The Canadian Sound

"There is a gentleness in the Canadian sound but a sincere gentleness rather than the mock beatitude. . . . It is nervous but it is not manic. It gets its flavour when it combines with a sense of isolation that reflects, even better than most other kinds of Canadian writing, the loneliness of the landscape. Indeed, if there is one telltale auditory image in Canadian music, it is the grace and dominance of the Prairies carried over into other regions. It comes across in the way simple acoustics are pitted against complicated arrangements and in certain vocal progressions. When it works, it works well, and gets under the skin of the geography." DOUG FETHERLING, *Saturday Night*, Oct 1976