

Cano, quality expression never wavered

by Eric Simpson

Music can seduce. The truth of this statement was delightfully demonstrated at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Saturday Nov. 18 by CANO, a talented musical group from Northern Ontario.

Ask any person who was initiated to the pleasures of CANO's music on Saturday night and barring ardent puritanism the response will be an ecstatic one.

CANO's sensitive yet uninhibited lyrics and music succeeded in arousing and satisfying all those in search of musical fulfillment. Their compositions based on personal experience, created an atmosphere of intimacy.

Whether it was a modern rendition of the famous children's song Frère Jacques featuring the beautiful voice of Rachel Paiement or the gripping and plaintive Ukrainian melody interpreted by violinist Kohut, the quality of CANO's expression never wavered.

In the group's first song, Soleil Mon Chef, the rays of the rising sun were invoked by the sonorous voice of Marcel Aymar as he praised the solar sphere.

The powerful and beautiful suite of three songs, Au Nord de Notre Vie, displayed the full range and ability of the group in the electronic genre.

CANO caressed, cajoled and captivated. From the delicate phrasing of a touching ballad to the tremendous energy of a jazz-rock melody, this group exhibited superb control.

The audience seemed slightly awed at times but finally responded with two standing ovations at the end of the performance.

CANO



Although this was CANO's première in Halifax, they were relaxed and confident. Each of the seven musicians except Michel Dasti, the drummer and Wasyl Kohut, the violinist, introduced a song and chatted with the audience.

The introductions, monologues and songs flowed smoothly from French to English and everything was understood in essence if not in reality.

In Spirit of the North, Kohut's soaring violin transported the listener into vast open spaces of strength and freedom. Kohut has the ability to reproduce sounds of seagulls and wind with stunning accuracy.

The stirring lyrical ballad Che Zeebe allowed Rachel

Paiement to exploit the full range of her vocal abilities. At all times clear and expressive, Paiement changed from soft tones to overpowering crescendos in one breath.

Paiement has become the driving force behind CANO

since the death of her brother Andre last winter. Her composure and enchanting charisma combine with her talent to endow CANO with a leader of impressive stature.

The members of CANO have known each other for over five years although they have been performing together for only two years. They are close friends who emphasize the importance of co-operation and understanding. The lead guitarist, David Burt, believes that success will not spoil their relationship. CANO is currently recording with A&M records but they maintain that their material is not dictated by A&M. CANO's non-commercial music is successful so why tamper with it?

After this current Canadian tour, CANO will start preparing for their next record album which will be an all English effort to be released in February. Their last two albums consisted predominantly of French material. CANO plans a promotional tour of the United States before going on to Japan and Europe.

The group tends to avoid political statements preferring to concentrate on the enunciation of individual human feeling.

Since three of the seven

members of CANO are not French-speaking and the others are all bilingual it is difficult to label CANO as a French Canadian group. Nor do they capture the soul of Canadian music—they reflect the solidarity of a closely knit co-operative whole. If their music is universal in nature it is through its particularity.

Andre Paiement composed a song entitled Mon Bays which speaks of his home town and his close friends. These are things of importance to him and if he thinks that his country will not last long, it is with the knowledge that the virtue of these things will remain.

Not all of CANO's songs avoid social comment however as is seen in the Bienvenue 1984, a parody of George Orwell and our modern dilemma.

The balance and variety exhibited by CANO (Co-operative des Artistes du Nord Ontario) is surprising for a group of only two years and three albums.

If Nova Scotia is fortunate maybe people will be inspired by the example of CANO and raise their own CANE (Co-operative des Artistes de la Nouvelle-Ecosse)! Bonne chance!



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