Canada's Struggling Songsmiths

Canada's songwriters are slowly being recognized but mainly by the Americans. Even in the 30's Canada's songwriters were travelling to New York where the music business was, to get some attention. As hard as it is to break into the business and come up with a successful composition, it is even harder in Canada, but this situation is improving.

The opposition to Canadian writers was so severe in the early days that there is a story of a Canadian song that became a very famous commercial and theme song. After it was published firms that would pick up a Canadian songwriter's early days that there is a story of a Canadian song that came a very famous commercial and theme song. After it was published, the Happy Gang recorded a number of Canadian compositions. They were all Canadian. Later Mart Kenney recorded. The most famous was by Gene Autry. Canada and Canadian songwriters were entering the music picture, "Squid Jiggin' Ground" was next. In BMI's files is a tune written by Lorne Greene of "Bonanza" which was published in 1949. Since that time Greene has not only become famous as a TV star, but just recently with his hit record "Ringo" he is now a pop artist.

The first real glimmer of success came in 1960 and since that time Canada has slowly but consistently been selling Canadian songs to the world market. An interesting fact is that 14 Canadian tunes have shown up on the German charts, and foreign versions of Canadian tunes are not rare today.

One of the most successful recent Canadian copyrights was "Our Winter Love" by Johnny Cowell.

Canada and Canadian songwriters have come up with a very impressive list of HITS. "Walk Hand In Hand With Me" "Man In A Raincoat" "Steel Men" "Baby Beattle Walk" "I'll Never Smile Again" "Put Your Dreams Away" "Montreal" and "Fortune Teller". With Canadian songwriters, we have just scratched the surface. There are many untapped sources of song and music in Canada that slowly are being recognized. The songs and the songwriters are here and properly arranged and orchestrated we can develop a great music of our own.

One Canadian record producer has refused to take any sessions unless at least half the songs to be recorded are Canadian compositions. "I don't know where there are more gifted songwriters than in Canada and with the proper treatment we can produce hit after hit. Once we have the breakthrough we'll find our writers were always here waiting to be discovered."

Who knows but some Canadian songwriter is already disguising his songs to look American to make them hits in Canada. IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE.
TREMENDOUS response to our Cross Canada Chart Action has made it impossible to include every chart that comes in to us, nor every Canadian Content single listed. However every chart is used in our calculations, and the following singles showed considerable action this week. "Once In A Lifetime Boy" - Girlfriends (Cal) and "Queen Of The Hop" - Billy and the Martiniques (Tamarac). We will be confined to 20 stations and 10 plus 3 hits forthcoming and any honourable mentions will appear in this column.

WE'D LIKE TO DOFF OUR CAPS to a few luminaries in the record business for their steadfast energies exerted toward the mammoth task of building an industry for Canada. Our business needs more people like Bob Martin of Columbia, Mike Doyle of RCA Victor, Paul White of Capitol Records. These are the giants of the giants. Sparton's Harold Pounds for his tireless efforts to promote our music and records. John Porteous of Arc who was instrumental in the success of "Unless You Care". Bob Pugh and Laurie Hazeltine of Raleigh Records who as an indie pack a powerful punch for Canadian content. Al Reusch of Aragon records and Les Vogt of Jaguar records on the west coast and Tamarac's Stan Klees whose door has been open to new talent and the artist with a problem and who unselfishly has aided both artist and session and asked nothing in return. These are the big people of the industry that have proven themselves as giants in the fight to develop a music industry for ALL CANADIANS.

THE RED BARN THEATRE with producers Marigold Charlesworth and Jean Roberts began rehearsals this week for their musical "Cindy-Ella" written by Caryl Brahms and Ned Sherrin. The cast is made up of popular Columbia recording artist Phyllis Marshall - twenty year old Shirley Matthews who is well known in Canadian teen circles for her Tamarac recordings - Lennie Gibson, Vancouver dancer, singer, actor who will also choreograph the show - and Abbot Anderson, Royal Conservatory scholarship student, who appeared with the Canadian Opera Company during its recent season at the O'Keefe Centre. Janet McGregor Smith has designed the sets and Ben McPeek is Musical Director. Opening night is slated for December 8th.

WES DAKUS with his Quality waxing of "Las Vegas Scene" enters RPM's Top 40 & 5 this week.

MIKE REED of Apex still hot-footing it around town making life a little easier for Joe and Eddie dropped off a new Warner Bros. release of "Piccolia Pupa". This young Italian songstress from Genoa was discovered by Danny Thomas and appeared with him in Venice. At six she was the headliner at the Meuretto D'Alassio on the Ligurian Riviera. She is now living and going to school in Hollywood. This LP is done in both English and Italian.

BENJAMIN BRITTEN arrived in Toronto last week for two performances of his "War Requiem" with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the 150 voice Mendelssohn Choir.

HAROLD MOON of BMI just back from Nashville, has news of Canadian songwriters meeting with success. Ray Griff from Calgary was introduced by RCA Victor as their hot new prospect. A release is slated for the next two weeks. Both sides written by Ray are "Don't Lead Me On" and "Weepin' Willow Tree". Loretta Lynn, born in Olympia Washington received her first break with the Zero label from Vancouver which resulted in her becoming a part of the Grand Ole Opry. Loretta will be releasing a single shortly with a tune written by Ron Kitson, Country Gentleman from CFGM Toronto. "Happy Birthday" (Decca).


The Burl Ives single of "Chim Chim Cherree" from Mary Poppins looks like another success story for Ives. Another Victor single we predict for No. 1 slot is "Ringo" by Lorne Greene.

BY WAY OF the Ottawa Journal and Allen Sackmann comes news of the Chieftones. This group was formed to publicize the Indian Residential School in Edmonton. They have just been signed to a two year contract by a US booking agency which promises them 48 weeks of work a year. The Chieftones are four Indian youths dressed in traditional costumes, hair in braids with feathers. They play country and rock and have been scoring very well in western Canada. Their manager is John Radcliffe, school supervisor who has set up a trust fund for each of the boys. A portion of their earnings will be turned over to the school. The group is made up of Vincent Clifford, Jack Cecil, Barry Clifford and Richard Douse.

NICE TO HEAR from Leon J. Brettler of Shapiro, Bernstein & Co., the big music publishers in New York.

ETHICS AND DCS. During the recent appearance of the Dave Clark Five at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens Nov. 2, whatever favourable image there may have been for the DCS may quite easily have been damaged by the possibly uncalled for antics of their representative and road manager Rick Picone. During the performance of Bobby Curtola, Canada's top teen draw, Picone took the opportunity to complain bitterly and rather loudly over the fact that Curtola had equal billing with the DCS and that Curtola had been on stage too long. Curtola's over enthusiastic fans kept him onstage for a longer period than had supposedly been allowed. Possibly this was real showmanship. He went so far as to threaten to throw Curtola bodily off the stage and when this didn't prompt promoters Lombardi and Bolska into action he degraded himself even more by demanding that Curtola come off stage or he wouldn't allow the DCS to go on. This occurred within 3 feet of this reporter.

PERHAPS Mr. Picone should be reminded that as a guest in this country he could have done himself, his company and certainly the DCS a greater service by showing a little respect for Canada's top talent, that incidentally stood as much chance of upstaging the Dave Clark Five as "a snowball's chance of survival in hell". Unfortunately his outburst of bad manners took place in front of a battery of news, radio and TV representatives. One observer was heard to comment "typical!" What did the critics say about the concert? It's a pretty good bet the clippings from the Toronto dailies may be conspicuous by their absence in the DCS scrapbook.
Dove Mickie has given the Channel 11 Dance Party a big shot in the arm. The Hamilton station is running two months ahead on ticket requests. One of Mickie’s secrets is his ability to communicate with the teenager. Proof positive? What other TV dance type show squeezes in 400 teenagers each week?

Dove Lyman at CKY Winnipeg reports fantastic response over the reading by Gary Todd of the similarities between the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations. CKY received this information from WLEC Sandusky, Ohio. Response was so heavy the station rebroadcast the information on 2 other occasions. Close to a thousand letters requesting copies have come into the station plus many people stopping by the station to pick up copies.

Congratulations to the gang up at CKYL Peace River. The month of November sees them celebrating their tenth year in the broadcasting business. It would be a nice gesture on the part of other broadcasters to send CKYL a congratulatory tape.

Johnny Murphy, as always, on the lookout for Canadian talent reminds us of a new release by Montrealer, Ronnie Prophet "Ten Years In A Prison". This disc is on Capri handled by Trans World. Another Murph prediction looks like it could happen. "So Many Other Boys" by the Esquires on Capitol is destined to be a hit. Ask any "Campus Club" member. You might check our front page chart as well.

When radio personalities move these days they are no longer considered drifters. They’re going where the action is. We’re glad this more complimentary description has come about especially when we hear the news of Keith Randall moving into CFCF Montreal. He’s one of the most aggressive promotion minded radio personalities we have had the pleasure of knowing. Keith teams up with Franklin Armstrong to do a two-man morning show. As a last reminder from CKPT Peterboro Keith advises that "Don’t Make A Fool Of Me" is currently a strong battle champion at ’PT. Keith is a very Canadian minded young man. The best of luck.

Never underestimate the power of the broadcast medium. R.K. Legge PD at CHEC Lethbridge will attest to this. Recently his station embarked on a promotion to instill more interest in minor football in Lethbridge. From Ian Mandin and R.K. Legge clowning it up as cheerleaders to the station personnel challenging the football all-stars to a game. One hundred tickets to the final championship game were given away by the station to contest winners. Enthusiasm for sports, particularly football, is running high in Lethbridge thanks to the public service dedication of CHEC.

Happy Hart Kirch popular AM man at CJME for the past three years moves over to CJOCLethbridge. Same time slot.
WES DAKUS of Edmonton is probably the best known Western Canadian in the pop field. He is one of the few Canadians to ever make a noise in the American trades and he did it the hard way, with an instrumental. "Pedro's Pad" (UA) was picked as a chart item in Music Business. Wes' manager is Norman Petty of Clovis, New Mexico, no stranger to the hit making sound. Wes has established Clovis as his home studio and has just released what looks like another hit, "Las Vegas Scene" on Quality and will be releasing an LP shortly. The dream of recording and recording with one of the best producers available, came about through a very close friendship with Jimmy Gilmer and the Fireballs ("Sugar Shack").

Wes is one of the few down to earth humble artists who insists on giving the limelight to the people who have helped him on his climb to the top. For instance, his very tight knit group made up of Stu Mitchell, Bob Clarke and Barry Allen. The latter is vocalist, plays rhythm guitar and also records for Quality ("Over My Shoulder") and is managed by Petty. Wes also proudly mentions his booking agent, Al Johnson.

THE ESQUIRES HAVE A HIT!
‘SO MANY OTHER BOYS’

THE ESQUIRES WON MANY NEW FANS WHEN THEY APPEARED WITH THE DAVE CLARK FIVE IN TORONTO, MONTREAL AND LONDON – NOW THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY – CHART LISTINGS THIS WEEK ON CHNS – HALIFAX (No. 14); CHSJ – SAINT JOHN (No. 22); CKSA – LLOYDMINSTER (No. 44); CFCF – MONTREAL (No. 46); CKGM – MONTREAL (No. 16 "Hot New Hits"); CHNK – CFVR – FRASER VALLEY (No. 43); CHAB – MOOSE JAW (No. 64); EXTRAS AT CFUN – VANCOUVER; CKLY – LIND-SAY; CFCO – CHATHAM; CHOK – SARNIA; CFRA – OTTAWA; CKOY – OTTAWA; CKEY – TORONTO

IT'S ON CAPITOL RECORDS OF CANADA – No. 72193
USES NATIONAL TELEVISION
AND NEWSPAPER TO BOOST
CANADA'S YOUNG TALENT

JOHN F. BASSETT JR. (Better known as Johnny"F") was
born in Toronto in 1939. His public school years were spent
attending Bishop's College School in Lennoxville, Quebec.
Back to Toronto for high school at Upper Canada College
where he graduated and entered the University of New Brun-
swick for one year and then to the University of Western
Ontario where he graduated in 1961 coping top marks and
a gold medal to boot.

Johnny aimed at and accomplished a newspaper career
all in a very short space of time. Now editor of the very
popular Telegram teen supplement "After Four" which
boasts a reading audience of some 60,000, Johnny recently
entered the realm of television. He is host and executive
producer of the much talked about teen TV network show
"After Four". With both these giants of the broadcast and
news media at his fingertips his ambitions are "to present a
healthy and vibrant reflection of young Canadian talent and
to aid in any way possible those with similar aims."

Considered an expert on sports, Johnny is equally
at home describing hockey games or explaining football plays.
He is well known in the sports world. His interviews with the top play-
ers of each CFL game broadcast in the east are an added feature to
to the game.

A sportsman himself Johnny played intercol-
legiate hockey and was a member of the Davis
Cup Tennis Team in 1959 and is number two
squash player of Ontario. Married, Johnny is the
proud father of a four year old son and a two
year old daughter.

A newspaperman's interest coupled with a broadcasters
power makes JOHNNY BASSETT JR. a great ally of Cana-
dian talent.

"Concealed talent brings no reputation" — Erasmus.
RCA Victor has a great new series!
The series is Canada International. And it means top Canadian recording artists will enjoy some well-deserved recognition around the world. In Brazil, Italy, Sweden, France, England, Belgium, Norway and many other countries. People will get to know, and like, Canadian talent. The new series does something else, too. It brings a lot of great music from these countries into the Canadian home. Music that was impossible or difficult to acquire will now be available in the new series. Canada International! You, and the world, will be hearing a lot from it.

GEORGE WILSON at CKFH has been receiving good reaction to the Harry Belafonte release "Ballads, Blues, Boasters" and "The Original Music From The Rogues" by Nelson Riddle and "The Merry Widow" with Patrice Munsel. This is the original cast of "Merry Widow" currently appearing at the O'Keefe Centre. Matt Munro comes up with a great pleaser "Great Songs From The Movies" on Capitol.

ART COLLINS at CFRB suggests you give a listen to the new Hugo Winterhalter single of the well known Ames Brothers hit "You You You" on Capitol and "This Is Love" by Johnny Mathis on Mercury. "Just great for GMP programming" also "Funny World" with Jane Morgan doing a pretty ballad. Quality's LP release of Lucille Starr "Introducing The Canadian Sweethearts" and Bob Regan poses a question for Art. How come they sing the American lyrics to "This Land Is My Land"? Vanguard comes up with a very interesting and entertaining LP "Mozart After Hours" with Maureen Forrester doing her own type of scat singing with the Viennese Symphony people and Vienna Academy choir playing around with Mozart a la-swing le singers under the watchful eye of Gershon Kingsley. Also found very delightful is the new Reprise series of albums devoted to shows "Guys and Dolls" "Kiss Me Kate", "South Pacific" and "Finians Rainbow". "Great! Great! Great!"

A FEW ISSUES back we mentioned the single on Congress "The Gypsy" by Robert Davie. This single has been brought to our attention once again. If you haven't heard it yet or haven't received this Phonodisc release it would be well worth the effort to latch on to it. Another single well done is The Kingston Trio's newie on Decca "Hope You Understand". For Burl Ives fans he's never had a better one than "Chim Chim Cheree" on RCA. Two Capitol singles worthy of note are the new Matt Monro "Walk Away" and Al Martino's "We Could". For LP's we find the "Fantastic Strings" of Felix Slatkin (Liberty) pretty fantastic. If you like Keely Smith you'll be interested in her new Reprise LP "Lennon, McCartney Songbook". For Mathis fans Johnny goes Latin with "Ole" on Mercury. He does a bang up job on "Granada" and "Babalu".

DAVE MICKIE-CHCH-TV Hamilton

DON'T MAKE A FOOL OF ME-
Little Caesar & The Consuls

"I dig this record! The first time I heard this disc was several weeks ago when the group appeared on my television show. I was impressed with the production and sound and was amazed to find this was a Canadian production. This SHOULD be rated one of the top Canadian singles. Give it a listen."
GENE PITNEY

GREAT, GREAT NEW SMASH!

"I'M GONNA BE STRONG"

Arranged by Gary Sherman • Produced by Seltzer

COLUMBIA RECORDS
EXTRA ENDLESS SLEEP

EXTRA RUN RUN RUN

EXTRA I DON'T CARE

EXTRA ROSES ARE RED

Canada's HITMAKING stations report the following in the top twenty on their charts.

CHNS HALIFAX Why
CKGM MONTREAL Shaggy Dog
CKCK REGINA I'll Be Back
CKOC HAMILTON My Love Forgive Me
CHOK SARNIA 5-4-3-2-1
CPOS OWEN SOUND Lumber Jack
CFPL LONDON Promise You'll Tell Her Blue Jeans
CKYL PEACE RIVER Do The Blue Beat
CFUN VANCOUVER Just Don't Under
CKLY LINDSAY Endless Sleep
CHIQ HAMILTON Move It Baby

Elvis Presley Rca
Supremes Pho
Rolling Stones Lon
J. Frank Wilson Qua
Joy/Americans Com
Zombies Lon
Gene Pitney Com
Shangri Lar Qua
Kinks All
Terry Black Arc
Animals Cap
Herman's Hermits Ca
Jan & Dean Lon
Honeycombs All
Bobby Vinton Col
Lome Greene Rca
Peter & Gordon Cap
Four Seasons Qua
Brenda Lee Com
Dean Martin Com
Newbeats Qua
Johnny Rivers Lon
Dianne Warwick Qua
Ronettes Qua
Rooftop Boys Cal
Dixie Cups Qua
Every Brothers Com
Chuck Berry Pho
Sandie Shaw All
Marianne Faithful Lon
Ventures Lon
Lesley Gore Qua
Johnny Tillotson Qua
Nino/Ebbettes Qua
Manfred Mann Cap
Supremes Pho
Anthony/Imperial Com
Wes Dokus Qua
Julie Rogers Qua

Hank Williams Jr. Qua
Gestures Unk
Becky/Lollipops Cal
You Know Who's Pho

MONTREAL

DATELINE NEW YORK by Harriet Wass

Dick Contino was in New York long enough last week to inform us that he was opening at the Barclay Hotel in Toronto on November 9th. If you get a chance to catch his show, be sure to tell him Harriet sent you.

Philips Records will release its own LP of songs made famous by The 4 Seasons....this one arranged by Charlie Calello. Talking about new albums, Sid Bass, who arranged Gale Garnett's smash "We'll Sing In The Sunshine", reports that he just finished recording Gale's second album for RCA. Canada certainly loves this gal.

Tin Pan Alley is talking about the $250,000 deal signed between independent record producer, Mickey Most, and CBS Records. Deal covers records released in America and Canada. They are also talking about the near fatal accident that almost took the life of country singer, J. Frank "(Last Wilson. We were immediately reminded of the recent tragedies that took the lives of Jim Reeves and Johnny Burnett.

Waiting to break big on the charts is "The 81" by Candy and The Kisses. We first read about this record in RPM, but it is now starting to get action here. Also, what looks like a big record is "Since I Don't Have You" by Chuck Jackson. Our question, "What ever happened to United Artists plans to record The Four Lads" has been answered. The company has just released an album by the boys called "Songs of World War 1".

More and more female vocalists from England are invading our charts. Newest among them is Marianne Faithful with her record of "As Tears Go By" On the cover of her new LP entitled "Dusty", England's Dusty Springfield is billed as "America's Newest Singing Star" Nobody is about to argue the point at the rate her records are selling to American fans.

Barry Mann, who with his wife, Cynthia Weil, are the writers of "I'm Gonna Be Strong" by Gene Pitney and "Walking in the Rain" by The Ronettes, is back on records. His first Red Bird release is "Talk To Me Baby" and it is tremendous. Barry and Cynthia tell me they have a desire to write a Broadway musical score and are thinking in this area now.

My nomination for "Prettiest Record of the Week"..."Willow Weep For Me" by Chad and Jeremy.

Indie producer, Artie Wayne corrected me. Canadian Neil Sheppard, not Neil Diamond, has been signed to Almont Records.

American record companies continue to look for the English "sound" when picking up masters. A group called The You Know Who's has a record on the market "Roses Are Red" which was recorded here. The sound is strictly British.

Send all news to Harriet Wassmer RPM, 161 West 54th Street Suite 1202, New York, N.Y.
WSM's 39th Grand Ole Opry Birthday party in Nashville, Tennessee (November 6 & 7) turned out to be a howling success with some 2,500 in attendance. From the Toronto area, C&W artistry was represented by such names as Chef Adams, Jimmy Simms, Reg and Eleanor Bartley (The Singing Sweethearts). Publishing and promotion personnel consisted of BMI Canada's Harold Moon; Columbia Records' Bob Pampe and Bob Martin; CFGM's Bill Stoneham Jr; Poppy Bucket and yours truly, Fred Roy and perhaps others which your writer didn’t run into in the crowded city. Winnipeg artist (Columbia) Stu Phillips got a standing ovation for his performance at the Columbia Records luncheon at noon Saturday.

PERHAPS THE BRIGHTEST performer around was C&W music's newest hit attraction (and I do mean Attraction) Miss Connie Smith, whose RCA Victor discing of "Once A Day" currently tops the country charts. Seeing Connie both on and off stage at the Opry brings back memories of Jean Shepard's early career. Blonde, 5'2" Connie is about the same in size, appearance and vitality that C&W columnists accredited to Jean Shepard soon after her debut, and she has enough talent to keep her in the spotlight for many years.

CFGM'S RON KITSON is proving a success as a C&W songwriter. His newest release is titled "Happy Birthday" which was just released on Decca by Loretta Lynn and should be heading for the number one slot in a matter of weeks as Loretta's discs usually do. Loretta sang the song on the Opry Saturday night (7) with vocal assistance from Connie Smith.

TEX RITTER was elected to CMA's Country Music Hall of Fame with a 24" x 30" bronze plaque bearing his likeness added to those of Jimmie Rodgers, Hank Williams, Fred Rose and Roy Acuff who preceded him into the Hall of Fame in years passed. Announcement of the election was made by Frances Preston, CMA's Chairman of the Board, from the stage of Loew's Theatre, Nashville, preceding the showing of MGM's "Your Cheatin' Heart", film version of Hank Williams' life.
THE NEW RPM is offering for the first time special one-year Christmas gift subscriptions. The rates, effective until December 31st, are $5.00 for the first one year subscription (your own or gift) and $5.00 for each additional subscription ordered at the same time.

Below is a Christmas gift order form for your convenience in the hope that it will be a happy solution to your gift problem. So that we may enter your subscriptions in advance of the busy holiday season, please return the order with your check as promptly as possible.

An attractive gift announcement card will be mailed to each recipient for arrival a day or so before Christmas.

Send To:
RPM GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS,
426 Merton Street,
Toronto 7, Ontario

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ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER
THE ESQUIRES - SO MANY OTHER BOYS f/s THE OLDEST STORY
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BARRY 3297

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