

Bruce Cockburn's music breaks tradition



Record Breaker

By CHRIS HUNT

Genesis - "Wing and Wuthering" [Atco] - Not only do Genesis give one more music for one's money than most groups but on this 55 minute LP they produce better music than most. This, their second album since the much lamented departure of Peter Gabriel, is definitive proof that Genesis can stand on their own feet as a unique and vibrant musical entity. Phil Collins' singing, although not as good as Gabriel's, bears enough resemblance to that of Gabriel to make the Genesis sound as distinct as ever.

"Wing and Wuthering" is a definite improvement over their previous album; "Trick of the Tail", the songs exuding much more power and feeling. Like "Trick of the Tail" however, "Wing and Wuthering" is dominated by the keyboards of Tony Banks. This can probably be credited to the fact that Banks has taken on the lion's share of the song-writing - one wonders if perhaps Banks has always been the guiding force behind Genesis even in the Gabriel era. Although one cannot deny that Banks is extremely talented he does tend to submerge the guitar of the equally talented Steve Hackett. Hackett's guitar playing is superb on this album and he does play a more important part than he did on "Trick of the Tail".

The album opens with a tune entitled "The Eleventh Earl of Mar" which is similar in style to "Robbery, Assault and Battery" and "Lance on a Volcano" from the previous album. It is followed by the epic, "One for the Vine", a slow and powerful piece that takes a rather interesting look at religion. A very beautiful acoustic number penned by bassist Mike Rutherford and called "Your Own Special Way" follows and the first side is brought to a conclusion with a short jazz-flavoured instrumental called "Wot Gorilla?"

The second side opens with a traditional type Genesis tune "All in a Mouse's Night". A superb song it incorporated the tempo changes and build-ups that are so well done by Genesis. Steve Hackett plays a major role in the next cut with some excellent

classical guitar. Entitled "Blood on the Rooftops" it takes a biting satirical sidelong swipe at television and its apathetic viewers. A lengthy instrumental in which Hackett slips in some brilliant guitar work follows and the album is concluded with the sadly lingering "Aftermath".

"Wind and Wuthering" is an excellent piece of music up to par with classic Genesis albums like "Selling England By the Pound". If you like Genesis you won't be disappointed.

And now I offer a summary of the music produced by some new Canadian bands recently.

Moxy - "Moxy II" [Polydor] - Caught in the clutches of the master of heavy metal production, Jack Douglas, Moxy seem to have unfortunately been meshed into the muddy plodding sound of run of the mill hard rock. After what I thought was an extremely promising first album this is a disappointment. The highlights, "Through the Storm" and "Change in my life" cannot hope to compare with "Fantasy", "Moon Rider", "Sail On, Sail Away" and "Out in the Darkness" from the first album. That first album is of a quality comparable with the music of Aerosmith, Deep Purple and Black Sabbath. So if you like heavy metal - why not be patriotic and buy Moxy's first album.

Lynx - "Missing Lynx" This first offering from Lynx is a very impressive debut, indeed. Nothing new here - but excellent straight-ahead hard rock - fast, furious and well-played. Watch out for a feature on this album on "The 49th Parallel" (CHSR Wed. 7-9 p.m.)

"Klaatu" [Daffodil] - This is a very strange album. There are no credits, the names of the musicians and producer are not given, nor is the place of recording stated. If only one thing can one be certain - Klaatu are a Canadian group and a very talented and original one at that. Attempts to classify this group are very difficult since their music is so varied. Heavy space pop perhaps comes closest as their music ranges from the slow, eery and spacy "Calling Occupants of Inter-Planetary Craft" to the

hard-rocking "True-Life Hero". The vocals on this album are superb and remind one of the Beatles. All in all a very good album - Canadian or otherwise. It's a got a song for everyone.

"Symphonic Slam" - [A & M] - This too is something different from Canada. Featuring a synthesised guitar the music blazes from start to finish in its own original, heavy progressive style. A remarkable album that appeal to Zeppelin and ELP fans alike.

"Flying" - The Hometown Band [A & M] - Claire Lawrence - founder, producer and sax player of the Hometown Band is a very busy man. Not only is he a member of The Hometown Band but he also produces CBC radio's "Great Canadian Gold" and is very active throughout the West Coast recording concerts. But he still has time to take a major part in this refreshingly good debut album from The Hometown Band. The singing and playing are honed to perfection and the music, itself, ranges from folk to something bordering on light jazz. From the powerful and compelling "Flying" to the bouncing, joyous "I'm Ready" the music on the first side is brisk, efficient and commercially acceptable. On the second side the band expresses itself and experiments in two very long, wanderer and surprisingly progressive tracks. All in all a great album.

"Strange Streets" - Garfield [Mercury] - For two years this band rehearsed and prepared in a basement - no bar circuits for these boys - and when they were ready they came out to play concerts, renting halls they couldn't afford. By chance a Mercury A & R man saw them and immediately signed them.

The result is a hauntingly brilliant debut. The musicianship is impeccable as is the production while the unique and highly emotional vocals of Garfield French add an appealing sadness and personality to the music. The music, itself, could be classified as a sort of progressive folk-rock - relying primarily on the acoustic guitar but also featuring electric guitar and synthesiser. Good stuff. P.S. Bring Back Dr. Gonzo.

Five years ago, with the release of his initial True North record, Bruce Cockburn cast a most enchanting spell on Canadian music audiences. It was a spell that music critics across the country quickly succumbed to, in unanimous ranks. In the unrestrained joy of their consistently rave responses, one could sense the arrival of a major new artist.

As critics will do with new artists, they sought a label to pin on Bruce, or set of artists to group him with; so often the kiss of death in this industry. However, in Bruce Cockburn's musicianship, and gift for tasteful composition, they could find no room for comparison - his style of musical expression was truly his alone.

Today, with six highly successful albums, numerous Juno awards, and three much-heralded national tours, comparisons of a different sort are coming to "Canada's master musician". His name is used to enhance the efforts of a bright new artist, or as a standard of excellence by which the works of other established recording stars might be measured.

In these few short years, he has come to personify the word "artistry", to music audiences everywhere. Bruce's music, always avoiding the security of commercialism, has thrived on its continual breaking of new frontiers, displaying at each moment, a total dedication to his talent. Though the seriousness of his aesthetic intent is evident in each new endeavour, his gentle sense of humour and his way with words, add pleasant overtones to each performance, and to each effort of the pen.

Never attracted to the "quick dollar", Cockburn has opted for the more relaxed, minstrel style of travel and performance; stretching out the time between shows, so that he can move about by camper with his wife Kitty and their dog, Aroo, enjoying the countryside as they go.

This whole attitude toward performing has created a very warm camaraderie between Bruce Cockburn the performer, and his concert audience, making his concerts a very special, but never too large, living-room event.

Grant granted

Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery has received a \$6,000 Canada Council grant for catalogue assistance and honoraria for the exhibitions of three Nova Scotia artists.

The works of Charlotte Hammond, Jim Shirley and Ron Shuebrook will be displayed in separate shows during the next

few months. The Canada Council funds will be used to produce illustrated catalogues for each exhibition and for artists fees.

The Clam Harbour Collection by Charlotte Hammond will run from February 11 to March 6; Works by Jim Shirley from March 11 to April 3 and Works by Ron Shuebrook from April 7 to May 1.

BEAVERBROOK ART GALLERY

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Ca

By MIKE CAMIOT

Cannonball - David

Hey! Do you like fast about country music? Heroes and villains and losers? How about lo then; do ya like simple start with nothing going and get more and more they go on? If that's the Cannonball might be entertainment you're looking for.

Just so you won't think

let me give you instances. The character nearly as simple as stupid. There are three David Carradine (that ball Buckner), his officer, and his mechanic. There are a host of bad guys in the mean drivers in black organized criminal element vested interest in having turn out a certain Cannonball's brother anything to see him win as to make lots of himself and stay alive in

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October 20, 19

Simon Leigh

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