

Murray McLauchlan heads Orientation

Murray McLauchlan returns to the stage of the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on September 16 and 17 to headline Dal Orientation '76. The last time McLauchlan appeared in Halifax a capacity crowd at the Arts Centre applauded, yelled, and stomped their feet until the wee hours of the morning as one of the country's finest performers laid down tracks for a live album. Accompanied only by bassist Denis Pendrith, McLauchlan sang himself almost hoarse in coming up with "Only The Silence Remains", a two record set featuring material from his previous four albums as well as songs that are included in his latest LP on True North records, "Boulevard". The title track from "Boulevard" is McLauchlan's latest single release for AM radio play.

In five years McLauchlan, in his late twenties, has risen to the forefront of the Canadian music scene, and has developed a large following in the United States, especially among college students. His guitar and piano work excelled on the live album, and his harmonica evoked memories of a young Bob Dylan. Not surprisingly, Dylan and Woody Guthrie, were early influences upon McLauchlan, who came to Canada from Scotland when he was five. The family eventually settled in Toronto, where Murray was kicked out of school in grade ten (supposedly for writing a book report on *The Catcher in The Rye*). After that, it was a pattern of life that is not unfamiliar to folk musicians - life on the road - the dirty clothes, empty stomachs, scrapes with the law, to return to Toronto and Yorkville Avenue, where the music and counterculture were alive in the middle to late sixties.

Students take note

There are a large number of student clubs and societies across campus bridging a vast array of student interests. The Student Handbook lists and describes many of these student groups. If you are interested in joining a particular student organization, the Student Union offices can tell you whom to contact. Better still, if your interests are not being fulfilled at present by an existing group take on a challenge and start up an organization! The Vice-President can provide advice and facilities for the first meetings.

His first album, *Song from the Street*, was released in 1971, and included some of the songs that have become McLauchlan standards - *One Night By My Window*, *Child's Song*, and *Honky Red*. Since then, Murray McLauchlan has only improved.

His sixth album, *Boulevard*, finds him using a new backup band, "The Silver Tractors", who will be appearing with McLauchlan during his Halifax dates, indeed, on the rest of this tour which will take him across Canada, and perhaps as far as Los Angeles' *Troubadour*. Those who watched Gordon Lightfoot's Olympic benefit during the summer had a sneak preview of the Tractors and McLauchlan's broader, fuller sound.

As evidenced by "Only the Silence Remains", Murray McLauchlan is at his best in front of a live audience. Listening to the previous four albums, one gets the feeling that the confines of the recording studio have never been able to capture the raw, emotional essence of Murray's lyrics. Most of the live versions of previously recorded material indicate that McLauchlan numbers among those extra special performers who are better in person than in the studio, with all its natural advantages.

The live album featured only Pendrith on bass. It will be interesting to see - and more especially, hear - the effect of the addition of Jorn Anderson on drums, Gene Martynec on guitar, and Ben Mink, a fine mandolin and fiddle player, to the McLauchlan sound.

As if Murray McLauchlan and the Silver Tractors were not enough of an attraction, the opening act on the Thursday and Friday concerts will be Dan Hill, a young singer from Toronto whose first album on GRT, was well received for its excellent lyrical quality. A single from the "Dan Hill" album, "You Make Me Want To Be", received considerable radio play last winter. Hill is managed by the Finklestein-Fiedler Company, which has been largely responsible for the success of Murray McLauchlan, as well as Bruce Cockburn. A second album from Dan Hill is expected this fall.

So it looks like two great evenings at the Cohn during Orientation '76, but tickets will be at a premium as the dates approach. They're \$6.60 each (no student prices) but more than likely well worth it, if you are lucky enough to get a hold one or two. (At the time of writing they were about 75% gone).

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