

# Nomads Reunite

by Gene Kosowan

Life as Edmonton's teenage wasteland knew it shuddered to a crashing halt in September with the demise of SNFU, one of the alternative scene's hottest bands, as they joined the cadaverous remains of music scenes past and present. But one of the lessons dictated by the business as of late is that one doesn't need to remain dead forever. Just ask **Jefferson Airplane, The Who, Wire**, or even (ahem!) **The Bee Gees**.

Or just call local studio entrepreneur **Garry McDonall**. The former trumpet player for **The Nomads** is serious about a permanent rejuvenation of his old group after 22 years of inactivity.

Spurred on by a phenomenally successful New Year's Eve charity event at the Kinsmen Fieldhouse in 1988 (which brought back the glory bands of the Diefenbaker-Pearson era like **The Chessmen, The Graham Waifer, Willie and the Walkers**, and of course **The Nomads**), McDonall isn't one to ignore a marketing potential.

"We're not in it for the money," he states. "But we have a sound that isn't covered in this town, so we are unique to ourselves."

Still, it's just the mere joy of performing that's the key for this versatile personality, who has also been involved in studio production and engineering, concert production, broadcasting, and general administration

as the current president of the Alberta Recording Industry Association.

"Last year's New Year's Eve bash was such a gas. It was fun to do, but what it pointed out to most individuals was how much they enjoyed it. I realize it was something that was missing in my life."

The Nomads dominated Edmonton music from 1961 to 1967, playing their R&B-oriented covers and originals at teen bashes and nightclubs. Renowned for their powerful brass section, the outfit, which fluctuated from five to nine pieces, also recorded an album in Edmonton and Toronto in 1966 on their own Point label. Dilemmas like club hassles and dual careers put a lid on the band, seemingly, for good.

"Also, we were getting long in the tooth playing to teens," McDonall added. "We were having trouble relating. All of a sudden, people were coming up to us saying, 'Sir, could you play this?'"

The owner of Damon/Soundtrek and the band (bassist **Les Vincent**, sax players **Orest Urchak**, and **Al McGee**, drummer **Ron Donyluk**, guitarist **Wayne Saunders**, and keyboardist-singer **Larry Guthrie**) are currently rehearsing for weekend junkets and recording a cassette in time for New Year's Eve.

To McDonall the very idea of polishing his valves for this venture is irresistible. "It all comes back to you," he says.

Let's hope 20 years from now, SNFU will agree.

# ATF Chooses Semi-finalists

by Gene Kosowan

Over 50 artists will be appearing at a semi-final November showdown in Edmonton and Calgary as part of the Alberta Recording Industry Association's latest scouting venture.

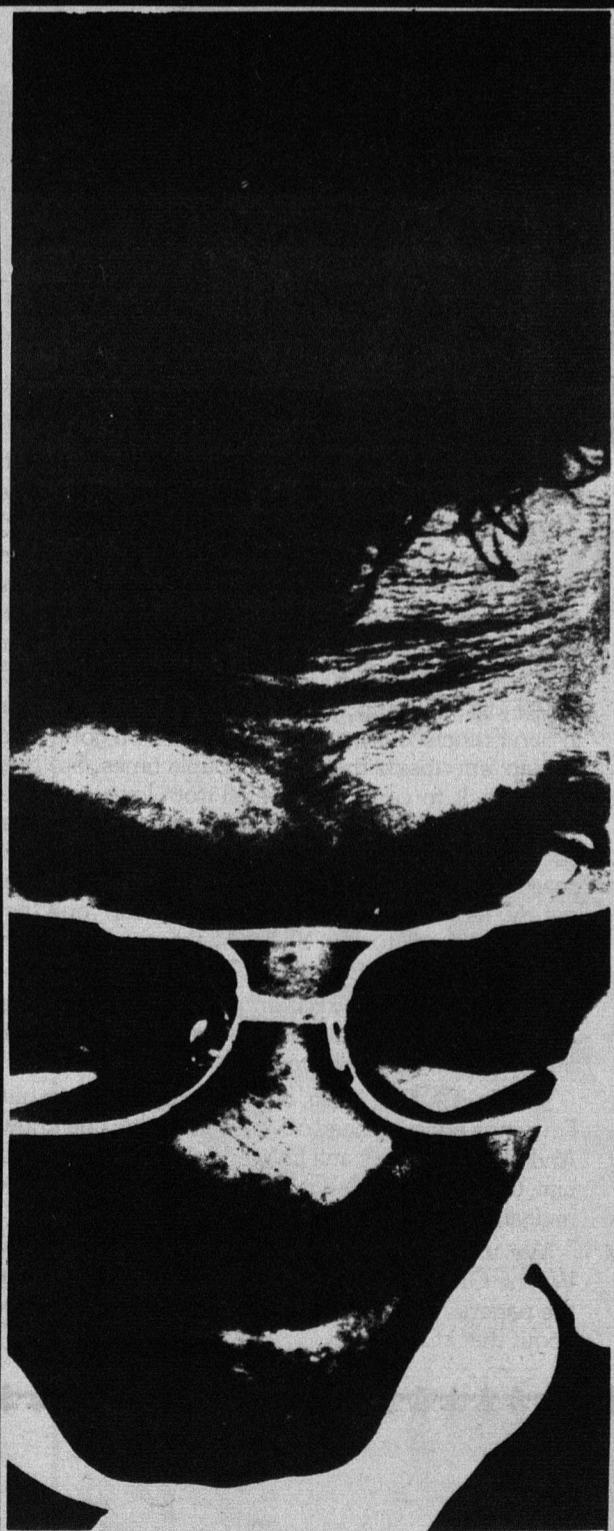
The Alberta Talent Festival, sponsored by ARIA and several media organizations across the province, received scores of entries anticipating winning the grand prize of 1,000 pressed singles (hopefully on a major label) and inclusion on a CD-cassette compilation.

Festival organizer **Al Rasko** couldn't be happier. "The bulk of (the submissions) are excellent," he says. "It is definitely showing a high quality of musicianship in this province."

Interestingly, most of the chosen performers and composers vying for top spots in the country/folk, pop/rock, hard rock/heavy metal, jazz/blues/stage band, and new age/alternative/other categories are hardly familiar names, which suits Rasko fine.

"I feel this particular concert is geared to bring out the artist that doesn't have the opportunity to succeed."

Semi-finalists in Northern Alberta will compete for prominence at the Capilano Inn on November 6, 7, and 8, while Southern Albertans have already undergone the process at Denny Andrews in Calgary in October. Winners will square off at the grand final November 28 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary. Judging will be conducted by a panel of "industry experts".



"Keep an eye out Nov. 1-11!"



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