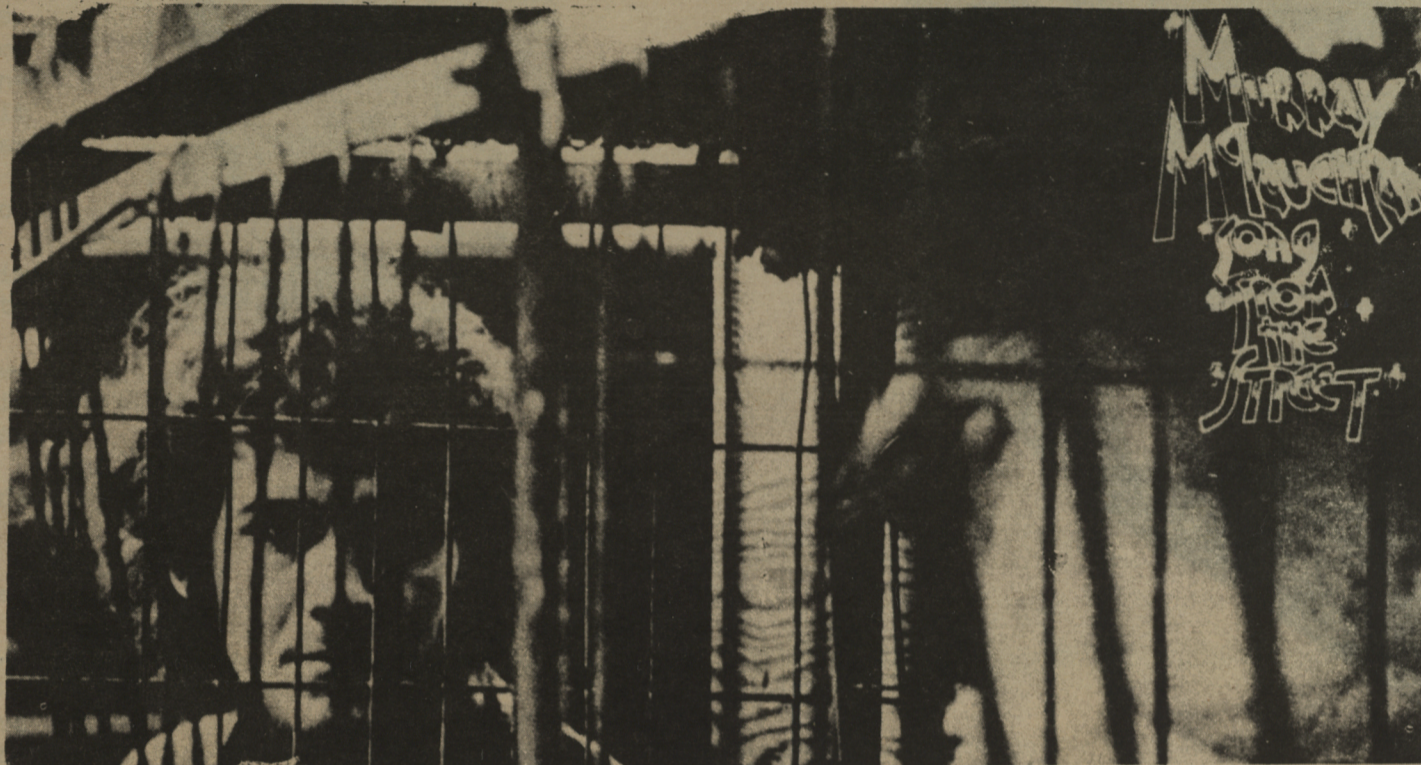


# Composer turned singer gets success



By DIANE SMITH (Ryersonian)

There really is such a person as Murray McLauchlan, and he's alive and doing very well in his album, *Song From The Street*, put out on the True North label.

For years McLauchlan has carried on the true Maritime tradition of writing songs for others to become well-known by, much as Gene McLellan has done for Anne Murray with *Snowbird*. McLauchlan's name can be seen in movie credits, such as *Rip-off*, or on records under the name of the singer.

Occasionally he tours, and last summer he did a magnificent job at Mariposa. And now he has come out singing his own material, showing that no matter how well others do with his compositions, it takes McLauchlan to give them their original life and meaning.

He sings of life as he sees it, with a sometimes cynical sense of humor and with fondness. He has been everywhere and tried everything. His song *Honky Red* for example, tells about the times he escaped from the bad life with wine, but the song is neither unhappy or maudlin. It's bouncy and raucous, so instead of seeing the experience as a bitter one, it becomes something McLauchlan has accepted and conquered.

*You Make My Loneliness Fly* could be compared with James Taylor's *Fire and Rain*, except McLauchlan has found the woman he loves, not lost her. His experiences are common enough yet he writes with more compassion than most song-writers of today. His songs are happier.

McLauchlan is Canadian, and proud of it, as he told listeners at Mariposa. He lives in Toronto now, but travels across Canada gathering more experiences for his music. His songs are not as Canadian as Gordon Lightfoot, for example, because he mentions no city names or landmarks.

When he talks about love, it's a two-way experience shared with someone who started out as a friend, and remained as that after love. Lightfoot would understand as he did in *I Heard You Talking In Your Sleep*, where his love means both compassion and understanding. Love is not only a physical thing, found so often in Hollywood movies and songs such as *One, Two, Three, Red Light*.

McLauchlan is a bouncy character who manages to make his music feeling and original. In *Song From the Street* he is backed on guitar by his old friend Gene Martynec, who once played with the Toronto group *Kensington Market*, and earlier with *Luke and the Apostles*.

His first album is an experience in itself, and he is another Canadian to be proud of.

*Sixteen Lanes of Highway* is McLauchlan's anger against the progress that removes the beauty of the land around his home, and turns it into concrete. But his anger is tempered by pity, and the whole thing is supported by melody and rhythm.



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Sun., Feb. 13, 7 and 9

The Cheyenne Social Club, starring James Stewart, Paul Newman, and Henry Fonda.

Mon. to Wed., Feb. 14-16

Pretty Maids All In A Row, starring Rock Hudson.

Thur. to Sat., Feb. 17-19

Love Story, starring Ali

McGraw, Ryan O'Neal.

At the Centre

to Sat., Feb. 12: Sometimes A

Great Notion, starring Henry Fonda.

M

Mon. to Wed., Feb. 14-16

Gone With The Wind, starring Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh.

Thur., Feb. 17, 8:30p.m.

The Atlantic Symphony

Prices: \$2.50/adult  
\$1.00/student

Fri., Feb. 18, 10:00a.m.

Atlantic Symphony-Student

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