

Murray McLauchlan

Solo performance at Burton

**Joel Guthro**  
Murray McLaughlin's new album, *Windows*, has been out over three weeks, and it offers new evidence to those who still think McLaughlin is a folk artist. *Happiness*, his new single, is funk and *Get out you gun*, the anti-Mark Chapman song is reggae with other tunes offering McLaughlin's talent at piano and synthesizer. *Excalibur's* Joel Guthro and Brian Hayes talked to McLaughlin who will play at York next Thursday, October 28th at Burton.

**Excalibur:** You're going to play solo here at York. What instruments will you bring along?

**McLaughlan:** Just various toys, but essentially it's an acoustic guitar and depending on the stage piano we may bring in a CP-80 electric piano.

**Excal:** In your song "I Hate Your Gun" it sounds like you're perturbed by Lennon's assassination.

**M.M.:** I would think that's an understatement.

**Excal:** Do you believe in capital punishment?

**M.M.:** No, I don't support capital punishment nor would I advocate it in a song.

**Excal:** But the fact that Chapman could make some money...

**M.M.:** I think that this song is the end result of a lot of thought I've put into it. What is the purpose of the legal system? Is it punitive, rehabilitative, is it for society to take revenge? Find out first what the terms are, then go look at what people get away with, picking up a gun, blowing away someone famous, copping an insanity plea, then writing their memoirs. There's a lot of anger on my part. I don't mention any names, but he can go fuck off and be anonymous and croak for all I care, but we're not going to kill you.

**Excal:** You grew up in Toronto didn't you?

**M.M.:** Toronto sort of grew up to where we moved to. Buses stopped at

Eglinton so we were basically living in a field. I came downtown for high school at Central Tech, which was a big change.

**Excal:** What would you say is your essential album, if you wanted to give an idea of how you play?

**M.M.:** I'd say listen to *Windows* and *Whispering Rain*, because *Whispering Rain* was the first album where I caught certain aspects of things as a writer, like dropping into the first person.

**Excal:** Like the song *Born Again*?

**M.M.:** That song arose from the idea of blowing away the strictures of an image that had been wrongfully created for me, rather a confining one at that; sort of a sulcic bumpkin. I don't necessarily play on acoustic guitar or work as a folk singer who plays a harmonica. I like to do that, but not all the time; it can be extremely restricting.

**Excal:** Do you care about American Coverage?

**M.M.:** The nature of the recording and radio business in the States is such that there isn't a whole lot of room for anything outside of the given parameters. They've tightened their line down to mega albums to support the industry--The emotional climate in Los Angeles sucks, it's awful. If there was a way for people to wear a Lamborghini on their back they would. Sure, I'd like to have mammoth success in the States because that means mammoth dollars, which you can do an awful lot with--constructive or destructive. It's your choice.

**Excal:** Are you glad you're a Canadian?

**M.M.:** Yeah and so is Neil (Young). that occurs here.

**Excal:** What plans do you have for the future?

**M.M.:** The only long range plan in that respect, is to get better. And in the near future I have to get my ass out on the road, which is very, very



Canadian singer, Murray McLauchlan, has just released a new album. He will be at Burton October 28th.

important. Guys like Mick Jagger

**Excal:** How is that?

**M.M.:** I think that they all feel terribly wronged by the attitude, referring to Neil or Joni or even the major television writers. They feel kind of out of joint about the attitude their departure and success

would admit that. The band really begins to suck if you don't get any feedback. How do you know if the songs work if people either don't throw tuna fish at you or applaud?

**Excal:** You'll see York's reaction October 28th, and I hope they don't bring hot dogs.

York Cabaret has a success

**Brian Mitchell**

How much is a banana these days? About twelve cents? Whatever it is, that's what it cost to stage last Saturday night's *Cabaret* in the Vanier Grad Lounge. There were no other expenses as far as I could see, and that was the only prop. Which just goes to show you that the best things in life are still free--or relatively inexpensive, anyway.

*The Cabaret*, written and directed by Rob Berry, was the first of this season by York Cabaret--and if the opening kick-off is any indication of how a season will go, we should be in for a fairly good one. There seemed to be a "rightness" about everything--the space, the cast, the timing. All this led to an atmosphere that was warm and comfortable, informal--and free! Even the coffee and cakes were on the house.

The show opened with a stand-up comic named Lou. He was a Jew. His suit was blue. And he made a lot of other jokes that were much better than that. Sometimes he had the audience pounding on the tables.

The writing covered a fairly wide range of subjects and situations--from politics to personal problems, from school to radio and television--and for the most part, it came off quite well. There tended to be a lack of crispness in spots, and at times the skits seemed to drag but it was never long before they redeemed themselves. As well, there were some good ideas that would have worked better if they'd been more polished, but considering the limited time and budget Berry had--next to zilch--he really did an admirable job.

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