

manitoba music
SPRING 2011 - VOL 20.1



in this issue:

THE LIPTONIANS

PIP SKID

RANDY FRYKAS

FRED PENNER

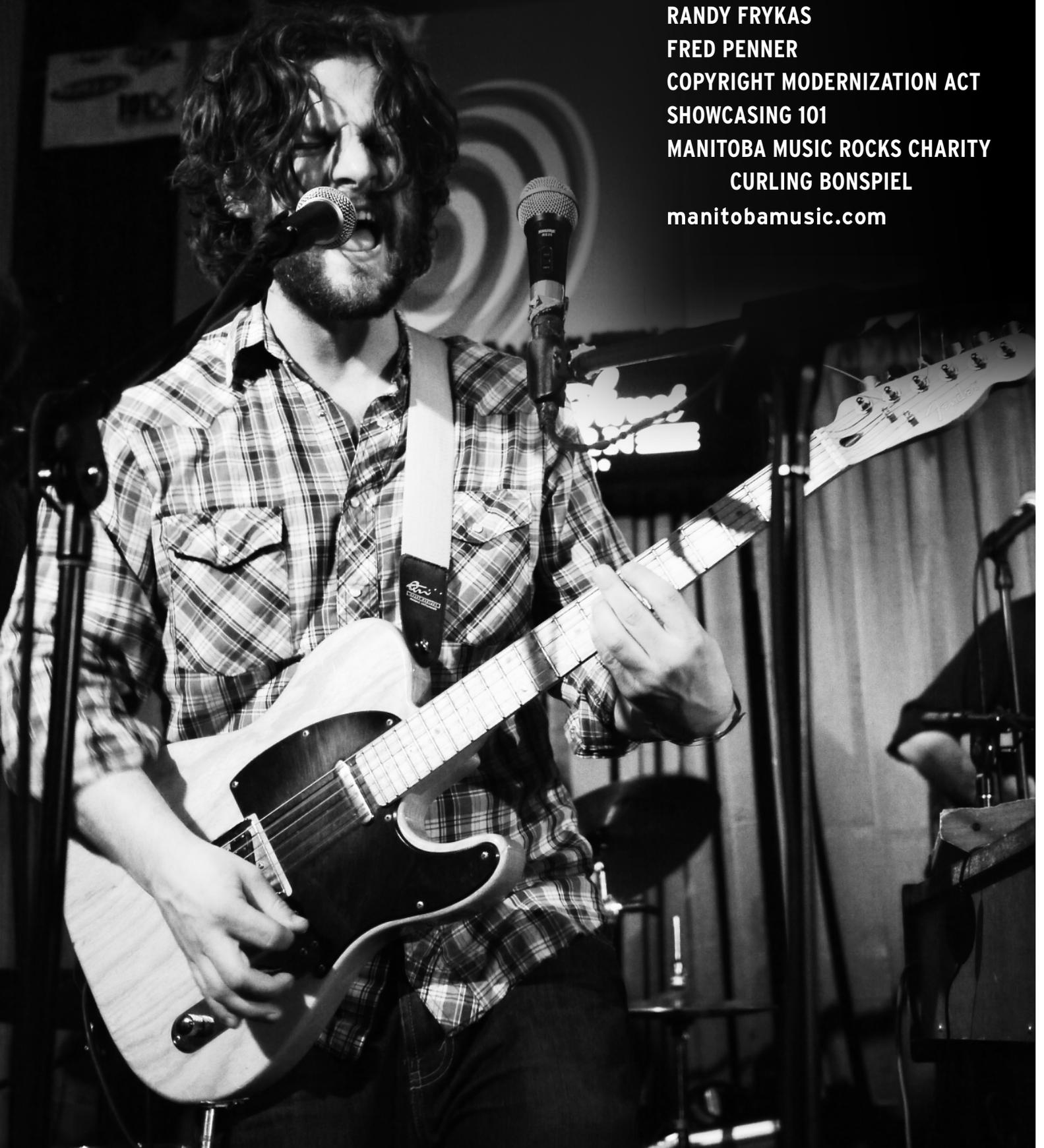
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manitoba music

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Manitoba Music operates with the generous financial support of:



MANITOBA Film & Music

MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The following businesses offer discounts to active Manitoba Music members. You will need to provide proof of membership with your membership card in order to access the discounts. Subject to change without notice.

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HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS PLAN
gblsolutions.ca/manitobamusic.htm
E: info@gblsolutions.ca
P: 204.654.4765

Manitoba Music members can now access a Health and Dental benefits plan by Group Medical Services from GBL Solutions Inc. This plan has been chosen for a number of reasons;

- 1) Flexibility: You only choose the options that you want.
- 2) Reasonable Cost: Options include rates for Single, Couple and Family. You only pay for what you need.
- 3) Local Service: GBL Solutions is a local group brokerage. They will answer your questions and walk you through the process.

Interested in offering a discount for Manitoba Music members? Email info@manitobamusic.com or call us at 942.8650 for info on how to get involved.

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ADVERTISING RATES FOR MANITOBA MUSIC NEWSLETTER:

Size	Dimensions (hwx)	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	10" x 7 1/2"	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
Half Page	10" x 3 3/4" or 5" x 7 1/2"	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
Quarter Page	5" x 3 3/4"	\$ 75.00	\$ 120.00
Business Card Ad	2 1/2" x 3 3/4"	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00

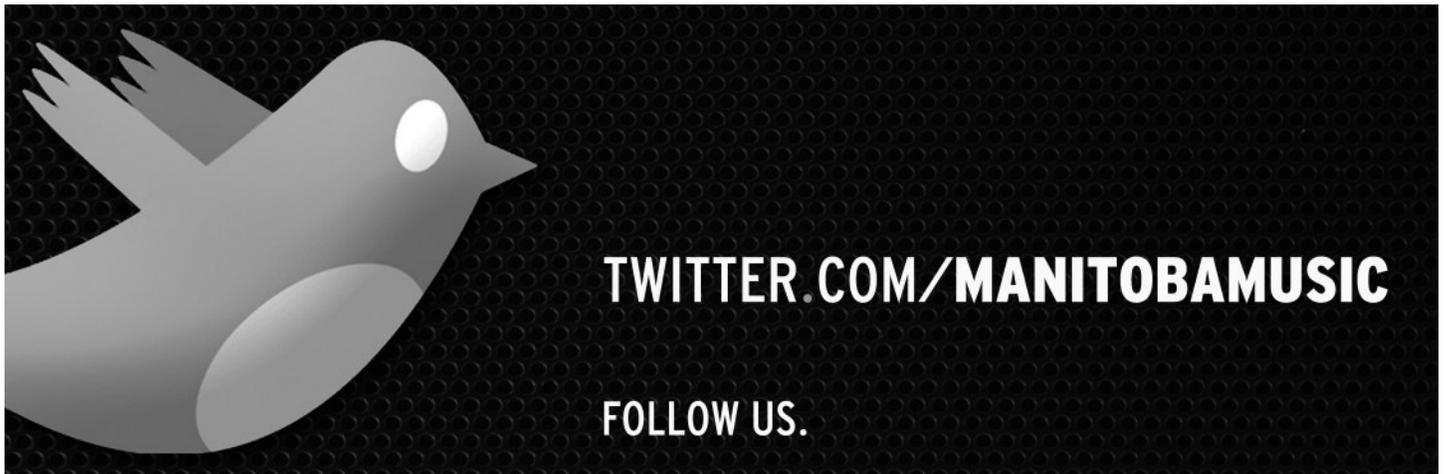


Sound Strategy Music Publicity is in the midst of college and commercial radio, and publicity campaigns for a variety of Manitoba artists, including folk/pop singer/songwriter Katie Murphy, whose spring 2011 cross-Canada tour spans from Vancouver to Halifax. Sound Strategy spearheaded a CD release campaign for Woodlands, Manitoba folk artist Emma Cloney, who received significant media coverage in local publications and radio supporting her Gas Station Theatre concert. Sound Strategy is extremely busy working on Keith and Renee's upcoming country-crossover album release. A first single, along with a radio promo tour, is set for the spring. Another country client, Australia's Jetty Road, returns to Canada for main stage gigs at Merritt Mountainfest, Big Valley Jamboree and Cavendish Beach Music Festival, with Sound Strategy leading a Canadian and U.S. single release strategy - complemented with a publicity campaign already in full swing.

Several Manitoba singer/songwriters are finalists and semi-finalists in this year's prestigious International Songwriting Competition, including **Jaylene Johnson**, **Scott Nolan**, and **Abstract Artform**. Johnson's song "Handsome," co-written with Winnipeg-based producer/songwriter **Chris Burke-Gaffney** and Halifax-based sister act The Keats, is a finalist in the country category. Her song "Joy," co-written with fellow Winnipegger **Arun Chaturvedi**, is also a semi-finalist. Nolan's song "Trial Separation" is a finalist in the Americana category. Abstract Artform's track "Here We Are" is up in the R&B/Hip-hop category. **Cat Jahnke** landed two songs in the list of semi-finalists, which also includes locals **Ian La Rue**, **Katherine Penfold** and **Gerry Atwell**, and **Bubba B the MC** (Robert Wilson, Adrian McLean, Byron Foster).

Winnipeg's **Gt. DANE** is set to release his first solo effort, *Mourning yer host*, **Gt. DANE**, as a vinyl/digital E.P on May 11. **Gt. DANE** recorded the album with members of Les Jupes, All of Your Friends, and SitDown Tracy in an unheated film prop warehouse

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**Andraea Sartison** (promoter)**Ariel Posen** (musician/composer/producer/arranger)
*youtube.com/guitariel1***Chris Froome** (solo/musician)
*chrisfroome.com***Claude Bellefeuille** (composer)**Federal Lights** (solo)
*facebook.com/federalights***Feng Shui** (band)**George Major** (engineer)**Gérald Laroche** (solo/composer)
*geraldlaroche.com***Goldenboy** (band)**Grace Hrabi** (vocalist)
*gracehrabi.com***Jade Turner** (solo)
*myspace.com/jadeturnermusic***Jamie Dowse** (manager/promoter)**Jenny Berkel** (solo)
*myspace.com/jennyberkel***John Norman** (DJ)
*djkhemlab.com***Julia Kasdorf** (solo)
*myspace.com/juliakasdorf***Kelly B** (songwriter)**Kurtis Gibson** (solo)**Latka** (band)
*myspace.com/latkakatka***Marie-Josée Dandeneau** (bassist)
*mjdandeneau.com***Mikel Rondeau** (solo)
*foultone.com***Nocoma** (band)
*myspace.com/nocomaband***PTC Productions** (composer)
*myspace.com/philcholosky***Red Rising Recording** (engineer)
*redrisingrecording.ca***Ryan Van Belleghem** (solo)
*ryanvanbelleghem.com***Shira Time Presentations** (promoter/new media)
*winnipegive.ca***Sweet Alibi** (band)
*sweetalibi.com***Taylor & Young** (band)
*taylorandyoung.ca***Tiffany Ponce** (solo)
*myspace.com/tiffanyponcemusic***Top Dawg Recording and Audio** (studio)
*topdawgrecording.com***Vampires** (band)
*myspace.com/vampireslikeyou***Westaway** (solo)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the roles of your industry association is to lobby on your behalf to make conditions in our industry better. Over the past months our work in this respect has been focused on the proposed changes to Bill C-32, the Copyright Modernization Act. As a board member on the Canadian Council of Music Industry Associations (CCMIA - an alliance of 10 provincial music industry associations), I've contributed to a position that was put forward to the federal government as part of their process of modernizing the Act. This position was developed through the comments, feedback, and suggestions we received from industry association members across the country. Thank you for participating in our various calls for comment, and for arming me with your perspectives and priorities. After months of consultation, we have developed a position we're proud of and that we believe fairly represents the concerns of our members.

On March 1, the president of the CCMIA, JP Ellson, presented this position in Ottawa to the parliamentary committee, and fielded questions on behalf of the over 10,000 members the CCMIA represents through its provincial music industry associations across the country.

What follows is a shortened version of the position paper - you can find it in its entirety here manitobamusic.com/news/announcements/4564. The CCMIA believes the existing Copyright Act needs to be modernized. While Bill C-32 addresses some of the needs of Canadian copyright holders and creators, it proposes changes to copyright that will greatly weaken copyrights generally at a time when copyright holders and creators are at their greatest need of copyright protection. During this time of massive technological change, the music industry has been hit hard in terms of economic loss as a result of digital download piracy and weak copyright laws. The federal government, in attempting to give consumers more access to copyrighted works, cannot at the same time deny copyright owners and creators the right to fair remuneration for the use of their works.

A. Reproduction for Private Purposes

Bill C-32 proposes that private copying on a wide

variety of storage devices be exempt from the private copying levy.

Our recommendation:

Copyright owners and creators should be fairly compensated for private use of music by consumers. The private copying levy should be extended to all fixed or mobile music storage devices. This would allow consumers the right to privately use the legitimately purchased music in their possession on multiple devices while balancing this with copyright owner and creator rights to receive fair compensation for their work.

B. User-Generated Content (UGC)

The so-called "mash-up" exception introduced by Bill C-32 is an attempt to allow consumers to use copyrighted materials in creating new works to be posted online. This would allow the public to by-pass long established licensing and collective bargaining practices in Canada, ignoring the rights of labels and publishers and impacting on a creator's right to enforce their moral rights in their creation.

Our recommendation:

The UGC exception should not be included in Bill C-32. It should be up to individual copyright owners and creators if they want their works to be used by consumers for such things as "mash-ups".

C. Statutory Damages

Bill C-32 proposes the dramatic reduction of statutory damages for copyright infringement to a range of \$100 to \$5000 for infringements of non-commercial purposes. The reduction of these statutory damages will not only fail to deter people from pirating music, it will encourage them. With the cost of court proceedings and legal fees being so high and the resulting reduced damages being so low, parties who have suffered infringements will have no incentive to pursue these matters in court.

Our recommendation:

Do not distinguish between commercial and non-commercial infringement, but ensure that the courts continue to have the discretion to reduce damages in appropriate circumstances. Do not exempt copyright infringement enablers from statutory damages: delete proposed exemption 38.1(6)(d).

D. ISP Liability

Bill C-32 provides for "notice and notice" under which ISPs would be obligated to send a notice to potential copyright infringers after receiving a notice of alleged infringement. This notice would be the only responsibility of the ISP on this matter.

Our recommendation:

Implement a "graduated response" or another collaborative system in co-operation with ISPs that relies on educating alleged infringers before more stringent measures are imposed. ISPs and other intermediaries should lose their immunity status if they fail to act reasonably to deter copyright infringement.

E. Proposed Elimination of Collective Licensing Mechanisms

This would eliminate subsection 30.9(6) of the Act, which provides that the ephemeral recording exception does not apply if a licence is available from a collective society. Accordingly if made law, the proposed amendment would reduce royalties payable to rights-holders

Our recommendation:

Don't eliminate 30.9(6) of the Copyright Act. Look for ways to strengthen collective licensing mechanisms, rather than weaken or eliminate them.

As your industry association, Manitoba Music will keep you informed about happenings in this area, and we always welcome your comments and questions. Please keep us informed about your intellectual property. We are offering a great opportunity to do so on April 2 with a workshop on Rights Management.

It was developed by the Cultural Human Resources Council and will be delivered by Jodie Ferneyhough, who has the magical power of making these complex issues digestible, relevant, and even fun. Visit manitobamusic.com/workshops for more information.

Sara Stasiuk
Executive Director

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in January, 2011. The EP is the prologue to Gt. DANE's forthcoming November full-length debut.

After months of trudging through snow and ice, Trio Bembe is excited to welcome back their third member, Rodrigo Muñoz this April. After recording guitar for their new album, Oh My Soul, Muñoz escaped the Winnipeg winter to spend a few months in the Caribbean. He's back just in time for spring thaw and a great big party. Celebrate infectious, danceable Latin world music, cultivated right here on the Canadian Prairies, with Trio Bembe on April 15 at the West End Cultural Centre. Find out more at triobembe.com.

Jaylene Johnson has had two new nominations added to her credits for her work as a songwriter. She collaborated and sang on Eagle & Hawk's Juno nominated "The Great Unknown," and "Give Me a Ring," her cowrite with Chris-Burke-Gaffney and The Keats, is up for Single of the Year at the 2011 East Coast Music Awards. Her own work has taken a turn toward more bare-bones, acoustic recording, which can be heard on her new digital release, "Wish," and she's begun working on similar-style recordings with acclaimed producer, Lloyd Peterson. Johnson has also signed a non-exclusive deal with CORE Music Agency to promote her works to film and television. Her music continues to be used in this way, most recently with her song "Happiness" on Degraasi: The Next Generation. Visit jaylenejohnson.com for the latest news.

The Perms are presently working on their fifth studio album. The album is expected to be released in April 2011 in Canada and September 2011 in Europe. Check out The Perms' new redesigned website at theperms.com for upcoming tour dates and more information on the new album.

Alana Levandoski has been traveling the world for the past few years playing her songs. After a long, pregnant pause of not playing or living in Winnipeg, Levandoski is back here for three months restructuring her business and planning for a four-month journey from Newfoundland to Louisiana called In Quest of Music. You'll be able to follow her along as she plays shows, collaborates with other players and works on boats, farms, visits prisons and churches looking for music that still touches life. Find out more at alanalevandoski.com.

Imaginary Cities' name has cropped a lot in the news lately. The pop/soul act landed the supporting slot for Pixies entire North American tour, signed to Germany's Grand Hotel Van Cleef Records, and its debut release, Temporary Resident, was recently the Globe & Mail's Disc of the Week. The duo also just

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Volume 10 No. 1 of the MARIA newsletter in 2001



Volume 15 No. 2 of the renamed MARIAtalk in 2005

FUTURE OF THE NEWSLETTER

As spring starts to thaw the prairies, Manitoba Music's fiscal year comes to an end. Most people start the new year in January, but we start it in April. The months leading up to the new fiscal include a lot of planning, preparation, and budgeting, as we solidify our plans for the coming year and get ready for June's Annual General Meeting.

During the flurry reporting and forecasting, a topic of discussion that keeps cropping up is the future of the piece you are reading right now: our printed newsletter.

Over the last 20 years, we've put out about 80 newsletters. And over those two decades, the newsletter has changed focus and look and name, expanded pages, and, hopefully, offered insight into the people that make Manitoba's music industry so vibrant and exciting. We hope that you've found the profiles and articles on these pages interesting and useful, and that the newsletter helps to keep you connected to this province's incredible music community. We love putting it together, laying it out, and sharing stories about some of the talented and innovative artists, individuals, and companies that call Manitoba home.

But as much as we love this newsletter, the reality of the digital age can't be ignored any longer. We now have a great website offering a tremendous amount of content and coverage, Twitter and Facebook pages filled with up-to-the-minute news and pictures, and a comprehensive weekly e-newsletter filled with important deadlines, calls for submission, and opportunities. Like just about every other publication out there today, we're also faced with increased productions costs coupled with decreased advertising revenue. And, like most of you, we care about the environment. Although the newsletter is printed on recycled paper, we don't want to print things unnecessarily.

We're asking you to help us decide the future of this publication. Do you find value in these pages? Do you look forward to reading the newsletter when it arrives in your mailbox four times a year? Would you prefer that we offer content exclusively online? Should this be our last printed newsletter?

This spring, we'll distribute an online survey asking these and other questions. We want your feedback! We want to hear from you about your experiences with our services, your thoughts on how we're doing, and your priorities. Manitoba Music is your association. Your voice is important and you can help shape some of the services we offer and where some of our resources go.

Keep an eye on your inbox in coming weeks for an invitation to the survey. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and submit it online and share your thoughts.

We also welcome feedback and criticism throughout the year. In addition to phone and email, we have a feedback page on our website where you can submit comments anonymously, if you prefer. And if you can't wait for the survey to tell us how you feel about the printed newsletter, contact me directly at rachel@manitobamusic.com or 204.975.5190. I'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for doing what you do and for letting us be a part of it. We look forward to hearing from you!

Rachel Stone
Association & Communications Manager



isKwe



Savannah Rae Boyko



Young Kidd

ABORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM

THE RESERVATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Don Amero, Savannah Rae Boyko, Eagle & Hawk, isKwe, and Desiree Dorion showcased for a packed room of Native America community leaders at the Manitoba Aboriginal artist showcase during the Reservation Economic Summit in Las Vegas on March 16. The event was produced in partnership with SAY Magazine and representatives from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Gathering of Nations, and the American Indian Chamber of Commerce were in attendance.

The Aboriginal Music Program distributed Manitoba Aboriginal Artist Guidebooks, compilation CDs, and information about the showcase at the trade fair.

This year marked the 25th edition of the Reservation Economic Summit. The conference draws hundreds of American Indian and Indigenous entrepreneurs, tribal economic and business development decision-makers, tribal leaders, government and corporate Executives and Buyers seeking Indian suppliers and contractors. The showcase was produced to help the artists book more gigs in Native America communities.

JUNO AWARD NOMINATIONS

Eagle & Hawk and Little Hawk picked up two of the five Manitoba nominations in the Aboriginal Album of the Year category at the Junos this year. This is the fourth Juno nomination for Eagle & Hawk and the second of Little Hawk.

The Aboriginal Album of the Year category has been part of the Juno Awards for 17 years. Its previous titles include Best Music of Aboriginal Canada Recording and Aboriginal Recording of the Year. The Aboriginal category honours the genre of Aboriginal music, so the incorporation of Indigenous instrumentation, vocals, and themes qualifies releases for this category, as opposed to the ancestry of the acts.

Both groups will be in Toronto on March 26 when the category winner is announced.

CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK

Winnipeg's Most and Jerry Sereda showcased for industry at Canadian Music Week in Toronto this year. The three time Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award winning hip hop group took the stage at the McKee Agency Showcase on March 10, while Sereda joined fellow country stars at the MDM Recordings Country Showcase on March 11.

NATIVE AMERICA NORTH IN TORONTO

Manitoba Music and the Canada Council are partnering to produce a showcase and a set of workshops in Toronto for Aboriginal artists from across Canada on March 24 and 25. The project participants include Eagle & Hawk, Digging Roots (Ontario), Cris Derksen (British Columbia), Christa Couture (British Columbia), and Leela Gilday (Northwest Territories).

The workshops will help the artists further develop their business plans and strategies, while the showcase will give them an opportunity to perform for industry professionals that they hope to add to their teams.

The Native America North showcase is set for 7pm-2am on Thursday, March 24 at the Rivoli in downtown Toronto. A total of 31 applications were received for this project and each submission was reviewed by a panel of Aboriginal people who work in the music industry.

This is the second Native America North showcase that Manitoba Music and the Canada Council for the Arts have produced together. The first event was delivered during the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals conference in Ottawa.

GATHERING OF NATIONS

Rhonda Head will be representing the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and all of Canada at Stage 49 during the Gathering of Nations this year. The Mezzo-Soprano is the only artist from north of the border performing in Albuquerque on April 28, 29, and 30.

The festival draws thousands of guests each year from across North America each year. It's anchored by the world's biggest competition pow wow and also includes the Indian Trader's Market and the Miss Indian World competition. For more information about Stage 49 and the Gathering of Nations, please visit gatheringofnations.com.

NEW MUSIC VIDEOS

Jerry Sereda, Young Kidd, and Winnipeg's Most recently released music videos in support of their latest albums. Sereda was one of six Aboriginal artists to get support for a music video from APTN's First Tracks program this year, while Young Kidd and Winnipeg's Most financed their productions on their own. All the videos are available on YouTube and manitobamusic.com. APTN currently has a call for submissions out for First Tracks 2011 and more information is available at aptn.ca/pages/firsttracks.

FACTOR PROGRAM DEADLINES

You can obtain current FACTOR forms at the Manitoba Music Resource Centre or download applications from factor.ca. For more details on FACTOR's programs or need help with your application, contact us at 204.942.8650 or info@manitobamusic.com.

Below are the application deadline dates for FACTOR's new fiscal year starting April 1, 2011 and ending March 31, 2012. New application forms will be available online April 1, 2011. There are no application forms available at this time. **Please note - if you have started a 2010-11 application form, it will no longer be accepted by FACTOR.**

Collective Initiatives Program

2011: April 15, June 17, August 26, October 28
2012: January 13

Demo/Songwriter Support Program

2011: June 30, October 28

Direct Board Approval Program (All Levels)

2011: May 27, August 26, November 25

Domestic and International Business Development Program

2011: May 27, July 29, September 30, November 25
2012: January 27

Domestic and International Showcase Program

2011: May 13, August 12, October 14,
2012: January 13

Domestic and International Tour Program

2011: May 27, July 29, September 16, November 10
2012: January 27

Emerging Artist Program

2011: June 17, September 16, December 16

Juried Sound Recording Loan Program (FACTOR Loan and Independent Recording Loan)

2011: June 30, October 28

Label Manager Program

2011: June 30

Marketing and Promo for FACTOR Funded Sound Recordings

2011: May 13, July 15, September 30
2012: January 27

Marketing and Promo for Non-FACTOR Funded Sound Recordings

2011: June 30, November 10

Songwriter Workshop and Seminar Support Program

2011: June 17, October 14

Video Program

2011: May 13, July 15, September 30, December 16



We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage (Canada Music Fund) and of Canada's Private Radio Broadcasters.



ALLISON OUTHIT APPOINTED VP OPERATIONS OF FACTOR

In early February, FACTOR's President, Duncan McKie, announced the appointment of a new senior executive as part of FACTOR's ongoing organizational transition process. Allison Outhit, formerly an executive with Outside Music in Toronto, joined the company as Vice President of Operations. This is a new position.

"Ms. Outhit has substantial experience in a number of areas that will be of immediate benefit to FACTOR. As a client, she understands the FACTOR programs and process. As a record company executive, artist manager, and an expert in licensing, she also understands the challenges being faced by Canada's domestic music organizations," said McKie. "As FACTOR transitions its programs to meet the challenges of a new digital music model, her input and organizational skills will be invaluable."

"This is a tough time to be in the music business," said Outhit. "But the talent of Canadian artists and the creativity of our music entrepreneurs is at an all-time high. It's wonderful to be part of it."

Born in Halifax, Outhit was educated in Paris at the prestigious Lycée International and holds a BA and an LLB from Dalhousie University. Prior to joining Outside, Outhit was involved in the TV and film industry for 10 years, working in Halifax with award-winning production companies Salter Street Films and Collideascope Digital Productions. She also has experience in arts management and community radio.

Find out more about FACTOR and its programs at factor.ca.



Sadie



Flying Fox and the Hunter Gatherers



Janice Finlay

MANITOBA FILM & MUSIC NOTES

Here at MFM we've really been embracing winter. With a trip to Northern Manitoba, a great holiday party, and some intensive curling lessons, we've hardly had a chance to notice the cold.

On November 19, MANITOBA FILM AND MUSIC staff, along with Stephen Carroll from The Weakerthans travelled to Flin Flon for the MFM Northern Spotlight outreach sessions. The purpose of the outreach was to engage residents of Flin Flon and surrounding Northern communities by informing them of MFM's programs and opportunities in the film and music industries in Manitoba. The sessions were a great success, attended by over 50 artists and future industry players. Our trip to Flin Flon concluded in a photo shoot with a statue of the great Flintabbatey Flonatin.

MANITOBA FILM AND MUSIC's Open House on December 9 brought together the local film and music communities for an evening of holiday merriment. We were so pleased to see over 200 great friends and colleagues come through our doors

MANITOBA FILM AND MUSIC's CEO Carole Vivier and Manager of Music Programs Jason Smith travelled to Cannes in mid-January to attend MIDEM, the world's largest music business conference. MIDEM offers Manitoba artists the opportunity to gain an international following by being presented to 10,000 of the biggest music industry professionals from across the globe. Participating Manitoba professionals included; Head in the Sand Records, Incandescent Management, Rising Sun Productions, Olesia Records, Manitoba Trade and Investment Corporation, MFM, and Manitoba Music. Local band Imaginary Cities had a rare showcase opportunity this year at the Palais de Festival and Congres and Morrison's Pub.

On January 30 Manitoba Music and MANITOBA FILM AND MUSIC co-hosted the Manitoba Music Rocks Charity Curling Bonspiel. Attended by nearly 100

artists, government representatives, and members of the music community, the event was a great success and raised over \$2,000 for the Unison Benevolent Fund, a new charity that supports artists in crisis. Although MFM's team (The Rolling Stones) lost to the Manitoba Music team (The Sweeping Beauties), we believe we did rather well for first-time curlers and plan to hone our skills for next year.

FUNDED PROJECTS

MANITOBA FILM AND MUSIC has funded the following music projects since November 2010

Tour

Alana Levandoski, Amanda Falk, Cat Jahnke, Christine Fellows, Comeback Kid, The Crooked Brothers, Don Amero, Fame, Greg MacPherson, Imaginary Cities, Ingrid Gratin, JP Hoe, James Struthers, Les Surveillantes, Querkus, Romi Mayes, Ruth Moody, Scott Nolan, Sights & Sounds, Sons of York, The Dead Letters, The Details, The Lytics, The Magnificent 7's

Marketing

Alana Levandoski, Enjoy Your Pumas, Flying Fox & the Hunter Gatherers, Imaginary Cities, Katie Murphy, Keith & Renee, Les Jupes, Les Surveillantes, Querkus, Take Me to the Pilot, The Wailin' Jennys, Trio Bembe

Level 1 Demo

French Press, Panic Land, Omerta, Savanna Rae Boyko, Desiree Dorion, Prophet, Mira Black, Janelle Nadeau, Ismaila Alfa

Level 2 Sound Recording

John Smith, Jerry Sereda, The Crooked Brothers, Red Moon Road, Janice Finlay, The F-Holes, Ca Claque, James Struthers, Alana Levandoski, Brett Boivin, Bubba B, Flying Fox & the Hunter Gatherers, JD Edwards, Marie-Josée Clement, Sadie, Trio Bembe

Level 3 Sound Recording

Romi Mayes, Daniel ROA, JP Hoe

Music Video

Don Amero

UPCOMING PROGRAM DEADLINE

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May 12, 2011

Program guidelines and applications can be downloaded at mbfilmmusic.ca. For more information, contact Jason Smith, Manager of Music Programs at 947.2040, or via email at jason@mbfilmmusic.ca.

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MANITOBA FILM & MUSIC exists so our film and music industries flourish and is a statutory corporation funded by the Province of Manitoba through the Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism.



The Wailin' Jennys



Wab Kinew

MAKING A PRAIRIE SCENE IN OTTAWA

The prairies are taking over the nation's capital this spring. Five hundred artists from all disciplines will be in Ottawa for Prairie Scene, a celebration and showcase of arts and culture from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Running April 28 - May 8, this is the National Arts Centre's fifth Scene event in a series that launched in 2003 with Atlantic Scene.

Boasting 80 events over 13 days, Prairie Scene features some of Manitoba's best and brightest musical talent from just about every genre, including: Chic Gamine, The Wailin' Jennys, Romi Mayes, Desiree Dorion, Daniel ROA, Del Barber, The Duhks, Grand Analog, JP Hoe, Greg MacPherson, Matt Epp, Michelle Grégoire Quintet, Royal Canoe, The Liptonians, Oh My Darling, The Waking Eyes, Wab Kinew, The Perpetrators' Jay Nowicki, and many more.

Prairie Scene will also play host to innovators in theatre, dance, comedy, film, literature, visual and media arts, and the culinary arts.

In addition to concerts and events open to the general public, Prairie Scene also offers a chance for 70 national and international presenters to discover the best of Prairie culture, creating new performance opportunities for Prairie artists across the country and around the world.

The last Scene event, which highlighted British Columbia in 2009, attracted more than 50,000 people to free and ticketed events.

Find out more at prairiescene.ca.



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SHOWCASING 101

If planned properly, music conferences like **North by Northeast, BreakOut West, Canadian Music Week, and South by Southwest** are a great way to kick start your career. The audience is potentially filled with influential music industry folks, bloggers, managers, agents, lawyers, and many others who can give your career a boost, not to mention music fans themselves.

Events like Toronto's NXNE and CMW have been destinations for new and emerging talent, unsigned bands, and indie to major label talent for decades. They provide a forum for new music, where fans can discover hot new artists, tomorrow's stars, and today's biggest acts within an intimate club atmosphere.

Typically three to five days in length and with thousands of attendees and delegates, a festival and conferences can bridge the gap between creative industries and the interactive world. Many artists and bands have made the trip on their way to major worldwide attention. What makes these events even more exciting is the fact that these undiscovered gems get a chance to rub shoulders with international touring acts and industry tastemakers from all over the world.

In my six or so months as training coordinator at Manitoba Music, I've had the opportunity to speak with many smart, successful and innovative people through our Music Works program. Aside from great music (cause let's face it, without great music, nothing else matters), every manager, agent, publicist, publisher, A&R person, and songwriter has stressed the importance of a well-planned showcase. Just being there is not enough.

Canadian music industry tastemakers have weighed in with some tips:

"Use the festival or conference to meet and network as much as possible, you also need to understand that the showcase won't get you signed. Use it as a marketing tool and be professional and prepared."
- Mike Denney, MDM Recordings

"Write great songs, practice them every day, and perfect your performance."
- Dougie Bohay, Last Gang Management

"The biggest mistake is thinking that just by being there you will meet the industry people."
- Grant Paley, Paquin Entertainment

"...be prepared to set up and tear down very quickly and play without a soundcheck. You also have to use the backline that's at the venue - you might be able to bring an amp or two, but you'll be expected to use the bass amp and drums that are there."
- Glen Willows, Burning Circus Management

"If you're not ready to hustle, then don't waste your time or the festival's time and stay home. The music industry is more competitive than ever, and if you want to succeed, there is little option other than excellence."
- Mike Petkau Falk, Head In The Sand / West End Cultural Centre

"Play your music and be yourself."
- Michael Perlmutter, Instinct Entertainment

"Be punctual, confident and passionate. Play your own songs (no covers!) and work the room after the set."
- Shea Dahl, University of British Columbia Programs Manager

"Leave NOTHING to chance. REHEARSE, REHEARSE, REHEARSE! Work on the setlist, arrange your songs wisely (best tunes near the top)."
- Darrin Pfeiffer, High 4 Records

"It doesn't matter if there are five people in the audience or 100; play as if there were 1000 people out there."
-- Rodney Murphy, SOCAN

By Roland Deschambault

IN ADDITION TO THESE SAGE WORDS OF WISDOM, HERE'S A LITTLE CONFERENCE ADVICE FROM MANITOBA MUSIC:

Play your best songs and best known songs - a showcase is not the time to try out untested material.

Say your name from the stage, often.

Have someone in the room to keep track of who is there so you can follow up.

Spend time at the conference meeting new people. It's a relationship business - start some new ones.

Hit some panels and cruise the trade show to put faces to names.

Keep your fans updated and use the conference hash tag on Twitter to attract new followers.

For more information on festivals and conferences or to set up a consultation on how you can maximize showcase experience, please feel free to contact roland@manitobamusic.com.

Winnipeg indie pop luminaries The Liptonians have come a long way since their humble beginnings in a Wolseley basement.

THE

In 2005, Bucky Driedger and Matt Schellenberg, two high school friends from Steinbach, moved to Winnipeg and started to make music together under the moniker The Liptonians, named for their Lipton street home (affectionately dubbed Liptonia). With the help of a few of their pals, they made an album – a self-recorded slice of charming, lo-fi indie pop that, to the sheer astonishment of its creators, went on to win a Western Canadian Music Award for Outstanding Pop Recording in 2008. (Not bad for a basement album made by people who, admittedly, didn't really know what they were doing.)

Fast forward to 2011, and Driedger and Schellenberg – along with new bandmates Mitch Braun, Michael Jordan and Levi Penner – have released another triumph of a pop recording. Released in February via Head In The Sand Records, *Let's All March Back Into The Sea*, The Liptonians' sophomore album, is a giant step forward that fully delivers on the promise hinted at on that rough-hewn self-titled debut.

Critics think so, too. The album is earning plenty of praise coast to coast – a welcome surprise to a group of musicians who, according to Driedger, “have always approached this project with few expectations.”

“People are making torrents!” he says with a laugh, over the phone en route to a tour stop in Thunder Bay. “The reception has been great. The early press we've been getting has been really positive. It seems people are really getting the overarching thread of the album and appreciating it as a whole, which is nice to see as an artist. Our Winnipeg album release (at the West End Cultural Centre on Feb. 13) went very well – there was a lot of great energy in the room. It feels like we're in a good spot right and now we're taking that momentum on the road.”

Largely recorded at Prairie Recording Co. and MCM Studios by Michael Petkau Falk (Les Jupes/Head In The Sand Records) and Matt Peters (Royal Canoe/Waking Eyes), *Let's All March Back Into The Sea* is a far cry from its predecessor when it comes to its production values. Still, the new album isn't a charmless Studio Record; it keeps plenty of the DIY spirit that defined the debut. (In fact, plenty of the happy accidents that were captured in the band's rehearsal space were included on the record.)

“We didn't want to make a slick-sounding album, but we wanted to have lots of equipment and instruments to enlarge our palette,” Driedger says. “We were able to think of a sound and capture it. With the last one, whatever we were able to do, we did.”

The new album also marks a new chapter for The Liptonians. After the recording of *Let's All March Back Into The Sea*, original members Terrell Froese, Darren Grunau, and Michael Petkau Falk decided to leave the band – considered by all three to be a side project – to pursue their main gigs. Froese is in the Illusive Mind Gypsy Crew, Grunau is in Flying Fox and the Hunter Gatherers and Petkau Falk is the frontman of Les Jupes, the operator of Head In The Sand Records, a producer/engineer and the artistic director of the West End Cultural Centre.

“I think anytime you have a membership change it's a scary time,” Driedger says. “Matt and I lost three guys and we didn't know if we could find guys that could fill those roles. Those guys contributed so much to the band and to the record – but the change gave us new people to work with. And at the end of the day, things couldn't have worked out better.”

Driedger and Schellenberg, the band's co-founders and primary songwriters, have also become a stronger unit.

“Matt and I are kind of like an old married couple,” Driedger says with a laugh. “We bicker and argue a lot, but we also do wonderful things together. We've been making music together for 10 years. We can tell each other when something's shit and we can celebrate together when something's good. As songwriters individually, we've written a lot and therefore have developed a lot. As a team, we've gotten more comfortable and we know what each other's strengths are.”

The pair's longstanding musical partnership is highlighted on *Let's All March Back Into The Sea*. It's the product of two different songwriters with two unique voices, yet it's clear both share a defined musical vision – one that they were finally able to not only articulate but achieve as well.

“I go through phases, but right now, I feel proud of what we created,” Driedger says of the album. “I feel like we spend a lot of time on each song, figuring out lyrically what we wanted to say and musically how to convey it. We saw all those things through to the end. It's nice to finish something that had a lot of thought put into it.”

But The Liptonians aren't content to rest on this success. They're already looking forward to exploring new sounds and new ideas with new bandmates.

“We're in a very scary and exciting place right now,” Driedger says. “But I think we'll always be making some kind of pop music, with lyrics we believe in and melodies we think are strong.”

For more information, visit theliptonians.com.

LIPTONIANS

By Jen Zoratti

Photo by Jared Falk



From left: Mitch Braun, Bucky Driedger, Michael Jordan, Matt Schellenberg



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PIP SKID

By Julie Lafreniere

Photos by Gregory Kraj

Few people familiar to the hip hop scene in Winnipeg, or Canada for that matter, are strangers to the name Pip Skid.

Originally from Brandon, Pip Skid, aka Patrick Skene, made a name for himself in the 90s with the crew Farm Fresh collaborating with bandmates DJ Hunnicutt and Mcenroe. The same thing that drew people 20 years ago to his sound still draws people to his music today – his authenticity. I can't admit that I listened to Pip Skid 20 years ago when he released two albums with Farm Fresh, I was at the ripe old age of eight, but listening to his lyrics from back in 1991, the message and tone of his music are relatively the same as they are today in 2011.

Currently, he's working on his latest EP, titled *Tens of Dollars*, fresh on the heels of his last full-length CD release, *Skid Row*. Late this summer, Pip's also releasing an album produced by hip hop heavyweight and Juno nominee Stomp (Rezofficial Music, Heatbag Records), a collaboration which is sure to please hip hop music fans. "Stomp has a different sort of sound, which will bring out something different in me," Pip says about the project.

In addition to the music projects, Pip Skid has two soon-to-be-released music videos. One directed by Randy Frykas, the filmmaker that directed the Call to Arms documentary about the Albert (read more on p. 17), and featuring local improv team, Crumbs, the second video is for the track "You Sooo Much" off of *Skid Row*, directed by Jason Lepayre. Pip also makes his music video directorial debut in Speed Dial 7's "Poker Faces," a process which he described as "irritating, I don't envy video directors."

There are aspects of the stereotypical hip hop lifestyle that people frown upon. Hip hop artists are often associated with gang activity and other negative activities. But those people might be surprised by how much Manitoba's hip hop community gives back to its people. Every month, there seems to be a fundraising concert to support a local drop-in center, or a popular rap artist volunteering their time to participate in a youth workshop at an after school program. It's refreshing because not only do the artists never forget their roots, but they are role models for the right reasons. Pip Skid is no exception to this rapper-humanitarian trend. He's made a career out of working with youth at various community and drop-in centers around Winnipeg. The youth, like music fans, are drawn to him. They find his music relevant, but are also drawn to his personality.

Being a fan of Pip Skid's music and speaking with him, one can say with certainty that he keeps things real. There's no faux-gangster slang or aura of superiority. When questioned about the political activism in his music, he admitted it doesn't come with intentional purpose. The angry, blue-collar, social commentary in his music would have one believing it is a message that he is trying to portray, but Pip just replies with refreshing simplicity, "I just write what's in my head."

Having the ability to portray a message in music is one thing, but having that ability and being able to speak it to a number of different groups in society is a gift. That his message is translated into something Aboriginal people, non-Aboriginal people, rural cow folk, urbanites, hip hop heads, punks, tweens, and old music fans alike can all relate to, is quite remarkable and unique in Manitoba's music scene today.

Many people like to analyze hip hop and put it under a microscope. Why is hip hop becoming mainstream, who listens to hip hop, why do these kids turn to hip-hop as an avenue for expression? Sometimes the answers are much simpler than we'd think. I once asked Pip why he raps.

He shrugged and said, "Because it's fun. Once it stops being fun, I'll stop rapping."

Find out more about Pip Skid at marathonofdope.com.



MANITOBA MUSIC IN MEMPHIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

been confirmed to appear on the Live in Winnipeg edition of CBC's Q with Jian Ghomeshi in early April, made an appearance on AUXtv, and showcased earlier this month at Canadian Music Week in Toronto and South by Southwest in Texas. Check them out at imaginarycities.ca.

Roots trio **The Wailin' Jennys'** new release, *Bright Morning Stars* (True North/Red House), debuted in the #1 spot on Billboard's Bluegrass Albums Chart in February. It's also been charting at top 20 on the Heatseekers Albums and top 10 on the Folk Albums. The trio can also be heard in the upcoming feature film, *The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom*. Parton herself sent praise to the filmmakers for The Jennys' signature harmonies on their cover of her song, "Light of a Clear Blue Morning," which appears on the newly-released soundtrack that includes the likes of Nelly Furtado, Martha Wainwright, and expat Genevieve Toupin.

Winnipeg's **isKwe** is currently recording three songs with legendary hip hop duo Dead Prez. The collaborators connected in New York earlier this year and isKwe plans to release two of their co-writes on her next album, which is scheduled for a September release. Dead Prez' biggest hit entitled "Hip Hop" was released in 2000 on their *Let's Get Free* album. The group has released material every year since then and you can find more information about them at deadprez.com.

Singer/songwriter **Sierra Noble** recently took part in the Viña Del Mar International Song Festival, Latin America's largest music festival, which is viewed by over 100 Million people in the Spanish speaking population around the world. Her song "Try Anything," co-written with Chris Burke-Gaffney and Christopher Ward, was selected out of over a thousand submissions to be one of the six contestants in the 52nd annual festival this year. Sierra left with the top prize, the famed "Gaviotas" or Silver Seagull hardware for both Best Song and Best Performance in the Festival's International Competition category.

Manitoba had an impressive presence at Canadian Music Week, this year, sending an unprecedented 20 acts to showcase for influential industry, media, and fans alike March 9-13. Manitoba Music hosted its first showcase at CMW in over a decade on March 11, featuring performances by **Imaginary Cities, Del Barber, The Liptonians, Les Jupes, Hope Atlantic,** and **Take Me To The Pilot**. Other Manitoba acts on Toronto stages during CMW, included: **Inward Eye, JP Hoe, Sierra Noble, Ingrid Gatin, Royal Canoe, Winnipeg's Most, Magnum K.I., Fame, Heather Longstaffe, Jason Kirkness, Bryce Pallister,** and

Five Manitoba acts packed up their gear and headed to Memphis to showcase at the International Folk Alliance Conference, which ran February 16-20. The 23rd annual event is the premier professional development conference focused on folk, roots, multicultural, and world music in North America. This year's showcasing acts included JP Hoe, JD Edwards, The Magnificent Sevens, Fish and Bird, and Ashley Robertson. Each artist had three performances during Manitoba Music's "Fresh Folk" nightly showcases. The Magnificent Sevens, JP Hoe, and JD Edwards will also play coveted official showcases during the event.



The Magnificent 7's



JP Hoe



JD Edwards



Ashley Robertson



JD Edwards



The Magnificent 7's

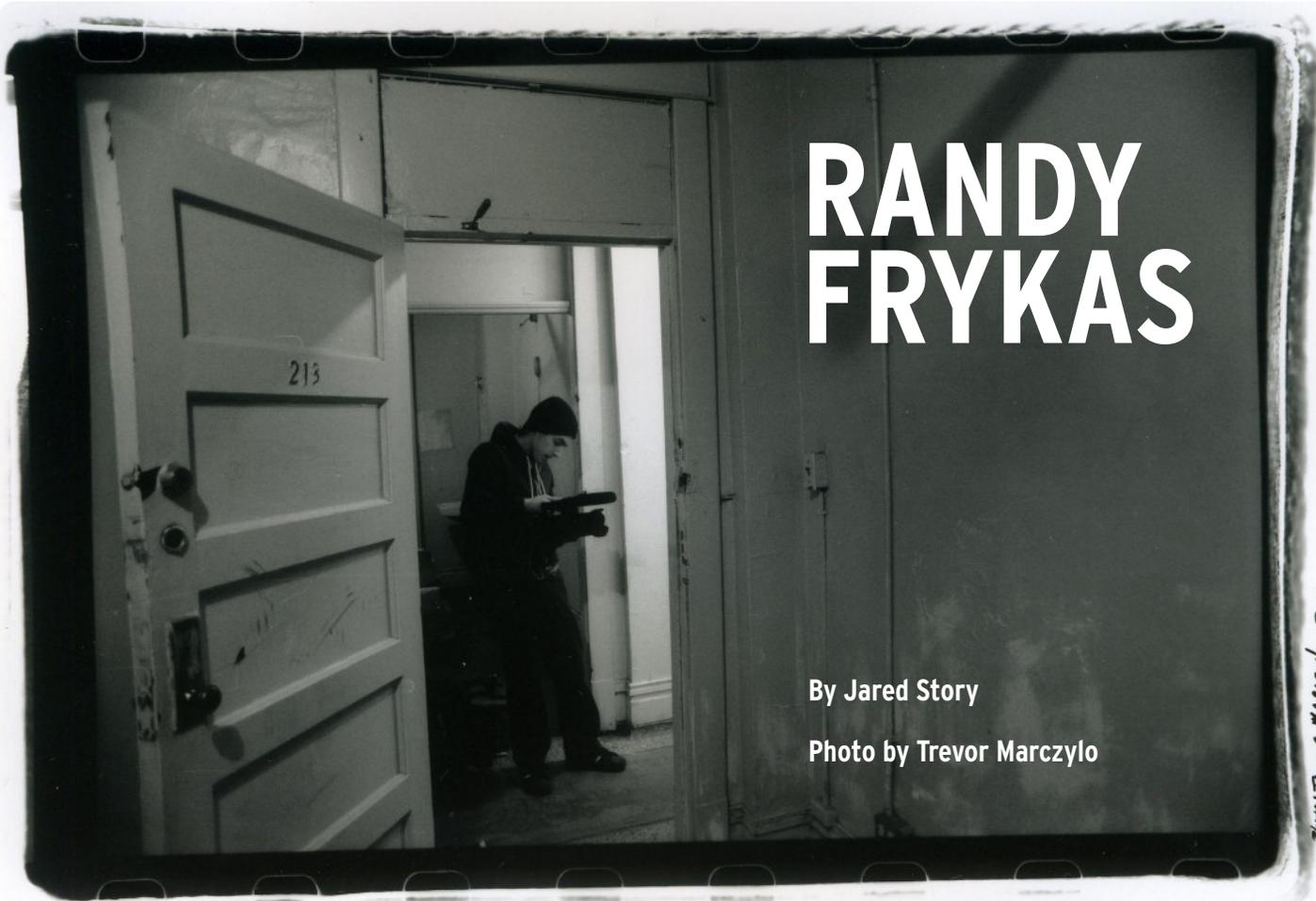


Ashley Robertson



JP Hoe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



RANDY FRYKAS

By Jared Story

Photo by Trevor Marczylo

Photo: Trevor Marczylo - 2009

In *The Ones Who Make It Through*, Winnipeg filmmaker Randy Frykas follows High Five Drive across the Atlantic, detailing the local punk band's five-week European tour. No easygoing expedition, the band's hectic schedule - 32 shows in 34 days in 10 countries - is compounded by the fact that it's lost over \$30,000 on its previous three Euro-trips. No sex, no drugs, just rock 'n' roll, Frykas documents what it's like for an independent band on tour.

"With *The Ones Who Make It Through*, even though it's High Five Drive, it's the same story for any band on tour," Frykas, 30, says. "Take out High 5 Drive and put in KEN mode, it would be the same. I tried to tell the story from that point of view, an indie band on tour that has to take time off to even go on tour and ends up losing money because they didn't work for two months. I wanted to set the story straight, that not all touring is chicks and booze. After a show it's 'Where are we sleeping? We have to be up at eight A.M. to drive to the next city.'"

The Ones Who Make It Through (available in full at vimeo.com/randyfrykas) isn't Frykas's first foray into music documentary making. He edited *Our Distance*, a chronicle of Comeback Kid, included in the hardcore band's 2008 *Through the Noise* DVD and in 2009 he completed *Call to Arms: The Story of the Royal Albert*, a doc he wrote, shot, directed and edited for MTS TV. Just like being on the road in an indie-band, that project proved it's a long way to the top if you want to (make movies about) rock 'n' roll.

"It was super fun, but it was also super stressful," Frykas says. "There was a lot on my shoulders, not only writing, shooting and editing but also trying to connect with people. The organization and the planning became a bit much. There was a lot of juggling, trying to plan an interview with Natalie (Sharma, the Albert's

general manager) while I'm in the midst of editing and then a couple emails come in saying so and so is going to be in town, just trying to keep the balls in the air the whole time."

It's hard work, but Frykas loves it. After graduating high school, Frykas studied media productions at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon. Driven by a strong interest in music, he didn't take the course to learn about shooting or editing, but rather to get a handle on audio recording. That plan didn't pan out, but after Frykas saw a certain Canadian mockumentary, he made a new one.

"Hardcore Logo was the movie that started making things in my brain click, maybe there's something else I can do with music, other than record bands or be in a band" Frykas says. "I've had a huge passion for music since I was a grade eight student in Stonewall, Manitoba discovering my favourite punk bands and figuring out there's more to life than playing hockey. From that moment on, music became a huge part of my life. If I can make films about it, that's unbelievable."

In addition to rock-docs, Frykas has directed and edited music videos for many Winnipeg acts, including High Five Drive, Kids on Fire, Hope Atlantic and Sights and Sounds. He also teamed up with local singer/songwriter J.P. Hoe to do a series of music videos for Citytv's 2010 Canada Day special. Frykas sees a direct correlation between Hoe, High Five Drive and himself.

"He's independent, making things happen on his own," Frykas says of Hoe. "He writes the songs, he manages himself, it's cool to connect myself with artists like that. Even though he's a musician and I'm on the TV side of things, we're in the same boat. It's independent. You have to work hard and make things happen for yourself."

Check out Randy Frykas online at randyfrykas.com.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Jerry Sereda.

Quirky pop duo **Ash Koley** was named Best New Group or Solo Artist Hot A/C at the Canadian Radio Music Awards, which were handed out to top radio acts on March 10 at Toronto's Royal York Hotel. The duo -- Phil Deschambault and Ash Koley -- also performed at the ceremony for an audience of top industry and media. The CRMAs took place during Canadian Music Week, which hosts a huge music festival, industry conference, and not one but four awards shows.

Country singer/songwriter **Heather Longstaffe** picked up the top prize in the Canadian Radio Star National Songwriting Competition for her song called "Waste of Gas" in Toronto. Longstaffe won the Manitoba portion of the competition back in January, via Hot 103, which sent her to showcase at Canadian Music Week in Toronto. After releasing her EP, *Back To Reality*, last year, Longstaffe has been spending time co-writing in Nashville. Longstaffe hopes to take advantage of writing opportunities in Toronto and releasing her Radio Star-winning song across Canada. She has a full length album in the works. Find out more at heatherlongstaffe.com.

Don Amero is getting ready to shoot a music video for his song "Right Where I Wanna Be" with director James Rewucki of Absurd Machine, which is due out this spring. He was also recently featured in the live recording of MTS TV Winnipeg On Demand's Live at the Garrick Theatre with Keith and Renee and Jerry Sereda, which will hit TV soon. Find out more at donamero.com.

An impressive group of Manitoba musicians made their way south to showcase and network at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin. Now in its 23rd year, SXSW -- which ran March 15-20 -- is one of the world's biggest music festivals and conferences. For the first time, Manitoba Music hosted a showcase at SXSW on March 17 at The Parish Underground. The line-up featured **Imaginary Cities, The Liptonians, Royal Canoe, The Details, Hope Atlantic, and The Lytics**. Other Manitoba acts that hit the stage at SXSW included Christine Fellows, **Les Jupes, Boats,** and **KEN Mode. Scott Nolan** and **Domenica** were also performing in Austin. For the 13th year, Manitoba Music and MANITOBA FILM & MUSIC joined forces to present the hottest party at SXSW on March 18 at the Radisson Town Lake. The exclusive event

brought influential industry players together with the Manitoba delegation to network and further develop crucial working relationships.

Punk trio **Kids On Fire** has been selected to join not-for-profit org Solidarity Rock on its fourth trip to the Cuba, where they'll host benefit concerts to raise money and solicit musical instrument donations for struggling Cuban musicians as well as promote cross-cultural exchanges between Canadian and Cuban arts communities. Check out the band's new video for "Shake the Walls" on YouTube and find out more about the band at kidsonfiremusic.com.

Four acts were on stage to showcase Manitoba's incredible talent when the music industry hit Toronto for the 2011 JUNO Awards. **Chic Gamine, Del Barber, Little Hawk,** and **Eagle & Hawk** -- who were all nominated for coveted Juno Awards this year -- performed at the two-day JunoFest event for fans and industry big wigs, and attended the 40th annual awards celebration, which took place on March 27 at the Air Canada Centre and will be broadcast live on CTV.

Find more news and updates at manitobamusic.com.



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FRED PENNER

He's released 14 albums, won Juno Awards, traveled the world, was made a member of the Order of Canada, and one of his songs is quite possibly the anthem of your childhood. Consummate children's performer Fred Penner is a legend, and for good reason. Penner's performance at Canadian Music Week in Toronto earlier this month created quite a stir, inspiring ChartATTACK to run a story called "Fred Penner Was Better Than Any Indie Rock Band Who Played CMW 2011," complete with seven reasons why up-and-coming artists might consider looking to him for some guidance and inspiration. Penner took some time out of his schedule to answer a few of our questions...

Q: A lot of people don't know that you started out doing music for adults. Why did you start doing children's music?

A: My musical beginnings were the choral and operetta world. I learned a lot about harmony and character acting. This was also the folk era and I was the guitar playing guy at the parties where everybody sang along. In the 70s I started into the pub and university scene with Al Simmons, Bob King, and Mike Klym in our comedy show band Kornstock. That journey ended on 1977 when I met Odette [Penner's wife].

She had a great idea of starting a children's dance theatre company, Sundance, where she choreographed the shows we did for young audiences and I wrote the music. This led directly to an offer to make my first record in 1978/79. Once I was committed to vinyl there was no looking back. I worked with Raffi, toured the country and in 1985 Fred Penner's Place was born on CBC.

The music was very satisfying because I never felt restricted; I wrote a lot of material that had complexity and strong lyric form, quality... something the whole family could relate to. My work is not condescending and I believe that is a huge part of the respect that I receive from my audience now.

Q: ChartAttack said that bands can learn a thing or two about performance and capturing the audience from you. Do you have any advice for up-and-coming artists?

A: I suppose because of my theatrical background, I look at any stage work as a performance from beginning to end. That is, from the moment you get on stage until you bow and exit you are responsible for engaging the audience in your work. 'The Bow' is very important because that is your acknowledgement and show of respect for the people who have come to see you. My pet peeve is bottle of water on the stage which forces a performer to bend down when getting a drink. I have always found that this is an awkward movement and for a moment disengages you from the audience. Make it easier on yourself. But that's just me.

Q: What music are you listening to lately?

A: I have very eclectic taste in music. Recently I have been listening to the Ministers of Cool, The Good Lovelies, and my daughter Hayley's stuff with TUZO (a techno-pop style, she writes the lyrics and melody for the band. They played the Pyramid last year.) In any given day I will also listen to some jazz, classical, country etc. I love the French Radio 89.9FM for good variety.

Q: What website do you visit most often?

A: Air Canada and Westjet.

Q: What's the most challenging/interesting project you've worked on?

A: Thirteen seasons and almost 100 episodes of Fred Penner's Place takes first place. I am always working on something. Currently I am working with middle students from St. Charles Catholic School on a history project. Song writing and visual presentation. Very challenging.

Q: What's the Polka Dot Pony up to nowadays? Did he retire?

A: The Polka Dot Pony and the Wordbird love to hang out on a regular basis. They are both very politically involved and share our concern about the direction of our planet environmentally, the Middle East situation, and the Bird is talking about opening a Twitter account to express their views.

Q: Would you rather write a song about dinosaurs, robots, or wizards, and why?

A: Probably about robots because I think that the "System" would like us all to be robots, never challenging decisions. We are continually being dragged into the world of consumerism and think nothing of using the credit cards to pay for stuff that we really don't need. Think before you buy and if you can't really afford it, don't buy it. As robots we allow the banks to charge us 20% interest rates for the pleasure of using a piece of plastic. As robots we allow the cell phone companies to charge us the highest rates in the world! I will hold my tongue and stop The Rant now.

Q: Was there a concert that changed your life and how?

A: I have been to many incredible performances over the years. As I think about this question two shows come to mind. Both were at the Playhouse Theatre, though many years apart. I saw Steve Goodman, a perennial favourite at the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and a beautiful soul, he knew how to engage an audience. The second, sometime in the early 70s, was Lenny Breau, the iconic guitarist. His drug addiction was catching up to him at this show, and in the middle of a song he literally got 'hung up' on one note. He was taking a lead and suddenly this single tone caught him. The other band members could not bring him back. It was a tragic thing to witness and the image stays in my mind.

Q: What inspires you?

A: I am inspired by beauty. An image, a sensitive person, a positive gesture, a random act of kindness, a smile, a sweet melody line...

Q: What keeps you in Manitoba?

A: Home is where the heart is. Wonderful people, good food, 15 minutes from the airport. My parents were born and raised in Winkler, MB area. I am from Mennonite background; I can't help thinking about what it was like facing the challenges for the pioneers. As hard as the winters can be, I carry a sense of survival with me. "We made it through another year!"

Q: What sound does your cell phone make when it rings?

A: I am old school. My cell rings like a phone from the 70s.

Q: What are your music plans for this year? What's coming up next?

A: Developing something with the Winnipeg Folk Festival people. I have several other projects that are brewing, but I can't give details right now. Don't want to jinx anything, but there is some theatrical stage work, and some studio recording.

Find out more about Fred at fredpenner.com.

MANITOBA MUSIC ROCKS CHARITY CURLING BONSPIEL

Over 100 people joined Manitoba Music and MANITOBA FILM & MUSIC for our first annual Manitoba Music Rocks Charity Curling Bonspiel on January 30 for hours of fun, ice, and rock-related puns. Twenty-three teams took to the sheets at the Grain Exchange Curling Club for friendly competition to raise money and awareness for the new Unison Benevolent Fund. Launching this year, the Unison Fund will provide emergency financial assistance to artists in crisis (find out more about the Unison Fund at unisonfund.ca).

The bonspiel was a great success, raising over \$2000 for the Unison Fund and a lot of awareness through media coverage and good will from the enthusiastic participants. The Honourable Flor Marcelino, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, and The Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade, joined us for a fantastic dinner cooked up by Pizzeria Gusto. Tom Kormylo, from our bonspiel sponsor Pitblado, was on hand to help us present the winning trophy to Team No "F" in Talent.

Mark January 29, 2012 on your calendars and start thinking up your team name!

Many thanks to our sponsors: Pitblado, Citytv Winnipeg, Special T Shirt Company, Place Louis Riel All-Suite Hotel, Guppy Graphic Design, Paquin Entertainment, Half Pints Brewing Company, Pizzeria Gusto, and Asham Curling Supplies. Thanks also to all who donated prizes to our silent auction.

And special thanks to Rob Rousseau, who was a major force behind the bonspiel, and all our volunteers: Melissa Kaminsky, Stephanie Verbong, Bonnie Siedel, and Ali Hancharyk.

Thanks to Joey Senft for the awesome pictures. Find many more on our Facebook and Flickr pages.



Citytv Winnipeg's Up Sheet's Creek



Our awesome volunteers: Steph, Ali, and Bonnie



Brent Oliver and Dominic Lloyd, undefeated



The Benjamin Buttons team hurries hard



The Man With Broom: Rob Rousseau



Blammo!



Blammo: The Sequel!



The Weakerthan's Stephen Carroll lines up the shot



Manitoba Film & Music's Carole Vivier rocked



Team UFM



Team CKUW



Team Lo Pub #2



Team Slide 'Em Cowboys



Mama Cutsworth spinning in the club room



The Paquin Punishers



Prairie Recording Company's team



Sean McManus and Donna Evans



Thanks to all who donated prizes



The Benjamin Buttons, young to old



Jennifer Jonestown Massacre



Manitoba Film & Music's Rolling Stones



Manitoba Music's Sweeping Beauties



RAS Creative's team



The Sheet Disturbers

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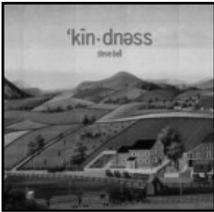
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A SAMPLE OF NEW RELEASES



Steve Bell
Kindness
 (Signpost Music)
 Producers: Steve Bell, Dave Zeglinski, Murray Pulver
 Studio: Signpost Music
stevebell.com



Imaginary Cities
Temporary Resident
 (Hidden Pony)
 Producer: Rusty Matyas
 Studio: Prairie Recording Co.
imaginarycities.ca



Jason Petric
Jason Petric
 (Independent)
 Producer: Jack Shapira
 Studio: Unison Studios
jasonpetricmusic.com



Emma Cloney
Something To Say
 (Independent)
 Producer: Jason Gordon
 Studio: Studio 11 Entertainment
emmacloney.com



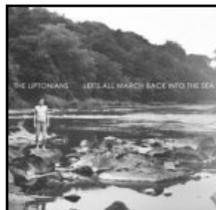
KEN Mode
Venerable
 (Profound Lore)
 Producers: Kurt Ballout, KEN Mode
 Studio: Godcity
ken-mode.com



Joe Silva
Early Departures: Music from the OLN TV Series Departures
 (Independent)
 Producer: Joe Silva
joesilva.bandcamp.com



Feed the Birds
Catcher
 (Independent)
 Producers: Ben Melnick, Rheanna Melnick
 Studio: Falling Sky
myspace.com/feedthebirdsband



The Liptonians
Let's All March Back Into The Sea
 (Head In The Sand)
 Producers: Matt Peters, Mike Petkau Falk, Bucky Driedger, Matt Schellenberg
 Studios: Prairie Recording Co., MCM Studios
theliptonians.com



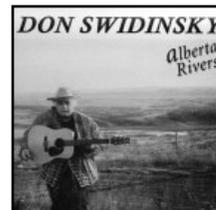
Joe Silva
Late Departures: Music from the OLN TV Series Departures
 (Independent)
 Producer: Joe Silva
joesilva.bandcamp.com



Feng Shui
Under My Sweater
 (Independent)
 Producers: John Paul Peters, Feng Shui
 Studio: Private Ear Recording



The Ministers of Cool
The Ministers of Cool
 (Independent)
 Producer: DB Benedictson, Greg Lowe
ministersofcool.com



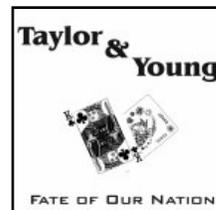
Don Swidinsky
Alberta Rivers
 (Independent)
 Studio: Channels Audio & Post Production
donswidinsky.com



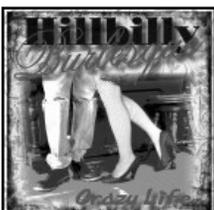
Flying Fox and the Hunter Gatherers
Hans My Lion
 (Independent)
 Producer: Clatyon Turner, John Paul Peters
 Studio: Private Ear Recording
flyingfoxandthehuntergatherers.com



Katie Murphy
Exes & Uh Ohs
 (Independent)
 Producers: Katie Murphy, Lloyd Peterson
 Studio: Wonder Dog Recording
katiemurphy.ca



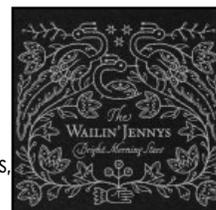
Taylor & Young
Fate of Our Nation
 (Independent)
 Producer: Jeff G. Jacobson
 Studio: Over Albert
taylorandyoung.ca



Hillbilly Burlesque
Crazy Life
 (Independent)
 Producer: Hillbilly Burlesque
 Studio: Private Ear Recording
hillbillyburlesque.com



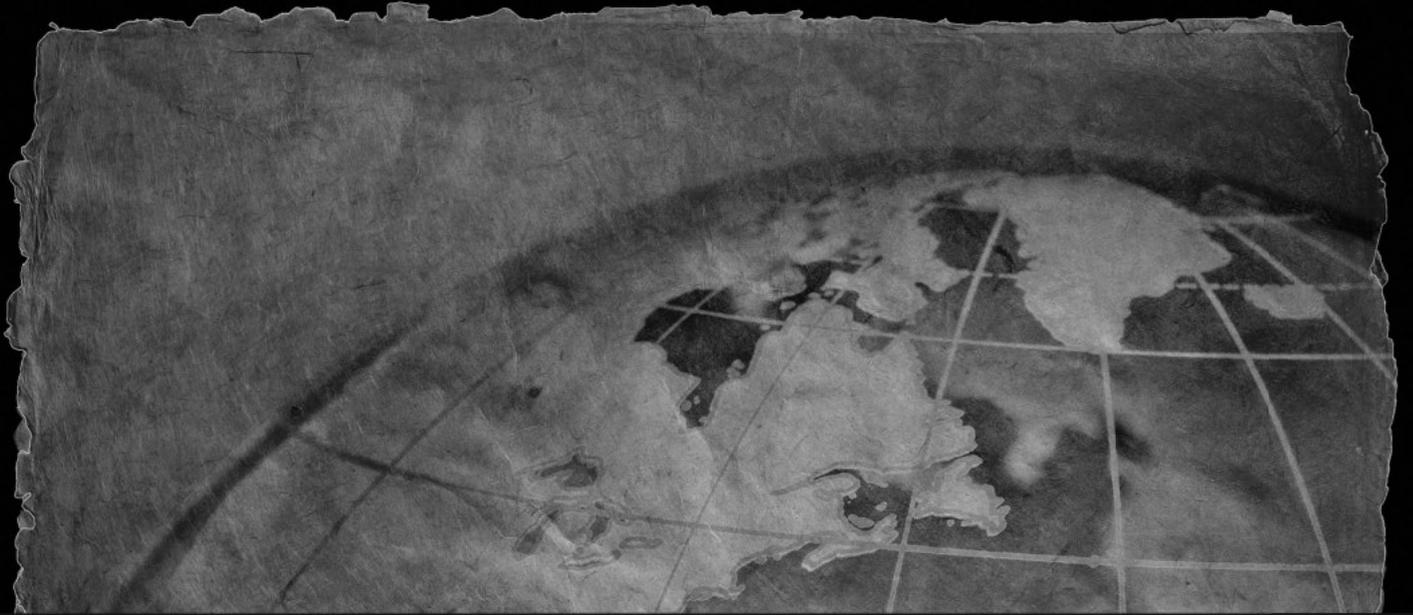
Scott Nolan
Montgomery Eldorado
 (Transistor 66)
 Producers: James Creasey, Scott Nolan
 Studios: Creasey Productions, The Song Shop
scottnolan.ca



The Wailin' Jennys
Bright Morning Stars
 (True North/Red House)
 Producers: Mark Howard, David Travers-Smith
 Studio: cottage in Ontario, Found Sound Production
thewailinjennys.com

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