTRY
CBC-TV Network
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST OF THE YEAR
CARROLL BAKER



A younger, hairier Ken Bain

1979

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
ANNE MURRAY
TOP COUNTRY MALE SINGER
EDDIE EASTMAN
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - MALE
WAYNE ROSTAD
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - GROUP
RALPH CARLSON & COUNTRY MILE
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
LARRY MATTSO
TOP COUNTRY INSTRUMENTALIST
EASTWIND
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
STAY WITH ME
The Family Brown
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
FAMILIAR FACES, FAMILIAR PLACES
The Family Brown
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
DALLAS HARMS
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
DALLAS HARMS
TOP COUNTRY D.J.
STAN CAMPBELL
CFGM
Toronto, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.
TOP CANADIAN COUNTRY TELEVISION SHOW
GRAND OLD COUNTRY
Ronnie Prophet
Producer: Cy True
Glen Warren Productions
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
ANNE MURRAY

1980

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
CARROLL BAKER
TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
TERRY CARISSE
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - FEMALE
GLORY-ANNE CARRIERE
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - MALE
RONNIE PROPHET
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - GROUP
THE GOOD BROTHERS
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
WILD INGERSOLL
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
THE STAR
Marie Bottrell
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
Anne Murray

TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
BARRY BROWN
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
R. HARLAN SMITH
TOP COUNTRY D.J.
BILL ANDERSON
CFRB
Toronto, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.
TOP CANADIAN COUNTRY TELEVISION SHOW
GRAND OLD COUNTRY
Ronnie Prophet
Producer: Cy True
Glen Warren Productions
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
CARROLL BAKER

1981

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE SINGER
CARROLL BAKER
TOP COUNTRY MALE SINGER
TERRY CARISSE
TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - FEMALE
CHRIS NIELSEN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - MALE
EDDIE EASTMAN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - DUO OR GROUP
RALPH CARLSON & COUNTRY MILE
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
HAROLD MacINTYRE
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
WINDSHIP
Terry Carisse
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSERS
TERRY CARISSE & BRUCE RAWLINS
Windship
Terry Carisse
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCERS
LARRY MERCEY, LLOYD MERCEY, RAY MERCEY
Windship
Terry Carisse
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
WE CAN MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER
Terry Carisse
TOP COUNTRY D.J.
BILL ANDERSON
CFRB
Toronto, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.
TOP CANADIAN COUNTRY TELEVISION SHOW
FAMILY BROWN COUNTRY
CJOH-TV
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTISTS
THE FAMILY BROWN

BIG COUNTRY AWARDS
CANCELLED 1982-1984

1985

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
ANNE MURRAY
TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
MURRAY McLAUCHLAN
TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
NOBODY LOVES ME LIKE YOU DO
Anne Murray And Dave Loggins
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCERS
DALLAS HARMS & MIKE FRANCIS

TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
BARRY BROWN
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
JAMIE WARREN
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
HEART OVER MIND
Anne Murray
TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY
BILL ANDERSON
CFRB
Toronto, Ontario
TOP COUNTRY RADIO STATION
CFGM
Richmond Hill, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
ANNE MURRAY

1986

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
ANNE MURRAY
TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
MURRAY McLAUCHLAN
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
THE MERCY BROTHERS
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
NOBODY LOVES ME LIKE YOU DO
Anne Murray and Dave Loggins
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
FEEL THE FIRE
The Family Brown
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSERS
TERRY CARISSE & BRUCE RAWLINS
Counting The I Love You's
Terry Carisse
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
GILLES GODDARD
We Won't Ever Say Goodbye
Gilles Goddard
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTISTS
THE HAGGERTYS
TOP RADIO PERSONALITY
ROBIN INGRAM
CFAC
Calgary, Alberta
TOP COUNTRY RADIO STATION
CHAM
Hamilton, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
RCA LTD.
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST OF THE YEAR
THE FAMILY BROWN

1987

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
CARROLL BAKER
TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
TERRY CARISSE
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
NOW AND FOREVER
(You And Me)
Anne Murray
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
NONE OF THE FEELING IS GONE
Terry Carisse
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSERS
DAVID FOSTER & JIM VALLANCE
Now And Forever
(You And Me)
Anne Murray
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
DAVID FOSTER
Now And Forever
(You And Me)
Anne Murray

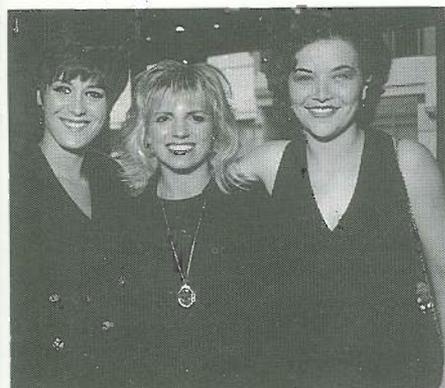
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTISTS
DOUBLE EAGLE BAND
TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY
CLIFF DUMAS
CHAM
Hamilton, Ontario
TOP COUNTRY RADIO STATION
CHAM
Hamilton, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
BMG MUSIC CANADA
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST

1988

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
ANNE MURRAY
TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
MURRAY McLAUCHLAN
TOP COUNTRY GROUP
BLUE RODEO
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTISTS
BLUE RODEO
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
TRY
Blue Rodeo
BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
COWBOYGRAPHY
Ian Tyson
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSERS
GREG KEELOR & JIM CUDDY
Try
Blue Rodeo
TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
TERRY BROWN
Try
Blue Rodeo
TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY
RANDY OWEN
CKGL
Kitchener, Ontario
TOP RADIO STATION
CHAM
Hamilton, Ontario
TOP RECORD COMPANY
BMG MUSIC CANADA
CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
IAN TYSON

1989

TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
MICHELLE WRIGHT
TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
GEORGE FOX
TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP
THE FAMILY BROWN
OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
CARMEN WESTFALL
BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
ANGELINA
George Fox
TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
GEORGE FOX
Angelina
George Fox



HISTORICAL HIGHPOINTS OF THE BIG COUNTRY AWARDS

- Sept. 22-23, 1973** RPM stages first Big Country Conference at the Holiday Inn in Don Mills, Ont. where 86 paid registrants attend.
- Nov. 23-24, 1974** RPM stages second Big Country Conference at the Inn On The Park in Toronto.
- June 21, 1975** Country Week is launched as a regular section of RPM Weekly to promote Canadian country music.
- Aug. 1, 1975** RPM announces the formation of CACMA (Canadian Academy of Country Music Advancement) to raise funds to start and academy.
- Sept. 27-28, 1975** The third Big Country Conference is held at Toronto's Inn On The Park.
- Sept. 28, 1975** The first Big Country Awards Banquet attracts 250 people to the Café de L'Auberge of the Inn On The Park
- Sept. 25-26, 1976** The second Big Country Awards Banquet is part of the fourth conference held at Edmonton's Plaza Hotel
- Sept. 19-23, 1977** Big Country approves Ottawa Host Committee to stage Canadian Country Music Week, Ottawa 1977, as a consumer event prior to Big Country.
- Sept. 24-25, 1977** The fifth conference and awards presentation is staged at Ottawa's Skyline Hotel.
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1978** Regina hosts Big Country at the Regina Inn. The sixth conference features the fourth year of the Big Country Awards. Global Television films documentary of the Big Country events.
- Sept. 17-21, 1979** ACME applies to Big Country to stage Canadian Country Music Week at the Skyline Hotel in Mississauga, Ont. as a consumer event prior to the annual conference and awards show.
- Sept. 22-23, 1979** The fifth annual Big Country Awards are held at Mississauga's Skyline Hotel as part of the seventh Big Country Conference.
- Sept. 20-21, 1980** The Winnipeg Inn is the setting for the sixth awards and the eighth annual Big Country Conference.
- Sept. 19-20, 1981** The seventh annual Big Country Awards are staged as the finale to the Big Country Weekend at Ottawa's Talisman Motor Hotel.
- Jan. 25, 1982** ACME distributes ballots to members asking if they want separate awards from Big Country. Eighty-four per cent of respondents say yes. The Big Country Awards are suspended until 1985.
- April 28, 1985** The Big Country Awards are back with a banquet at Toronto's Inn On The Park. The tradition of having an awards ceremony without musical performances begins. The event is carried nationally on radio via Broadcast News and locally on television by City-TV.
- May 4, 1986** Toronto's Inn On The Park hosts the ninth Big Country Awards
- May 24, 1987** The 10th Big Country Awards are held at Toronto's Inn On The Park
- May 6, 1988** The first Variety Club Special Luncheon Salute To The Big Country Awards is held at Toronto's Inn On The Park. Tommy Hunter emcees and performs along with Carroll Baker, Ronnie Hawkins and The Good Brothers.
- May 8, 1988** Jack Feeney is inducted into the Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame at the Big Country Awards presentation at Toronto's Inn On The Park.
- May 26, 1989** The Variety Club Luncheon becomes an annual event as the second one is emceed by Don Harron (Charlie Fargurson) at Toronto's Inn On The Park. J.K. Gulley, Anita Perras, Mike Francis and Blue Rodeo perform.
- May 28, 1989** The 12th Big Country Awards take place at Toronto's Inn On The Park.
- May 25, 1990** Walt Grealis hosts the Variety Club Luncheon at Toronto's Inn On The Park. Michelle Wright and Silver & Degazio perform.
- May 27, 1990** Carroll Baker hosts the Big Country Awards at Toronto's Inn On The Park. Leonard Rambeau is inducted into the Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame.
- May 24, 1991** The Variety Club Luncheon moves to Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle. CHAM Hamilton's Cliff Dumas and Vickie Van Dyke emcee the show, which features performances by Carroll Baker, Michelle Wright, Gary Fjellgard, Larry Mercey, Larry Good, Laura and Larry Mattson, Kimberly Richards, Morris P. Rainville, David Hutchins, Mike Peters, Dyanne Halliday, Ron Victors, Terry Hill and Ronnie Hawkins.
- May 26, 1991** The Big Country Awards dinner also moves to Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.
- June 5, 1992** The Variety Club Luncheon is held at the Westin Harbour Castle and features performances by Larry Mercey, The Good Brothers, J.K. Gulley and his band, Joel Feeney, Lindsay Thomas Morgan and host Sylvia Tyson.
- June 7, 1992** Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle hosts the 15th Big Country Awards.
- June 8, 1992** Almost 400,000 people across Canada watch the Big Country Awards on television as the CBC televises the show nationally for the first time.
- May 28, 1993** The Variety Club Luncheon moves to the Concert Hall of Toronto's Royal York Hotel. Cliff Dumas and Jane Brown of Toronto's CISS-FM emcee and Cassandra Vasik, Don Neilson, Anita Perras and Mark LaForme and his band perform.
- May 30, 1993** The Big Country Awards are held on the 33rd floor of Toronto's Sutton Place Hotel.
- May 31, 1993** CBC televises the Big Country Awards for the second consecutive year.
- May 29, 1994** CBC televises the 17th Big Country Awards from the Westin Harbour Castle Convention Centre. Keith James is inducted into the Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame.
- May 28, 1995** The Big Country Awards once again take place at the Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle Convention Centre. CBC-TV televises the show on May 31.

RPM ALTERNATIVE

Canada's only national weekly alternative chart

30

TW LW WO - MAY 27, 1996

1	8	4	PRETTY NOOSE Soundgarden - Down On The Upside A&M 314 640 528 (promo CD)-Q	
2	1	6	AHEAD BY A CENTURY The Tragically Hip - Trouble At The Henhouse MCA 81011 (promo CD)-J	
3	2	10	MACHINEHEAD Bush X - Sixteen Stone Interscope 96531-P	
4	3	6	MOTHER MOTHER Tracy Bonham - The Burdens Of Being Upright Island 314 524 234-Q	
5	5	9	BULLS ON PARADE Rage Against the Machine - Evil Empire Epic 662990-H	
6	7	7	ONE MORE ASTRONAUT I Mother Earth - Scenery and Fish Capitol 32919 (promo CD)-F	
7	4	8	SALVATION The Cranberries - To The Faithful Departed Island 314 524 234-Q	
8	10	5	RAVE + DROOL The Killjoys - Gimme Five WEA 13450 (promo CD)-P	
9	6	11	BIG BANG BABY Stone Temple Pilots - Tiny Music... Songs From... Atlantic 82871 (comp 281)-P	
10	13	5	WHATEVER Slowburn - Slowburn Handsome Boy 00010	
11	9	11	CHAMPAGNE SUPERNOVA Oasis - (What's The Story) Morning Glory? Epic 67351 (promo CD)-H	
12	19	4	PEPPER Butthole Surfers - Electriclarryland Capitol 29842 (comp 9)-F	
13	17	4	LOVE YOU ALL 54.40 - Trusted By Millions Columbia 80231 (comp 49)-H	
14	11	5	HERE IN YOUR BEDROOM Goldfinger - Goldfinger Mojo 53007 (comp 7)-J	
15	15	5	LADYKILLERS Lush - Lovelife 4AD 76974 2080 (comp 452)-Q	
16	12	9	I HATE MY GENERATION Cracker - The Golden Age Virgin 41498-F	
17	21	3	TOO MUCH Dave Matthews Band - Crash RCA 66904 (comp 4)-N	
18	18	6	SWEET DREAMS Marilyn Manson - Smells Like Children Interscope 92641 (comp 6)-J	
19	22	2	PASTE Pluto - Pluto Virgin 36883-F	
20	24	3	THE 13TH The Cure - Wild Mood Swings Elektra 61744-P	
21	26	2	LITTLE DEATH Barstool Prophets - Crank Mercury (comp 452)-Q	
22	25	3	HEARTSPARK DOLLARSIGN Everclear - Sparkle And Fade Capitol 30929 (comp9)-F	
23	14	10	WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? Stabbing Westward - Wither Blister Burn + Peel Columbia 66152 (promo CD)-H	
24	27	2	TAHITIAN MOON Porno For Pyros - Good Gods Urge Warner Bros. 46126-P	
25	28	2	JUST A GIRL No Doubt - Tragic Kingdom Interscope 90003 (comp 7)-J	
26	23	17	ZERO Smashing Pumpkins - Mellon Collie And The Infinite... Virgin 40861 (comp 12)-F	
27	30	2	COUNTING BLUE CARS Dishwalla - Pet Your Friends A&M 31454 0319 (comp 2)-Q	
28	16	9	INCARNATE The Watchmen - Brand New Day Boneyard Tunes 81009 (promo CD)-J	
29	NE		TRIPPIN' ON A HOLE... Stone Temple Pilots - Tiny Music... Songs From... Atlantic 82871-P	
30	NE		YOU LEARN Alanis Morissette - Jagged Little Pill Maverick 45901 (comp 286)-P	

RCA Punk Act Tours Canada The Other Alanis Catches New Disease

by Rod Gudino

Gianni Neiviller is more than a little overwhelmed by his first trek across Canada. The 29 year old bassist for 1000 Mona Lisas, last year's overnight punk pop success, is here for five weeks working the band's sophomore release under RCA (New Disease - RPM New Releases Mar 11/96). "I didn't know [Canada] had that many places to play," he says half-jokingly.

The Mona Lisas might not have been slotted for half of those venues if it wasn't for the radio success of their bubonic-plagued version of Alanis Morissette's You Oughta Know. Neiviller isn't sheepish about how much the Mona Lisas owe to that track; affectionately received by alternative radio, it remained untouched by the Canadian content regulations it underhandedly satisfied. In the States, of course, the tune just played on and on until RCA finally upped and did the

inevitable by signing the critters. You would think they have forwarded their heart-felt thanks to Ms. Morissette. "Yeah, we met her in Salt Lake City," confesses Neiviller. "She was great, she enjoyed the show. She's a polite girl."

But for all of its pluses, the tune has not helped the band in all possible respects insists Neiviller, something which has become evident in their Canadian gigs. "Some crowds just don't want to hear the song. I don't know why to tell you the truth," he adds anticipating the question. "Some people will yell out the song during a live show and we'll say 'no we aren't going to do it. And you'll hear a bunch of people cheer.'"

Are we to understand that there will be no 'going down in a theatre' on the dates left? "Oh we do it, we do it," he says quickly, "we just say that to fuck with people."



BIG

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE NOMINEES FOR THE 1996

**COUNTRY
AWARD**

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

SUSAN AGLUKARK & CHAD IRSCHICK

O Siem

GEORGE FOX (with Bob Gaudio)

First Comes Love

CHARLIE MAJOR

(I Do It) For The Money

JASON McCOY & TERRINE BARNES

Learning A Lot About Love

SHANIA TWAIN (with Robert "Mutt" Lange)

Any Man of Mine

Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada

41 Valleybrook Drive

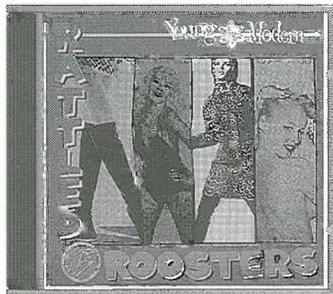
Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2S6

(416) 445-8700 or 1 800 55 SOCAN

Fax (416) 445-7108



**Good
Luck!**



bedrock from which came this great music called rock'n'roll we keep listening to and talking about. Young & Modern is the Rooster's second full-length release and the one that will undoubtedly usher in the Year of the Rooster proclaimed by their first. The band is already catching demon fire south in LA where they have been practically welcomed as the city's own. A heavy Elvis Presley influence and a lyrical threat of cuckoldry doesn't keep the Roosters from surf'n' with the best of them and rockin' with the junky kick of the meanest rockabilly around. Add a flavouring of jazz, alternating vocals between the Rev. Rick Royale and Billy Blastoff Darlen and you've got a mean mixer of psychobilly rock'n'roll and soul dammit. Key tracks on this welcome compilation are One Night Worse, One Less Angel, True Love and the fiery Nasty Jack. The new dynamite has been uncovered and the bootleggers have made it over the pass. It's young and modern and it's called Rattled Roosters. And it will explode my friends, mark these words. -RG



**THE CURE -Alternative
Wild Mood Swings
Elektra 61744-P**

Throughout their nineteen years of existence The Cure have defined themselves through the vivid moods of founder Robert Smith's introverted fictions. There was a time, remember, when the music found an isomorphic voice in that strain of fashion that had the human corpse as its archetype. But that couldn't go on forever, just like the spidery strands that were shorn from Smith's head symbolised the cutting away for their coda, 1993's unearthy and beautifully melancholic Disintegration. Now on their second album following that false curtain call, The Cure have entered a glowing afterlife haunted by its dark past. Accurately describing itself, Wild Mood Swings bounces between the emotionally elastic Mint Car, Round & Round and The 13th and the dark roomed This Is A Lie, Jupiter Crash and Numb. True, the storm clouds have largely dissipated and alot of these tracks play like the long awaited sun after the downpour, though we can't help but miss all of the gloom and fermented misery. The shoo in single is This Is A Lie which, for all of its familiar brooding ambience is the crimson fruit that will make the rest of the basket difficult to refuse. One can't blame Warner for putting the spot-light on the album's more telling, lighter and eccentric bits (like the steamy Latino lined The 13th) but the transition might not be without a few glitches. It takes some getting used to seeing the funeral procession try their hand at the wedding gig. -RG

**RATTLED ROOSTERS -Rockabilly/
Alternative
Young & Modern
BangOn Records 1010-Cargo**

There's been a revival down Vancouver ways and it's being heralded by groups like Rattled Roosters who have earned our collective blessing for mining the

**PANTERA -Metal
The Great Southern Roadkill
EastWest 61908-P**

Infrequent lapses of sobriety dot this exercise in self-induced emeticism which is summed up by the first five seconds of the disk (the title track). With a litany of profanity and enough screaming to give the most prosaic

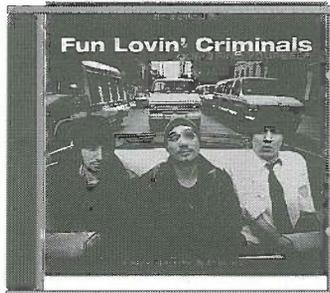


horror schlock a run for its money, Pantera don't leave much to the imagination. Here's a sampling: 'For every fucking second/ the pathetic media pisses on me and/ judges what I am in one paragraph - fuck you all' (War Nerve). Track four (10's) presents us with a first shot at traditional conceptions of music (ie. the presence of melody) though the main of it carries on in a similar fashion with stubborn fortitude (Suicide Note Pt. I and II, etc.). Obviously Pantera and spitting cousins Sepultura make a pretty solid case that there is a huge market for this type of thing, though the statement carries with it the

hopeless inevitability of certain unwelcome realities. No matter, one must make room for the Marquis de Sade in the library just in case there's a fan in the guestroom - and there always is. It just doesn't get much heavier than this, folks. -RG

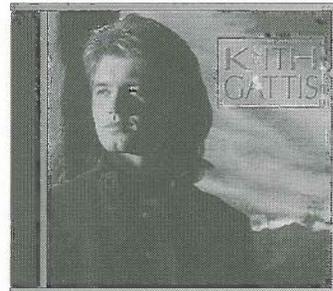
**FUN LOVIN' CRIMINALS -Alternative
Come Find Yourself
EMI 35703-F**

What do Quentin Tarantino, a mix of hip hop, blues and jazz and a penchant for looking on the bright side of



murder have in common? Three disgruntled ex-night club employees from New York who have tossed in the literal apron for a life of fun lovin' criminal activity. And the goods are on the table; a full length release called Come Find Yourself which has all of the humour and lazy dance groove promised by a few slick snapshots and a hilarious lyric sheet. For all of its simplicity and coolness this is the most welcome record these ears have heard in a while. Scooby Snacks (the one with the Pulp Fiction opener) is leading the assault at radio with its classic liner 'Running around robbing banks/ all whack on my scooby snacks' though the fun lovin' feel is echoed on a good two thirds of

the remainder. EMI must be as happy as punch with this one; there's a complete scene in the package, back turned hats and all. Expect a very strong reception at the junior level who will eat this thing up like marshmallows. -RG



**KEITH GATTIS -Country
Self-titled
RCA-07863-66834-N**

"This is the best country CD I've heard in two years. Brilliant!" That's quite an endorsement from BMG promo guy Dale Peters, which prompted an early listen. Peters is right on. This native of Austin, Texas, has a style reminiscent of early traditionalists but with a new country spin revealing a stylist as well as a performer. Gattis has everything going for him. He's young, good looking and an extremely talented songwriter with a vocal range and projection that makes the package complete. His first try-on for country programmers, Little Drops Of My Heart, took a little time to kick in on this side of the border, but this week bullets up to #69 on the RPM Country 100. This Norro Wilson production however, has a lot more in the offing, including Back In Your Arms, an "old Texas shuffle", which is really the

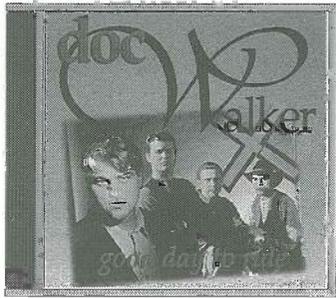
ALBUM PICK

**SCORPIONS
Rock
Pure Instinct
EastWest 14524-P**

It seems like yesterday that the Berlin Wall came tumbling down to the strains of the Scorp's Wind of Change, a rare poignant moment for a musical style that traditionally spent so much of its time trying to achieve the effect. Scorpions are old professionals and Wind Of Change was the culmination after some twenty years of forging the teary ballad amidst the raging blitzkrieg of heavy metal guitar chops. As before, their newest has the softer pieces (Does Anyone Know, When You Came Into My Life) holding sway over the harder staples, though the latter's enduring buoyancy is praiseworthy to say the least (Soul Behind The Face, Where The River Flows). Scorpions are one of the few groups that have remained faithful to heavy metal while evolving gracefully, something which rescued them from the fate of sister acts Iron Maiden and Judas Priest who were murdered in bed during the alternative explosion. Pure Instinct sees a line-up change (the departure of long time drummer Herman Rarebell) barely noticed for a band whose chain of command was always the still intact triumverate of vocalist Klaus Meine and twin rifiers Rudolf Schenker and Mathias Jabs. One or two awkward moments (including a puzzling all string closing track) will argue for their integrity in the long run, though God knows they don't need to make the point. A sovereign achievement from a one of rock's true regal bands. -RG



shaker on the CD, and Only Fool, which has all the ingredients and charm of traditional country as it should be. Needless to say, all three of the mentioned are key, and, by the way, are Gattis originals. But don't overlook Look Out Below, a left-fielder, which Gattis co-wrote with Jim Hefferman, who happens to be the steelman for Joe Diffie. The simplicity of the production, the vocals and the song material, brought into proper perspective through the Gattis vocal warmth should bring this bright new talent into the mainstream of country, however you label it. -WG



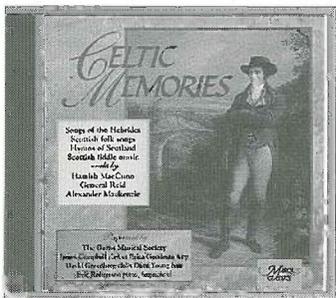
DOC WALKER - Country
Good Day To Ride
Agasea-95001

A great way to break into the industry with a hot debut single, That Bridge, now climbing the RPM Country 100. A good choice, by the way, showcasing the writing talent and aggressive vocal projection of lead vocalist Chris Thorsteinson, who also plays guitar. This is a young band with a hand-in-glove working methodology that gives them their own distinct sound. Thorsteinson's vocals are crisp and matter-of-fact, enhanced by exceptional vocal harmonies. Thorsteinson wrote eight of the 10 songs on the album, key being the first single, Blue Bar, \$100 Dollar Reward and Old Wheel Inn. Also key is producer Danny Schurr's penning of Willing Hand and the title track which was written by Bob Chartrand. The other members of the foursome are drummer Trevor Handford, bassist Ben Loutit and guitarist Dave Wasyliw, all of whom provided background vocals. Recorded at Winnipeg's Sunshine Studios. A pretty healthy first-time effort that should keep these guys in chart prominence for sometime. Contact Agasea in Winnipeg at 204-589-7769 or fax 204-582-8397. -WG



THE SPITFIRE BAND - Big Band
Virtual Reality
Ed Preston Enterprises-14409-N

It doesn't take too much coaxing to cozy up to a new release by the Spitfire Band and this, the latest in their 15-year history, is no exception. This Toronto-based big band continues to increase its fan base around the world. This release is available as an import in the US by Serendipity, who claim that a new CD release by the band is "always eagerly awaited by our customers." The reason given, is because the Spitfire Band "is our biggest-selling big band in Serendipity's almost 20-year history." Pretty solid logic. If in doubt, however, try a couple on for size, like Saturday Is The Loneliest Night Of The Week, Taking A Chance On Love and the Virtually Cool Medley with the vocal enhancement of The Tailwinds. And don't overlook Opus 1, Song Of India, And The Angels Sing and an awesome version of Parade Of The Wooden Soldiers. Founder and producer Jackie Rae, and founder, music director, arranger and man on the trumpet Mickey Erbe and Laurie Bower, a founding member and vocal arranger and trombonist, haven't missed a production/arrangement trick here. Instrumental balance is pristine. Besides Erbe and Bower the band comprises trombonists Bob Livingstone, Dave McMurdo and Bob Hamper, trumpeters Arnie Chycoski, David Woods, John MacLeod and Mike Malone, saxmen Jack Zaza, Bob DeAngelis, Dave Caldwell and Bill Ruttle, Gary Gross on keys, drummer John Sumner, Neville Barnes on electric guitar, and bassist Rick Homme. By the way, that's Jackie Rae on vocals on the Erbe/Rae penning of No More Dancing. That's the whole picture, and that's why the Spitfire Band continues to command the big band scene. Virtual Reality? Kind of cute. Check out the liner notes by Ed Preston. -WG



THE BURNS MUSICAL - Celtic
SOCIETY CELTIC MEMORIES
Marquis Classics-Erad 169

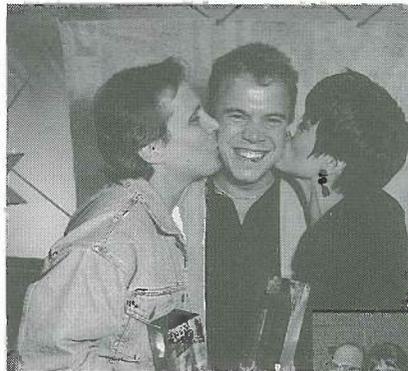
Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled, ye'll nae hear this music played at Club Med. This is primarily for kin, however distant, of those who live north of the Solway Firth but we graciously extend an invitation for all who care to enjoy. The Burns Society, a quintet of musicians formed expressly for this album have assembled a piquant package of Celtic charm comprising both traditional and contemporary Celtic music. Here are Scottish folk songs, Hymns of Scotland, songs of the Hebrides, Scottish fiddle music and Celtic compositions by Hamish MacCunn, General John Reid, Alexander Mackenzie and Eric

Robertson of the Society. There are 18 tracks in all. They're all enjoyable, but we suspect listeners will not, after a first hearing, play them all consecutively. We Celts are a moody bunch and that's reflected in our choice of personal music at any given time. There's music for every mood here, but not all at the same time, please. Even so, we have little hesitation in declaring that our two favourites are the Giga movement from the John Reid Suite and the Kerchief Dance by MacCunn. The quintet is comprised of James Campbell (clarinet), Erica Goodman (harp), David Green (violin), Dave Young (yes, that one, on bass) and Eric Robertson who plays piano and harpsichord. Everyone seems to be playing with affection but no more than that of us listening. -BW

CANADIAN OPERA - Classical
COMPANY ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS

Rarities by Rossini and Verdi
Richard Bradshaw conducting
CBC Records-5148 (Denon)
 Only some of the selections are unfamiliar. As example, The Chorus of

the Enslaved Hebrews is a concert favourite though Verdi's opera Nabusso whence it's taken, is not performed often. Ditto for Rossini's cantata Giunone in which opera buffs will recognize strains from his earlier and later operas Aureliano in Palmira and Il Barbiere di Siviglia. Still there are some genuine rarities. There are Verdi's Inno Delle Nazioni (Hymn of the Nations) and Rossini's Sinfonia to Ermione among the other delights to be savoured on this 10-track collection. Richard Bradshaw conducts a fine orchestra with loving vigour and Gary Wedow proves again that he's one of the finest choral directors. Soloists are Wendy Nielsen (soprano), Richard Margison (tenor), Gary Relyea (bass-baritone), Anita Krause (mezzo-soprano) and Stephen McClare (tenor). All sing in manner inspired but your reviewer is especially taken by the singing of Mr. McClare as Otumbo in Verdi's Alzira. As always, one's choice of a particular favourite is subjective. But for us, it's the Scottish Exile's Chorus from Verdi's Macbeth. This is music to stir the blood. Migawd, we nearly dug out our old kilt while listening to it. -BW



COUNTRY

Brooks & Dunn hold at #1 for the second week with their Arista release, *My Maria*. *Borderline*, the album the track was taken from, continues to chalk up good sales at retail and garners slots on RPM's Albums and country albums charts.

Wade Hayes has the big gainer this week. On *A Good Night*, which entered the chart last week at #82, jumps up to #58. Written by Paul Nelson, Don Cook and Larry Boone, this is the title track of his Columbia album which was produced by Cook.

Neal McCoy has a winner with the release of his Atlantic single *Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye* which is the most added this week entering the chart at #72. Taken from his self-titled album, the song was written by John D. Loudermilk. The album was produced by Barry Beckett.

Lee Roy Parnell makes it onto the chart this week (#74) with *Givin' Water To A Drowning Man*, his latest Arista release, which follows *Heart's Desire*, now descending the chart (#49). The track was taken from his album, *We All Get Lucky Sometimes* which was produced by Parnell and Scott Hendricks.

Doc Walker, a four-piece new country rock band from Winnipeg, make an impression with their debut, *The Bridge*, which enters the chart at #86. Written by the band's lead singer, Chris Thorsteinson, who also plays the guitar, the track was taken from the band's album, *Good Day To Ride*, released on the Agasea label. The album was produced by well-known writer/producer Danny Schur and recorded at Winnipeg's Sunshine Studios. Thorsteinson gets a co-producer credit. The single qualifies as four-parts Cancon. The other members of the band are Trevor Handford (vocals, drums, percussion), Ben Loutit (vocals, bass), and Dave Wasyliw (vocals, guitar). Contact the Agasea label in Winnipeg at 204-589-7769 or fax 204-582-8397.

Calvin Wiggett makes impressive moves up the chart with his latest Royalty release, *Loves Music Loves To Dance*, which bullets up to #45 this week. Mary Bailey and Bob Kasner of E&R Vision are now on board in guiding his career. Nominated for

a Big Country Award in the male artist category, Wiggett will be taping interviews with Entertainment Desk and Inside Country during his visit to Toronto to attend the awards show. He is also scheduled as a head table guest at the annual Variety Club Salute to Big Country on May 24. R.Harlan Smith is nominated in the producer category for producing *Missing You*, Wiggett's album. The video is on medium rotation and is being played at southern Ontario video/dance parties. Final preparations are being made for the third single and video.

CKGL's Hot Country Nights, a new entertainment package featuring a live band, the station's award-winning line dance team, a sound and light show and an all request DJ will premiere at The Stampede Ranch in Guelph at 7 pm on May 27. The touring show is backed by an aggressive promotional campaign on CKGL Country 570 Kitchener and is available as a community fundraiser for area groups and organizations. For more information contact Sandie at 519-743-2611.

Dwight Yoakam has been filmed for a July 13 date at the Molson Amphitheatre in Toronto and the following night at the Corel Centre in Ottawa. These are MCA Concerts Canada presentations. Yoakam is currently charting with *Sorry You Asked* (#72), his latest Reprise single taken from his *Gone* Album. David Ball is the opening act for both dates. Ball is looking good with *Circle Of Friends*, now bulleting up the chart (#84).

Chris Cummings is expected to crash onto the charts with *Sure Enough*, his second release on the Warner Bros label. This is the follow-up to *I Waited*, which went Top 5 (#4) on the RPM Country 100 (March 28/96). Somewhere Inside, the debut album from this 20-year old native of Saint John, goes to retail on June 18.

Amber Dawn Fleury, a 17-year old Royalty recording artist, who has won critical acclaim for her past releases, has just released a new single and

video from a brand new album. The single, *I'll Wait For You*, was written by R. Harlan Smith and D.S. Panko, and is included on her upcoming album, *Ain't No Cure For Love*, which was produced by Smith.

Ian Tyson to Puck's Farm for recording session

Veteran singer/songwriter/rancher, Ian Tyson, recently moved east from his foothills home to record two new songs at The Studio at Puck's Farm, billed as the "studio in the country", in Schomberg, Ontario.

The tracks were produced by Doug Riley and engineered by Phil Sheridan, regarded as the studio's "in-house resident genius." The two songs, *Barrel Rider* and *The Wonder Of It All*, will be part of a "best of" compilation to be released by the Edmonton-based Stony Plain label in September.

On hand for the sessions, providing background vocals were Joel Feeney and Don Neilson. The two songs were recorded and rough-mixed in three days.

It's no secret that Tyson has an aversion to city life, and he readily admitted that he was quite pleased with the facilities at Puck's Farm which is just 45 minutes north of Toronto.

"There's a nice country feel to the place and the acoustic nature of the room itself and the equipment was perfect for my music. It was a pleasure to work with Phil again, who I worked with on my first solo album for A&M back in 1973."

The "best of" compilation, titled *All The Good 'Uns*, will also include material from most of Tyson's solo albums released by Stony Plain. The title apparently came about from anxious fans who kept asking Tyson whether the album would include "all the good 'uns."



At The Studio at Puck's Farm, Ian Tyson, Joel Feeney, Don Neilson and Doug Riley ponder the vocal arrangement of Tyson's new songs.

COUNTRY PICKERS

BRUCE LEPERRE

CKDM - Dauphin
On A Good Night - Wade Hayes

BRUCE ANDREI

NorNet Broadcasting - Drumheller
Maybe - Mandy Barnett

ANDY HAYNES

KX-96FM - Durham
Learning As You Go - Rick Trevino

RICK FLEMING

CKQM-FM - Peterborough
Then You Can Tell Me... - Neal McCoy

DAN MITCHELL

All Hit Country - Cariboo Radio
Givin' Water To A ... - Lee Roy Parnell

WADE WILLEY

CKRM - Regina
Givin' Water To A ... - Lee Roy Parnell

JASON MANN

CKIQ The Bullet - Kelowna
It's Lonely Out There - Pam Tillis

RAY BERGSTROM

CFMK-FM - Kingston
Say I - Alabama

"SHOTGUN" FRANK McGWIRE

KIX - Brandon
Say I - Alabama

JAY HITCHEN

CHAT - Medicine Hat
Workin' It Out - Daryle Singletary

STEVE JONES

KIXX 105 - Thunder Bay
Give Me Some Wheels - Suzzy Bogguss

BOB FARINA

Y105 - Ottawa
You're Not In Kansas - JoDee Messina

RICK KELLY

CKKN-FM - Prince George
No One Needs To Know - Shania Twain

PHIL KALLSEN

CKRY-FM Country 105 - Calgary
Betty's Got A Bass Beat - Pam Tillis

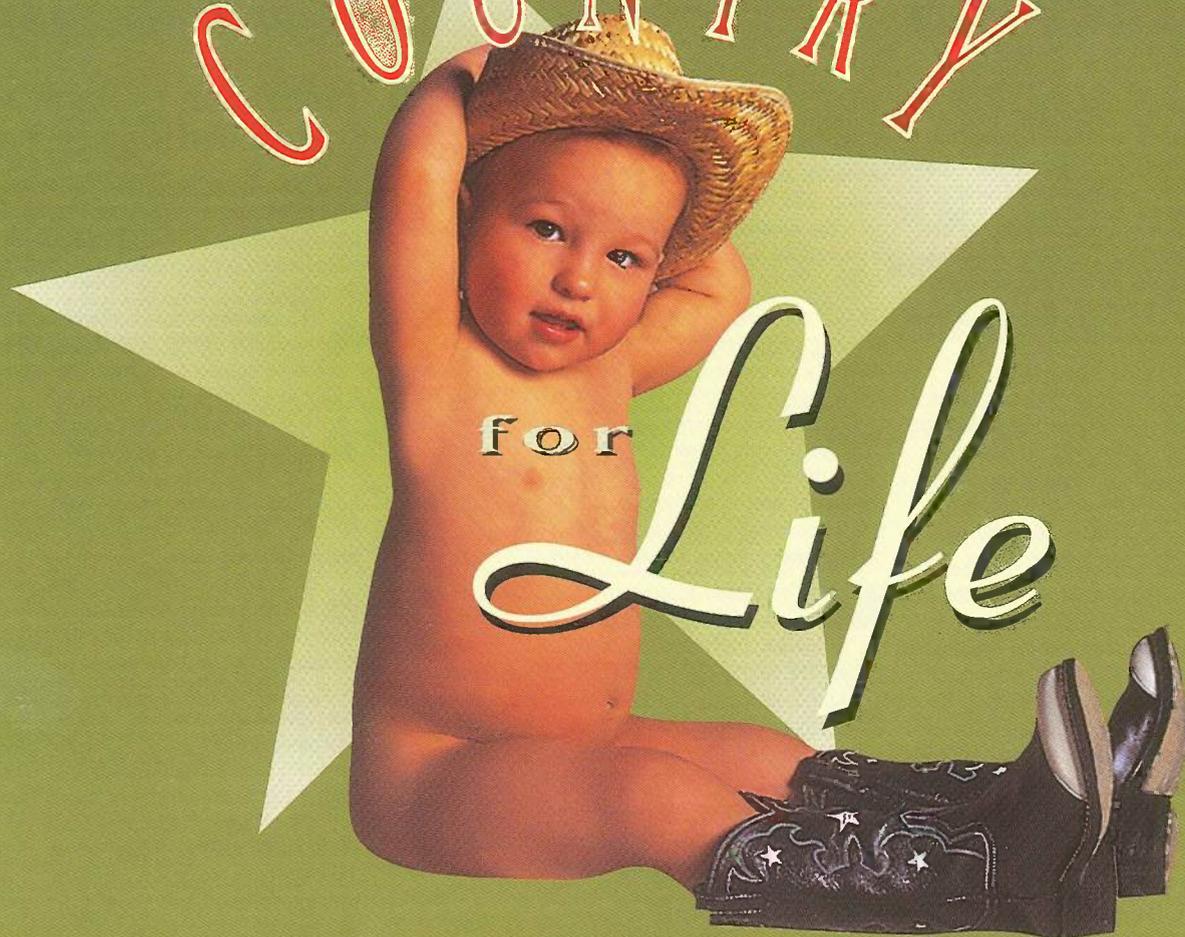
GARTH STONE

MX 92.1FM - Regina
Only On Days That End In Y - Clay Walker

KENT MATHESON

CFQM-FM - Moncton
We'll Hold On - The Neilsons

COUNTRY



This spring BMG Canada is launching an aggressive Country campaign that kicks off an integrated two year program called **Country for Life**. It features our 20 newest releases and our entire full-price catalogue.

The campaign is being introduced by a quartette of branded lifestyle icons lead by "Country Baby" and followed by "Country Courier", "Country Stockbroker" and "Country Dog" with more to come... The message of course is that **Everybody** is a potential country music fan!

Watch for Country Baby and Country For Life in stores, on TV (Nationally) and in print and radio promotions everywhere!

TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
 RANDALL PRESCOTT
 Till I Find My Love
 The Family Brown
 BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
 THESE DAYS
 The Family Brown
 TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY
 CLIFF DUMAS
 CHAM
 Hamilton, Ontario
 TOP RADIO STATION
 CHAM
 Hamilton, Ontario
 TOP RECORD COMPANY
 WEA MUSIC CANADA
 CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
 GEORGE FOX

1990
 TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
 k.d. lang
 TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
 GEORGE FOX
 TOP COUNTRY GROUP
 THE FAMILY BROWN
 OUTSTANDING NEW ARTISTS
 THE GREAT WESTERN ORCHESTRA
 BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
 FULL MOON OF LOVE
 k.d. lang and the reclines
 TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
 RANDALL PRESCOTT
 Let's Build A Life Together

The Family Brown
 TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
 GARY FJELLGARD
 Cowboy In Your Heart
 Gary Fjellgard
 TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY
 PAUL KENNEDY
 CHFX-FM
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 TOP COUNTRY RADIO STATION
 CHAM
 Hamilton, Ontario
 TOP RECORD COMPANY
 SAVANNAH RECORDS
 CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
 k.d. lang

1991
 TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
 MICHELLE WRIGHT
 TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
 GEORGE FOX
 TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP
 PRAIRIE OYSTER
 OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
 PATRICIA CONROY
 BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
 GOODBYE, SO LONG, HELLO
 Prairie Oyster
 BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
 WITH ALL MY MIGHT
 George Fox
 TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
 HOWIE VICKERS
 Somewhere On This Island
 Gary Fjellgard
 TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
 GARY FJELLGARD
 Somewhere On This Island
 Gary Fjellgard
 TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY
 CLIFF DUMAS
 CHAM
 Hamilton, Ontario
 TOP COUNTRY RADIO STATION
 CHAM
 Hamilton, Ontario
 TOP RECORD COMPANY

WARNER MUSIC CANADA
 CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
 MICHELLE WRIGHT
 1992
 TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
 MICHELLE WRIGHT
 TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
 GEORGE FOX
 TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP
 PRAIRIE OYSTER
 OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
 JOEL FEENEY
 BEST COUNTRY SINGLE
 SOMETHING TO REMEMBER YOU BY
 Prairie Oyster
 BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
 EVERYBODY KNOWS
 Prairie Oyster
 TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
 RANDALL PRESCOTT
 Take Me With You
 Patricia Conroy
 TOP COUNTRY COMPOSERS

KEITH GLASS & JOAN BESEN
 Something To Remember You By
 Prairie Oyster
 TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY
 CLIFF DUMAS
 CHAM
 Hamilton, Ontario
 TOP COUNTRY RADIO STATION
 CHAM
 Hamilton, Ontario
 TOP RECORD COMPANY
 BMG MUSIC CANADA
 CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
 PRAIRIE OYSTER

1993
 TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
 MICHELLE WRIGHT
 TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
 GEORGE FOX
 TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP
 THE RANKIN FAMILY
 OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST
 THE RANKIN FAMILY
 BEST COUNTRY SINGLE

HE WOULD BE SIXTEEN
 Michelle Wright
 BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
 NOW AND THEN
 Michelle Wright
 TOP COUNTRY COMPOSER
 JOAN BESEN
 One Time Around
 Prairie Oyster
 TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER
 CHAD IRSCHICK
 Orangedale Whistle
 The Rankin Family
 TOP MAJOR RECORD COMPANY
 BMG MUSIC CANADA
 TOP INDEPENDENT LABEL
 SAVANNAH RECORDS
 CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST
 MICHELLE WRIGHT

1994
 TOP COUNTRY FEMALE VOCALIST
 MICHELLE WRIGHT
 TOP COUNTRY MALE VOCALIST
 CHARLIE MAJOR

RPM COUNTRY ALBUMS

TW LW WO MAY 27, 1996

1	1	67	SHANIA TWAIN The Woman In Me Mercury-314-522-886-Q	MA PL	21	21	19	BLUE RODEO Nowhere To Here WEA-10617-P	MA PL
2	2	3	BROOKS & DUNN Borderline Arista/BMG-18819-N	MA PL	22	22	50	JASON McCOY Self-titled MCA-11290-J	MA PL
3	5	7	NEW COUNTRY 3 Various Artists WEA-34222-P	MA PL	23	30	3	BRYAN WHITE Between Now And Forever Asylum-61880-P	MA PL
4	4	40	TERRI CLARK Terri Clark Mercury Nashville-26991-Q	MA PL	24	29	3	JO DEE MESSINA Jo Dee Messina Curb-77820-F	MA PL
5	7	7	DIAMOND RIO IV Arista-18812-N	MA PL	25	19	37	THE MAVERICKS Music For All Occasions MCA-11257-J	MA PL
6	10	5	PAUL BRANDT Calm Before The Storm Reprise-46180-P	MA PL	26	27	24	VINCE GILL Souvenirs MCA-11394-J	MA PL
7	8	30	MARTINA McBRIDE Wild Angels RCA-7863-66509-N	MA PL	27	25	7	STEPPIN' COUNTRY 2 Various Artists Columbia-67453-H	MA PL
8	6	28	ALAN JACKSON The Greatest Hits Collection Arista-07822-18001-N	MA PL	28	24	39	THE RANKIN FAMILY Endless Seasons EMI-7243-832348-F	MA PL
9	3	14	LONESTAR Lonestar BNA/BMG-66642-N	MA PL	29	26	7	THE JOHNER BROTHERS Ten More Miles Sceptre/WEA-12005-P	MA PL
10	13	32	BLACKHAWK Strong Enough Arista-07822-18792-N	MA PL	30	35	18	ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL The Wheel Keeps On Rollin' Capitol/EMI-31280-F	MA PL
11	14	33	CHARLIE MAJOR Lucky Man Arista-74321-30728-N	MA PL	31	31	65	SUSAN AGLUKARK This Child EMI-32075-F	MA PL
12	15	11	RICKY SKAGGS Solid Ground Atlantic-82823-P	MA PL	32	36	32	JEFF FOXWORTHY Games Rednecks Play Warner Bros-45856-P	MA PL
13	9	8	NEIL DIAMOND Tennessee Moon Columbia-67382-H	MA PL	33	33	31	REBA McENTIRE Starting Over MCA-11264-J	MA PL
14	20	2	GEORGE STRAIT Blue Clear Sky MCA-11428-J	MA PL	34	28	29	TRAVIS TRITT Greatest Hits From The Beginning Warner Bros-46001-P	MA PL
15	11	14	WYNNONNA Revelations MCA-11090-J	MA PL	35	NE	NE	CALVIN WIGGETT Made For Each Other Royalty-300-9545	MA PL
16	16	26	GARTH BROOKS Fresh Horses Capitol-32080-F	MA PL	36	38	11	DOUG SUPERNAW You Still Got Me Giant-24639-P	MA PL
17	12	39	FAITH HILL It Matters To Me Warner Bros-45872-P	MA PL	37	37	13	PATTY LOVELESS The Trouble With The Truth Epic-67269-H	MA PL
18	17	20	DAVID LEE MURPHY Out With A Bang MCA-11044-J	MA PL	38	39	20	PAM TILLIS All Of This Love Arista-07822-18799-N	MA PL
19	23	14	TRACY LAWRENCE Time Marches On Atlantic-82866-P	MA PL	39	34	28	DWIGHT YOAKAM Gone Reprise-46051-P	MA PL
20	18	27	STOMPIN' TOM CONNORS Long Gone To The Yukon EMI-7243-835298-F	MA PL	40	40	21	JOE DIFFIE Life's So Funny Epic-67405-H	MA PL

REM Adult Contemporary TRACKS

Record Distributor Code:

BMG - N EMI - F MCA - J Polygram - Q Sony - H Warner - P

TW LW WO MAY 27, 1996

1	2	16	BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME Celine Dion - Falling Into You 550 Music/Epic-7692 (pro single)-H	21	22	7	NEVER NEVER LOVE Simply Red - Life EastWest-12069 (comp 278)-P	41	42	3	YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME Randy Newman & Lyle Lovett - Toy Story OST Disney-608837 (pro single)
2	1	8	ALWAYS BE MY BABY Mariah Carey - Daydream Columbia-66700 (pro single)-H	22	26	7	CAN I GET CLOSE Gavin Hope - No album Radikal/Quality (pro single)	42	35	6	BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE Bonnie Raitt - Road Tested EMI-33705 (CD track)-F
3	3	10	DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU Lionel Richie - Louder Than Words Mercury (comp 447)-Q	23	20	17	HEROINE Wild Strawberries - Heroine Nettwerk-3099 (CD track)-F	43	49	3	THEME FROM MISSION IMPOSSIBLE Adam Clayton & Larry Mullen - Mission Impossi Island-314 531 6822 (comp 4)-Q
4	4	10	COUNT ON ME Whitney Houston w/CeCe Winans - Waiting To... Arista-18796 (comp 2)-N	24	12	13	A COMMON DISASTER Cowboy Junkies - Lay It Down Geffen-24952 (pro single)-J	44	34	18	BIRMINGHAM Amanda Marshall - Self-titled Columbia-80229 (pro single)-H
5	5	12	THE RIGHT TIME The Corrs - Forgiven, Not Forgotten Lava-143 (comp 277)-P	25	32	7	ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE Mike & The Mechanics - Beggar On A Beach ... Atlantic-82738 (CD track)-P	45	36	18	ONE OF US Joan Osborne - Relish Mercury-314 526 699 (pro single)-Q
6	6	13	IRONIC Alanis Morissette - Jagged Little Pill A&M-314-540-399 (comp 1)-Q	26	16	8	CLOSER TO FREE Bodeans - Joe Dirt Car Slash/Reprise-45945 (comp 272)-P	46	46	9	FAST AS I CAN Great Big Sea - Up WEA-12277-P
7	7	7	DREAMER'S DREAM Tom Cochrane - Ragged Ass Road EMI-32951 (CD track)-F	27	23	12	LUCKY LOVE Ace Of Base - The Bridge Arista 17822 (comp 2)-N	47	51	3	CHAMPAGNE SUPERNOVA Oasis - (What's The Story) Morning Glory Epic-67351 (comp 049)-H
8	8	10	NOBODY KNOWS The Tony Rich Project - Words La Face-26022 (pro single)-N	28	18	11	ONLY LOVE Sophie B. Hawkins - Whaler Columbia-53300 (comp 046)-H	48	52	2	DANCE WITH ME John & Toyro - Blood Brothers Tandem/Fusion III-9605 (pro single)
9	9	13	PLEASE Elton John - Made In England Rocket/Mercury-314-526-185 (CD track)-Q	29	40	2	FALL FROM GRACE Amanda Marshall - Self-titled Columbia-80299 (comp 049)-H	49	50	3	VOICE OF THE HEART Diana Ross - Take Me Higher Motown-314 530 5862 (comp 4)-Q
10	11	13	YOU'RE OK k.d.lang - All You Can Eat Warner Bros-46034 (comp 275)-P	30	37	4	THE ONLY THING THAT LOOKS GOOD Bryan Adams - 18 Til I Die A&M-31454-0551 (pro single)-Q	50	44	11	SHOE BOX Barenaked Ladies - Born On A Pirate Ship Reprise-46183 (comp 279)-P
11	13	13	I CRY Bass Is Base - Memories of the Soulshack ... A&M-31454-0398 (CD track)-Q	31	38	6	GIVE ME ONE REASON Tracy Chapman - New Beginning Elektra-61850 (comp 289)-P	51	NE		LOOKING FOR IT Jann Arden - Living Under June A&M-314-540248 (CD track)-Q
12	19	6	FAST LOVE George Michael - Older Dreamworks (pro single)-P	32	28	18	WHO DO U LOVE Deborah Cox - Self-titled Arista-07822-18781-N	52	45	14	OH VIRGINIA Blessid Union Of Souls - Home EMI-31836 (CD track)-F
13	27	9	REACH Gloria Estefan - Destiny Epic-67283-H	33	39	4	I'M GETTING USED TO YOU Selena - Dreaming Of You EMI-34123 (comp 6)-F	53	NE		CAN'T GET YOU OFF MY MIND Lenny Kravitz - Intimate & Interactive Virgin-40696 (single)-F
14	14	11	DARLING PRETTY Mark Knopfler - Golden Heart Mercury-314-514-732 (comp 447)-Q	34	29	12	MAKE IT UP AS YOU GO Hemingway Corner - Under The Big Sky Epic-80218 (CD track)-H	54	NE		THE OLD APARTMENT Barenaked Ladies - Born On A Pirate Ship Reprise-46128 (comp 286)-P
15	10	15	DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE Amy Sky - Cool Rain Iron Music-77876-51005 (pro single)-N	35	31	10	JUNE AFTERNOON Roxette - Don't Bore Us, Get To The Chorus EMI 35466 (comp 4)-F	55	NE		LIE TO ME Bon Jovi - These Days Mercury-314-528-181 (pro single)-Q
16	15	15	THIS IS THE STUFF Carolyn Arends - I Can Hear You RCA-08060-83737 (comp 1)-N	36	41	4	YOU STILL TOUCH ME Sting - Mercury Falling A&M-31454-0483 (CD track)-Q	56	47	20	DON'T CRY Seal - Seal ZTT/WEA UK-74557 (comp 270)-P
17	17	5	CHAINS Tina Arena - Don't Ask Epic-67533 (comp 048)-H	37	43	2	AHEAD BY A CENTURY The Tragically Hip - Trouble At The Henhouse MCA-81011 (pro single)-J	57	NE		TOO MUCH Dave Matthews Band - Crash RCA-07863-66904 (pro single)-Q
18	25	5	OLD MAN AND ME Hootie & The Blowfish - Fairweather Johnson Atlantic-82886 (comp 283)-P	38	30	20	MISSING Everything But The Girl - Massive Dance Hits WEA-33938 (comp 269)-P	58	NE		UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO Buffy Sainte Marie - Up Where We Belong EMI-35059 (comp 12)-F
19	21	9	A LIST OF THINGS Dahnait Doyle - Happy Nowhere Latitude-50422 (comp 4)-F	39	54	2	EVERYTHING FALLS APART Dog's Eye View - Happy Nowhere Columbia-66882 (comp 049)-H	59	56	7	GIN PALACE Barney Bentall - Gin Palace Columbia-80224 (comp 048)-H
20	24	6	LOVE DON'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE Madonna - Something To Remember Maverick-46100 (CD track)-P	40	33	14	STARBUDD ROAD Megan Metcalfe - Megan Metcalfe EMI-36900 (pro single)-F	60	57	8	THE LONG WAY HOME Rawlins Cross - Living River Ground Swell/Warner-13666 (comp 278)-P

REM Dance

TW LW WO - MAY 27, 1996

1	2	4	KILLING ME SOFTLY The Fugees Columbia-H	11	11	5	SANTA MARIA Tatjana BMG-N	21	28	2	DANCE TO THE MUSIC Academia Dance Pool-H
2	7	7	I LOVE TO LOVE La Bouche Arista-N	12	10	11	1,2,3,4 (Sumpin' New) Coolio Tommy Boy-Denon	22	NE		UPSIDE DOWN Groove Club Isba-Koch
3	3	5	CRYING IN THE RAIN Culture Beat Dance Pool-H	13	18	4	1979 The Smashing Pumpkins Virgin-F	23	16	11	SITTIN' UP IN MY ROOM Brandy Atlantic-P
4	1	8	GIV ME LUV Alcatraz Attic-J	14	9	13	CALIFORNIA LOVE 2 Pac A&M-Q	24	19	7	WOO-HAH! GOT YOU ALL IN... Busta Rhymes Elektra-P
5	4	8	DISCO'S REVENGE Gusto Hi-Bias-Q	15	27	2	KNOCKIN' Double Vision Pirate-Quality	25	NE		FEEL THE MUSIC Planet Soul Strictly-Quality
6	13	3	CRY INDIA Umboza Capitol-F	16	14	4	LA RUMBA DE NICOLAS Gipsy Kings Columbia-H	26	20	15	LOVE IS PARADISE First Base Ariola-N
7	6	7	LA MORENA Los Illegales BMG-N	17	21	3	I'M IN LOVE A'Lisa B SPG-P	27	22	8	FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME Pleasure Beat Pirate-Quality
8	8	7	EVERYBODY'S GROOVIN' Max-A-Million Zoo-N	18	12	7	I BELIEVE Herbie Chairon-N	28	23	7	THAT SOUND Joey Musaphia TJSB-Koch
9	5	12	FEELS SO GOOD Lina Santiago Universal-J	19	25	2	ACCESS DJ Misjah TJSB-Koch	29	NE		C'MON RIDE IT (The Train) Quad City DJs Atlantic-P
10	17	3	MUSIK House People Popular-P	20	15	12	MY RADIO J.K. Lime Inc.-P	30	24	5	WHAT A SENSATION Kenlou III Quality

CLASSIFIEDS

better, the last couple of years particularly," adds Mann. "It is amazing and I think that the Canadian country music industry is really coming into its own. I wish we had the population base that we could afford it a little bit better. But it is evident from the Paul Brandts, the Shania Twains, the Terri Clarkes and The Rankins of the world that the product is marketable to a bigger audience."

There is general agreement that Canadian country is ready to be aggressively placed in the international marketplace and there is a murmur that its proven distinctiveness could be the key to a world-wide renaissance in the format.

"I think there should be a serious amount of thought put into designing a plan that better exports Canadian talent," suggests Mann. "We have some of the best in the world."

TOP COUNTRY GROUP OR DUO

PRAIRIE OYSTER

OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST

JIM WITTER

BEST COUNTRY SONG

I'M GONNA DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND

Charlie Major

BEST COUNTRY ALBUM

THE OTHER SIDE

Charlie Major

TOP COUNTRY COMPOSERS

CHARLIE MAJOR & BARRY BROWN

I'm Gonna Drive You Out Of My Mind

Charlie Major

TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER

CHAD IRSCHICK

Gillis Mountain

The Rankin Family

TOP MAJOR RECORD COMPANY

BMG MUSIC CANADA

TOP INDEPENDENT LABEL

SAVANNAH RECORDS

CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST

CHARLIE MAJOR

1995

TOP FEMALE ARTIST

MICHELLE WRIGHT

TOP MALE ARTIST

CHARLIE MAJOR

TOP COUNTRY GROUP OR DUO

PRAIRIE OYSTER

OUTSTANDING NEW ARTIST

SHANIA TWAIN

BEST COUNTRY SONG

SUCH A LONELY ONE

Russell deCarle

Prairie Oyster

BEST COUNTRY ALBUM

ONLY ONE MOON

Prairie Oyster

TOP COUNTRY SONGWRITER

JIM WITTER & JOHNNY DOUGLAS

Stolen Moments

Jim Witter

TOP COUNTRY PRODUCER

JOHNNY DOUGLAS

Stolen Moments

Jim Witter

TOP MAJOR RECORD COMPANY

BMG MUSIC CANADA

TOP INDEPENDENT LABEL

STONY PLAIN RECORDS

TOP COUNTRY RADIO STATION

CKRY-FM

Calgary, Alberta

TOP COUNTRY RADIO PERSONALITY

CLIFF DUMAS

CISS-FM

Toronto, Ontario

CANADIAN COUNTRY ARTIST

CHARLIE MAJOR

EXPERIENCED NEWS PEOPLE

Monarch Broadcasting Ltd. is a progressive company with 7 radio and 2 television stations in Alberta and British Columbia.

We are always looking for experienced news people who want to work in full-service news rooms. We are not looking for "rip and readers". We want people who are pro-active and who will ask the tough questions.

If you have a minimum of 2 years reporting experience and want to join a company that likes to promote from within, then send a resume and demo tape to:

Human Resources - News Department
Box 1270
1111 Kingsway Ave.
Medicine Hat, Alberta
T1A 7H5

Salary is to commensurate with experience and ability, and includes an above average benefits package. All responses will be treated with the utmost confidence, so feel free to apply with the future in mind.

CANADA'S MOST COMPETITIVE MARKET IS DETROIT

Radio 4 Windsor is:
580 Memories CKWW
AM 800 CKLW The Information Station
Modern Rock 89X
CIDR "The River"

Please send tapes and resumes to:

1640 Ouellette Avenue,
Windsor, Ontario
N8X 1L1

YES you can **DO IT YOURSELF!**
with my **ESTATE PLANNING KIT!**
My KIT contains

WILLS
POWERS OF ATTORNEY
CAREFUL INSTRUCTIONS
GOOD ADVICE!

available for \$40.00 from

Linda M. Heyder
Barrister Solicitor
139 Ontario Street
Burk's Falls, Ontario
POA 1C0
1-800-332-1128

Ontario residents only!



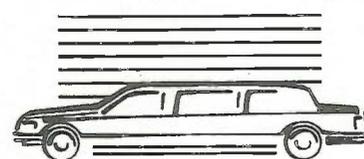
DIRECTOR OF SALES

Oak Street Music, Canada's family entertainment leader, requires an aggressive, self motivated professional with industry experience to take national audio/video sales to new heights!

Please forward letter and resume no later than Friday May 17 to:

Oak Street Music
1067 Sherwin Rd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3H 0T8
Fax: 204-697-0903

Serving the
Canadian Music Industry



LIMO IMAGE
THE LIMOUSINE SERVICE

Mississauga (905) 275-1043
Toronto (416) 606-6780

Don't be LAST ON THE BLOCK

We design pages and place your work on a wide variety of INTERNET SITES

Entry-level opportunity starts at \$50.

World Wide Web

GET ON IT!
SINGERS MUSICIANS
AGENTS MANAGERS
BANDS PUBLICISTS
STUDIOS PRODUCERS
VENUES PROMOTERS
LABELS & WRITERS

<InfoAge><CYBERbroker>

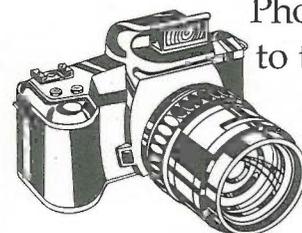
ELECTROMEDIA
a division of WindSigh

Phone:(905)433-7083 Email: picsell @ io.org Fax:905 433 0648
4936 Yonge St., Suite 114, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 6S3

Discover the secret
that so many
already know!

Belamys
Restaurants
Doing it Right

THOMAS L. SANDLER



Photographer
to the Music
Industry

31 Brock Avenue, Studio 107
Toronto, Ontario M6K 2K9
416-534-5299

Congratulations

JASON McCOY

FIVE BIG COUNTRY AWARD
NOMINATIONS

★ALBUM OF THE YEAR

★MALE ARTIST

★OUTSTANDING
NEW ARTIST

★COUNTRY SONG

Learning A Lot About Love

★SONGWRITER

JASON McCOY and
TERRINE BARNES
*Learning A Lot
About Love*

*Thanks to our friends
at RPM, Radio, and NCN
for an incredible year!*

MCA MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

JASON McCOY MANAGEMENT:
RON KITCHENER, RGK ENTERTAINMENT

MCA

