

## **Oh, Cana Duh!**

What's Going on With Canadian Music?

I cannot speak for all Canadians - but for myself. This country has once again disappointed me. Putting my political beliefs aside, I am once again disappointed about the music we are promoting as a nation. Canadian music today has taken a wrong turn at Yellowknife and has been asking for directions ever since.

I decided to tune into the Junos on March 13, 2023, and what a fantastic disappointment. To be honest, if Nickelback had not been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, this fellow Canuck would have not even tuned in.

The CBC is known for being annoying with their banners running across the screen with the Program alert that the National News will follow the show. IMO, who cares? It's a live event and when it's done then you can have your little news broadcast that no one watches. This is the problem when you are publicly funded - you become lazy. If they were privately owned and you had to work for it, just maybe you would have better programming and live events.

The only 3 highlights I will mention were the opening act of Tate McRae. She is a young, aspiring pop star. Next, the 50-year celebration of Rap and Hip Hop, which was done at the Grammys. As for today's generation of hip hop artists - both North and South of the Border - "they are flat or garbage" - to quote one MC's of hip hop. Then the piece de resistance - the performance of Nickelback to close off the show which was amazing and worth watching.

As for the Canadian music of today, it's become a slippery slope and it's all downhill going forward.

I will start off with the 60s and say thank you to Ronnie Hawkins and the Hawks, the Band, Neil Young, Andy Kim, Anne Murray, Rita MacNeil, Steppenwolf, Bachman-Cummings and the Guess Who, Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen, and Gordon Lightfoot that were able to introduce us to folk music that was inspired by the times

and political events that were happening in that era, where messages for people were sang on their behalf, and for the birth of classic rock and Canada was put on the map.

The 70s was a new revolution of music with the emergence of classic rock becoming heavier and metal was born along with progressive rock. Here, I say thank you to Rush, Streetheart, Triumph, Trooper, BTO, and Sarnia's own Kim Mitchell and Max Webster.

The 80s was a time where change was explosive and the great music from before was being harnessed and the emergence had started. In modern rock, we owe a big thank you to Tom Cochrane and Red Rider, The Pursuit of Happiness, The Odds, The Tragically Hip, April Wine, and welcome back Rush. Metal was provided by Lee Aaron, Helix, Voivod, and FM.

If you were a fan of the big hair and great rock sound, we thank Aldo Nova, Gino Vannelli, and Honeymoon Suite. Even though hip hop was created in the 70s, it wasn't until Maestro Fresh-Wes made it mainstream south of the border in 1988. Courtesy of the influence of Duran Duran, new wave hit the Canadian bandstand, and influenced Platinum Blonde. Arena rock became a Canadian staple courtesy of Bryan Adams who started off in the 70s but dominated the 80s like a boss - and we say thank you.

Canadian music was prominent in the 90s. A carry over of its dominance in the 80s the 90s. We were introduced to many great artists and musicians. New genres emerged and the Juno's was something we looked forward to celebrating once a year.

Alt Rock and grunge style bands like Matthew Good Band, Sum 41 and Simple Plan rose to the scene. Hip Hop got to see the likes of the Rascalz, Dream Warriors and Swollen Members with their breakout hit lady venom.

Bands were inspired by our folk heroes and country legends - like the stamperders and George Fox. We had strong female voices like

Terri Clark, Michelle Wright, and Shania Twain. Celtic Rock came out with the likes of Great Big Sea, Kim Stockwood, Ashley MacIsaac, and Lorena McKennit.

The 90s had superstar power voices like Sarah McLaughlin and Celine Dion. New Rock sounds came out with Nickelback, Default, Econoline Crush, Sloan, The Tea Party, I Mother Earth, The Watchmen Amanda Marshall with her Janis Joplin influence, and Our Lady Peace. How can we forget pop rock artists like the Crash Test Dummies, Barenaked Ladies, Chantal Kreviachuk, who had big hits on movie soundtracks like Dumb and Dumber, 10 Things I Hate About You, and Armageddon. We thank you for these amazing songs and performers.

When the Y2K era emerged, we still had made some positive strides in Canadian music. Rock from the Prairies came in the name of a beloved 4-legged friend, the Sheepdogs were formed and instilled rock into their sound. We also had Hey Rosetta, the Headstones, and The Trews.

Artists who we have to say thanks for getting Canada on the map include Justin Bieber and Shawn Mendes - who climbed the charts and know how to play instruments. Jazz and Crooners are far and few in between but Diana Krall and Michael Bublé are holding their own. We also recognize Drake and The Weekend who have dominated Hip Hop and Pop respectively, and for Rock we say thank you to The Glorious Sons and Wayward Saints.

What's next for Canadian music at this rate I am not sure and it's not looking good so in the words of Joe Pesci "What the F@&? Is this piece of S\$&!"

Kennedy (Paolo Pettofrezza)