

Newfoundland Music

By RYAN O'CONNOR

As we're all fully aware, Newfoundland is the home of a rich musical heritage. One of the most recent acts to make a name for themselves from "the Rock" are the Ennis Sisters. Consisting of sisters Maureen, Karen and Teresa, this young trio has traveled the country spreading their catchy brand of music.

Having been lucky enough to have seen them perform live at the Festi-

val of the Fathers this past summer, I can attest to the fact that their boisterous poppish/folkish music is indeed a joy to behold. Their first album (they have since released a Christmas CD) is called *Red Is The Rose*, and it successfully captures their sound and feel. The album is full of great songs such as "Out From St. Leonard's" (an account of the relocation push put upon the small town fishermen in the 1960s), "Somewhere In America"

(written by Eric Bogel), and the traditional "Leaving of Liverpool".

SingSong Records is a small label based out of St. John's. Two new releases from them are Tickle Harbour's "Battery Included" and "We Will Remain — Patriotic Songs of Newfoundland." Tickle Harbour is a seven member group, most notably featuring the talents of Fergus O'Byrne (former member of Ryan's Fancy).

Of the 12 tracks on this album, 5 feature vocals

— the remaining 7 being a collection of reels, polkas, waltzes and marches. Already recognized as one of the top groups in Newfoundland, this is a very strong album all around (I must admit I found it intriguing at first to find a cello featured in the music though). Top tracks on this CD are "The Warlike Lads of Russia" and "The Banks of Newfoundland."

On the other hand, *We Will Remain* is a compilation, featuring the talents of Arthur O'Brien,

Jason Whelan, Chris Andrews and Fergus O'Byrne — to name a few. Through the songs of this collection the history of Newfoundland is celebrated, and not surprisingly there are a number of anti-Confederation songs included — dating back from the days of the Confederation debate. Top tracks include "The Republican Song" and "The Flag of Newfoundland." This is another great album, one that is worth a listen also.

Lenahan

Contrary Motion
(Clandestine Records)
www.celtic-rock.com

After a number of electrified releases, this is Lenahan's first attempt at a stripped down, acoustic album. The interesting point is that it works rather well. The record is lead by Tom Lenahan (vocals, bagpipes, whistle, guitar and bodhran), who is accompanied on this album by Clarence Ferrari (fiddle, guitar) and Richard Tully Graziano (percussion).

Top tracks on this album include a finely performed "Lannigan's Ball", "Queen of Argyll", and "New York Lullaby" — a reworking of the classic known as "Hobo's Lullabye." Throughout this album's 12 tracks, the group's various roots are displayed, ranging from the blues, Cajun and Celtic rock. If you haven't heard Lenahan and his gruffy, blue collar vocals — but are interested, this album is a great point to start.

Darwin's Army

(Appleseed Recordings)
www.appleseedrec.com

Darwin's Army is a four member group, consisting of John and Buffy Stewart, John Hoke and Dave Crossland. Featuring recent and not so recent folk standards, this album features such well known songs as "My Back Pages," "Goodnight Irene," "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," "Darling Corey," and "Boy In The Bubble" — which proves to be the album's highlight.

Although all four members contribute lead vocals to this album, the undisputed star would have to be John Stewart, a man known far and wide for his songwriting skills (having penned such hits as "Daydream Believer"). Although his wonderful bass voice is not as strong as it used to be, this album is still worth listening to for all fans of Stewart.

George Grove

In The Middle Of A Life
(Timber Grove Records)
www.timbergrove.com

George Grove is a gifted musician that is best known as the banjo player in the Kingston Trio — of which he's been a member since 1976. Still performing with the group, this is his first solo album. Consisting of 13 tracks, it showcases Grove's beautiful voice — as well as his talent on the banjo, guitar and piano.

There are many great tracks on this CD, including the simply done and country-flavored "Longest Beer of the Night," a beautifully orchestrated version of "Streets of London," and a Caribbean-feeling "Singing Ever Inch" — a song that documents the story of the Kingston Trio. Other top tracks include "One Sweet Reason," "Shopping" and "Looking For The Sunshine."

This project is one that is very personal for Grove: the songwriters used on the album are primarily friends of his, the label is his own, and many of his friends accompany him on various tracks (guests including John Sebastian, Bob Shane and Van Dyke Parks).

If you're interested in purchasing a copy of this fine album, there are a number of options available from his website (address listed above).

CIMN Chart March 11 to 17

1C	Smugglers	Growing up Smuggler
2C	Strawberry	Brokeheart Audio
3	Fatboy Slim	You've come along way Baby
4	Portishead	Roseland NYC live
5	Ben Folds	Fear of Pop
6	Various	United States of Punk
7	MXPX	Slowly Going the way of the Buffalo
8C	Various	30 hour Famine
9	The High Llamas	Lollo
10	Second Coming	Second Coming
11C	Kittens	The Night Danger Album
12	Morrissey	My Early Burulary Years Rosso
13C	Various	Celtic Colours
14C	Various	We Will Remain
15	Offspring	Americana
16	Clutch	The Elephant Riders
17C	An Acoustic Sin	of four Corners
18	Cake	Prolonging the Magic
19C	The Watchmen	Silent Radar
20	Various	Hempilation

QUESTION: IF YOU COULD LIVE FOREVER, WOULD YOU AND WHY?

ANSWER: "I WOULD NOT LIVE FOREVER, BECAUSE WE SHOULD NOT LIVE FOREVER, BECAUSE IF WE WERE SUPPOSED TO LIVE FOREVER, THEN WE WOULD LIVE FOREVER, BUT WE CANNOT LIVE FOREVER, WHICH IS WHY I WOULD NOT LIVE FOREVER."

MISS ALABAMA IN THE 1994 MISS USA CONTEST