BY Don Hinkley

PART III

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donne ce

la desillusion

The excitement generated by the Québecois music scene is not confined to the province alone. Fans in the U.S. manage to get their favorite albums from Canada by hook or by crook despite the lack of distribution in the states. It is not easy for a Québecois band or artist to set up distribution contracts or tours but it is possible. Stars of the caliber of Louise Forestier regularly do concerts in France, for example, but Beau Dommage found themselves playing second fiddle to French rock idol Julien Clerc for a sixty date tour of France last January even after winning the coveted Jeune Chanson award there last year for up and coming talent. Such paradoxes led Québecois star Diane Dufresne to refuse the same award this year, saying it was awarded only to promote the industry. Within the last year, Beau Dommage has become a headlining band in Belgium, Switzerland and France as well as throughout the rest of Canada. American firms, especially Philo Records in Vermont, have recorded increasing amounts of traditional French-Canadian music, especially in the area of fiddle music. Philo in particular has an excellent distribution system.

It would appear that New England with its large Franco-American population would be a logical and convenient area for Québecois artists to perform. A common complaint of concert promoters in northern New England is

Le mariage...

that most acts are reluctant to schedule dates simply because it is an out of the way area. For a band that earns its financial stability by touring, sacrificing engagements for distant dates cannot be a pleasant thought; they most likely have outlined their touring boundaries and are comfortable with them. In the case of Québecois musicians who would like to expand their touring area, the opportunity to perform in New England (if the audience is there) would appear to be welcome and convenient. Theoretically, the idea of Québecois concerts is a sound one. There would be no language barrier for the most part and the musical content and sophistication represented in the Québec music scene is enough to even satisfy an audience that does not understand French. Funds could be allocated through arts commissions to ease the financial burden. (It would be considerably less than that of most of the current American touring bands.) Somehwere in the process a meaningful dialogue in the arts might be established. So, let's book more talent from Québec, right?

Wrong. Or at least not as right as rain. The question of politics and whether political stands would carry over into such a situation is another ballgame entirely. It is necessary to allow that although the record companies involved are certainly not in the monolithic league of the American giants, images of self-importance may be greater. A little investigation by some ambitious soul could easily reveal whether such sentiment exists. Until there is more enlightenment and support of Québec music here there is hardly any point in importing any major talent unless the object is to financially lose one's shirt. The ultimate un projet qui se prépare

success of a concert booked into the Lewiston area, for instance would depend on the concert goer's trust in the promoter's choice unless the musicians were television or radio personalities of high visibility. The promoter should not have to go out on such a long limb in his attempts but obviously it is no one's fault save perhaps the music distribution's industry's. Even that part of the business can be excused for not risking widespread distribution in an untried market.

Perhaps a solution lies in a grassroots approach to building up the distribution of contemporary French-Canadian music in New England. Ordering albums from local stores or through friends headed in the direction of Québec would help. Radio stations that program an occasional French music show could attempt to integrate a wider variety of contemporary music, thereby alienating neither the younger audience nor the traditional music fan but hopefully gaining acceptance of the mixture by both. The response would show more clearly to what extent the music forms an audience, with no real risks involved. It would indeed be refreshing to hear this new voice in New England, where it has been absent for too long.

Prend ma main

je sé pas si sé encoze que je vient je vient pi je vas Un homme

Des hommes

Une femme

'évolution d'une culture.

Des ames Un homme qui dit

Je vi

tu peu vivre Une femmes qui dit

Sé des mizères

Un homme qui dit sé beau de vivre Mais on peu lengue vivre quand

Quand Quand on peu prendre un main Viens, on va y aller ensemble

Prends ma main On peu vivre

le di icit que on peu pas vivre tout seul. La vie est trop grosse

trop grosse

grosse pour vivre seul. Un clou peu pas être san le faire

Le faire peu pas être san la terre.

Maxine Michaud

St. Agathe, Maine





de, c'est à dire que je san, con a conte que je m accept sans renier, sans me dissimuler sans Ma première démarche indispensable consiste à me rencontret moi-même sans "masque Le masque que je me donne pour dissimuler Le masque que je me sonne pour orsanne fai mes "besoins" (peut-être identifiés à des faiblesses ici) est une arme à deux tranchants qui messes ici) est une artice a ueux manchants qui me rend, à mon tout, aveugle face à ma vérita. ble réalité.

d'entreprendre un

cient de

Sans cette prise de "possession" première, je ne peux me "donner" véritablement, je ne peux me communiquer, je ne peux rencontrer l'autre.

Laisser tomber mon masque, c'est me révéler à moi-même et à l'autre, c'est être capable d'établir une communication significative avec l'autre, basée sur la confiance, c'est finalement être capable d'aimer.

Mario DEVIN, animateur

Antiproverbiale 119 la meilleure charpente se poutres défroquées ait avec des de Conrad Winter et Jean Vodaine

Le j