

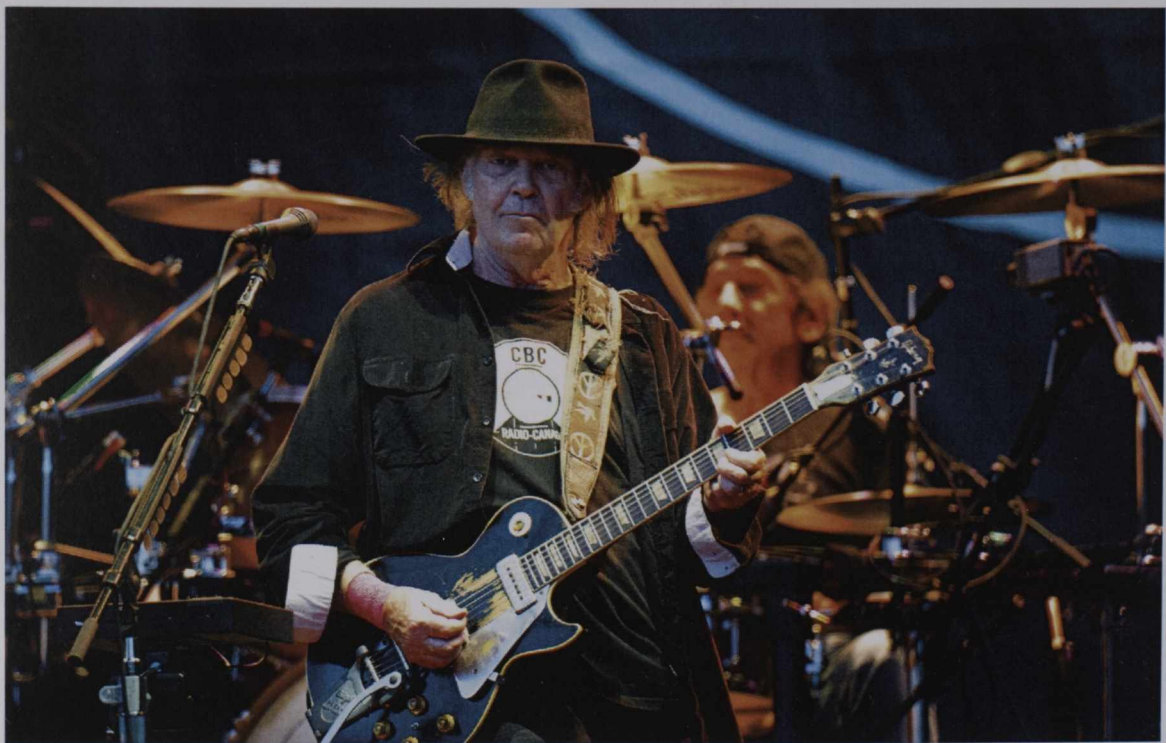
## From Paul Anka to Drake: Canadian Pop Artists Inspiring the Finns

Paul Anka visited Finland for the first time in 1959 at Helsinki's Linnanmäki amusement park. The postwar baby boomers still remember stories about how Paul Anka's tour to Finland caused dramas in Finnish homes when a daughter in her teens was desperate to travel to Helsinki. Since then Paul Anka has visited Finland several times, Lappeenranta in 1989, Pori Jazz in 2007, and Tampere in 2008 and 2009.

Leonard Cohen's melancholy speaks to Finns, so no wonder the maestro himself has visited Helsinki seven times between 1985 and 2012. Many of Cohen's poetry books have also been translated into Finnish: *The Energy of Slaves* (1972), in Finnish *Rakkauden orjat*, translated by Jarkko Laine (Otava, 2012); *The Spice-Box of Earth* (1961), in Finnish *Lauluja*, translated by Jarkko Laine (Otava, 1974); *Book of Mercy* (1984), *Armokirja* in Finnish, translated by Seppo Pietikäinen (Rockadillo Publishing, 1986); *Let Us Compare Mythologies* (1956), in Fin-

nish *Vertailkaamme mytologioita* (Sammakko, 2014); and *Book of Longing* (2006), in Finnish *Kaipauksen kirja*, translated by Ville-Juhani Sutinen (Sammakko, 2008). Of Cohen's novels, *The Favourite Game* (1963) came out in Finnish as *Lempileikki* in Helena Lohtaja's translation (Sammakko, 2004), and *Beautiful Losers* (1966) as *Kauniit häviäjät* by the same translator (Sammakko, 2003).

Favourites like Neil Young, Alanis Morissette and Céline Dion have performed often in Finland and Justin Bieber has a huge following. Groups of teenagers, perhaps as desperate as those wanting to see Paul Anka in 1959, spent a night in sleeping bags, queuing in front of Hartwall Arena to get a ticket. In September 2016, the Canadian Embassy scored a record number of likes and retweets with "The other great #Canadian Justin is in town for two days". In the fall of 2016, the rap artist Drake inspired restaurants in Helsinki to organize a Drake Dinner.



Neil Young, Hartwall Arena, July, 2016. Photo: Juha Metso.