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Nashville notes

BY LORI RISLING



If there's a bit of doubt in your mind about the calibre of Canadian music, check out this all-Canadian line-up for the upcoming Big Sky, Canada's Concert, to be held in High River, Alberta the August long weekend.

Saturday, the 5th will feature The Rankin Family, Sarah McLachlan, Blue Rodeo, Colin James, Susan Aglukark, Ashley MacIssac

and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

Sunday's performers will include Celine Dion, David Foster, Anne Murray, Rita MacNeil, Michelle Wright, Burton Cummings and George Fox.

Monday will rock a little more, with Bryan Adams, Tom Cochrane, Jann Arden, Moist and The Tea Party.

Fred Penner will headline the Kid's Stage Saturday

and Sunday and Canada's new talent will be featured throughout the weekend.

This celebration of Canadian music is being held to mark the 325th anniversary of The Bay and will benefit The Bay's Adventurers Foundation, for the support of youth in education and the arts. Tickets are now available through your usual outlet.

British Columbia recently held its Country Music Awards. Lisa Brokop was named both female Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year, while One Horse Blue took the trophy for Best Group. Newcomer Curtis Blayne was voted Male Vocalist and also received the Best

Video award for Georgia Rain, which is currently in regular rotation on NCN.

Canadian country music will be well represented at this year's World Special Olympics. Michelle Wright and The Moffats will join Special Olympics spokesman Tracy Bird for a special concert at the event this summer.

The conservative world of country music was shaken last week when hot newcomer, Ty Herndon was arrested for indecent exposure and possession of drugs.

Herndon's first single, *What Mattered Most*, raced to the top of the singles chart and his album of the

same name is in the top 20 and climbing. Ty's current single is *I Want My Good-bye Back* and the supporting video is being aired on NCN.

The singer has a July court date set.

CD REVIEW: Jason McCoy *Jason McCoy*

Add one more name to the list of talent Canada has to be proud of, Jason McCoy. McCoy's debut, self-titled album on MCA Records showcases this young singer's varied vocal ability and strength as a songwriter.

McCoy wrote or co-wrote all 11 cuts on this CD and the subject matter is varied and entertaining, from the

uptempo *Country Side* to the hopeless tale of a single mom in *Candle*.

We get a taste of Jason's delightful sense of humor in *Cornelia*, the lament of a young man in love with a gorgeous girl who used to be the skinny red-head in Grade 3. The instrumentation is fresh and appealing as well, with a rockin' drum rhythm giving way to great country fiddles and acoustic guitar backed with a Hammond organ.

With ballads, country-rockers and honky tonk tunes, McCoy delivers a better than average debut and I'm sure he'll turn heads south of the border as well as becoming a big ticket in Canada.