

Canadian songwriting team makes the charts

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KITCHENER, Ont. (CP) — Modern-day song writing, at least for Montreal composer Marty Butler, is not the key-picking, note-writing process that had frequently been depicted in the movies.

Nor is today's song-writing partnership, as exemplified by Butler and his lyricist partner Bob Bilyk, two men glaring at each other over a scattering of papers filled with musical scribbles.

Butler hums or sings nonsense words to his melodies onto a cassette tape and mails it, along with suggestions of a possible rhyme-scheme for the lyrics, to Bilyk who lives in Toronto.

Sometimes, Butler may write the complete song, music and lyrics, and put both their names on it, or a song credited to both might be entirely composed by Bilyk.

Both also retain a freedom to write entirely for themselves and take all the credit individually.

It's an easy-going, friendly partnership that has resulted in their being tagged the Burt Bacharach-Hai David song-writing team of Canada.

Butler, who recently stopped over in Kitchener on a promotional tour, recalled that initially when Bilyk had suggested a partnership in which each included the other's name on their songs, whether or not they combined in writing them, "I thought he was trying to con me into something."

That was close to a decade ago when both were students at Montreal's Sir George Williams University. Since that time the partnership has produced a couple hundred songs, probably the best-known

being Fly, Little White Dove, Fly, the international hit recorded by The Bells.

Butler has more recently scored a personal success with a song called Can't You Hear the Music, which was chosen as the best song of a Canada-wide songwriting competition that drew more than 5,000 entries. Butler received \$10,000 in prize money, sang the song himself on a national television special and has a single recording of it currently getting a fair amount of air-play.

Butler described how the song came about:

"I was stuck in a traffic jam one day in Montreal and I was cursing like mad, but all of a sudden I felt this melody coming on. So when I got home I rushed up and put it on tape.

"When the song-writing contest came up and a

friend of mine suggested I should send it in, I put lyrics to it.

"The lyrics had to be something about Canada, and I thought, everybody's going to write, 'Canada, Canada, something, Canada, Canada, we love thee, Canada, Canada,' so I decided I wouldn't mention the word Canada at all.

"To get across the idea of travelling across the country, I mention in the song different physical things you'd see in each of the provinces. When I'm out east, I say 'coals and potbelly stoves'; I get into Quebec and I talk about the islands and the lakes and I talk about golden fields and sowing oats in the prairies."

Hearing one's own compositions sung by others "is quite a proud feeling," Butler said. "Also, there's quite a bit of satisfaction coming out of recording my own material."

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Novelist cum actor now achieving success

The Brandon Sun; January 15, 1973

MONTREAL Terry Haig, who to fulfill his ambition to be a great novelist by going abroad, has found success in his hometown of Mon-

Montreal a couple of years following Terry's birth. In New York, Mr. Haig turned to actor's school a

had to get a job as a waiter. He became aouncer and later a waiter at a

production, Cold Journey, and as a revenue department investigator in another NEB feature, The Slight Affair.