

Ten songs to win your heart

MUSIC IS MY RADAR FORMERLY FRANKLY MR. SHANKKLY

by Andrew Robinson

Well, the results are in, the votes have been counted, and the winner of the first annual Polaris Music Prize is... Owen Pallett (a.k.a. Final Fantasy). Announced last Monday to pretty much no fanfare, Canada's only monetary award given for the best Canadian album regardless of genre, sales or record label, went to the Toronto-based singer/violinist for the bizarrely-monikered album "He Poos Clouds."

Now that got your attention. That's right, the best music that Canada produced in the past year is an album called "He Poos Clouds." Seriously. Poos.

And I couldn't agree more.

Sure, I'm still a bit bitter that my personal favourite, The New Pornographers' "Twin Cinema," lost (as did my second choice, Wolf Parade's "Apologies To The Queen Mary"), but I've recovered. If anything, reading the Polaris website last Monday night prompted me to take "He Poos

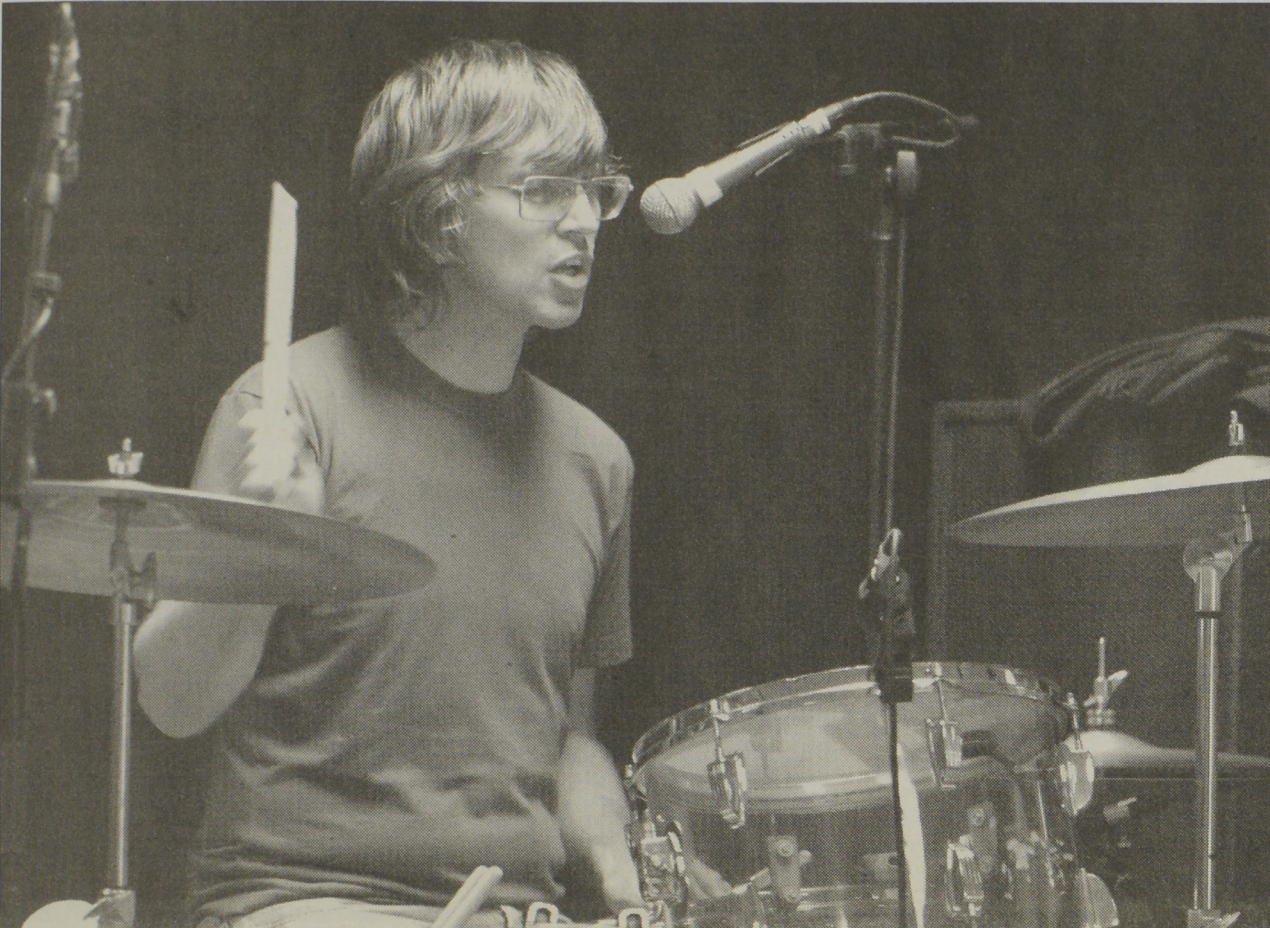
Clouds" off the shelf for another well-deserved listen. But first, here's a little background on the man himself.

Final Fantasy's sound is a bit of a puzzle to describe. He is continually shifting the orchestral gamut between Nintendo-esque strings (e.g., "The Legend of Zelda") to chirping parlour ensemble strokes. Throwing in some stabbing piano parts, the occasional drum fill, and Pallett's thin, David Byrne-tinged vocals, he produces the catchiest and most beautiful record I've heard in a while. With regards to his string-work, it's the way Pallett performs live that has garnered the greatest critical response. Like fellow electronic artist Andrew Bird, Final Fantasy plays the violin into a sampler controlled at his feet, which then loops what he just played, while he simultaneously performs other parts over the top. The result is a massively complex amount of sound coming from just one man and his violin.

Released in May of this year on Toronto indie label Blocks Recording Club (www.blocksblocksblocks.com), Pallett garners inspiration for "He Poos Clouds" from a wide variety of media. The titular track's lyrics and arrangements are a not-too-subtle nod to "The Legend of Zelda" as well

as C.S. Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia." Several other tracks loosely reference the different schools of magic from "Dungeons and Dragons." The song "This Lamb Sells Condos" was directly inspired by Toronto-based real estate developer Bradley J. Lamb, who uses the same advertising slogan. In the song, Final Fantasy sings about an argument between Lamb and his fashion-obsessed wife (apparently establishing the link between "condominium retail and impotence") while strings wail and piano keys tinkle in the background. "I'm Afraid of Japan" tells the tale of Yukio Mishima, the Japanese playwright and author, who gruesomely met his end in the ritual samurai suicide known as seppuku. Irish metafictional characters, Russian classical composers, baking, the Bulgarian philosopher Julia Kristeva, ragtime, death, and of course, the love of video game characters, are all touched upon in some way throughout the album's 38-minute span. Though the subjects of the songs change as often as the wind on Koholint Island, the music remains consistently stellar from beginning to end, and that's why Final Fantasy's "He Poos Clouds" won the Polaris Prize. Simply put, the best musician won.

Who taught you to play like that?



William Koruna / The Brunswickan

Sloan played in the Student Union cafeteria Friday September 22 to a slew of aroused fans.



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On the wire from CHSR

by K Brookland

There will be a CD sale on Friday, September 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the radio station in the SUB. Just follow the music and you'll find us! You can choose among hundreds of CDs in a multitude of musical genres.

CHSR's Open House will be held on Thursday, October 5, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the station. If you've never been in a radio station before, this is your big chance. And if you come during David Pirie's show ("Maple Haggis" from 5:30 to 7:00), he is inviting you into the studio so you can see how a show is done by a pro! You can also take a tour of our music library - the largest east of Montreal! So come on up to CHSR and check us out. Talk to the Volunteer Coordinator and see how you can sign up to become a member.

Programming

Monday to Friday, from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m., CHSR FM is proud to present "The Lunchbox." You'll hear interviews, opinions, news, and music too. "The Lunchbox" is followed at 12:30 by an hour-long news feature program, "Democracy Now!" - a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program airing on over 450 stations in North America. For true democracy to work, people need easy access to independent, diverse sources of news and information and "Democracy Now!" is just the kind of news feature program we are proud to provide to the students of UNB and STU, as well as the community at large.

Each week, we'll highlight one of our locally produced music shows -

from dirty page 8

Okay, if all your cabs are all busy at the moment, obviously I'll have to wait. I'm fine with that. That's the reason why I always call cabs early. But telling me that I never even called and then acting like I'm the crazy one? What is that? Sure, you're running late, forgot me, whatever. But please just admit it. Don't try to cover your tracks and make yourself look innocent. Sure, I was frustrated from having to wait so long before, but now I just hate you. Wouldn't it be easier to apologize, explain the situation, and send a cab for me? That way I don't totally lose it and daydream of ripping your tonsils out

and there are many. Our programmers have a great deal of knowledge about the genre of music they play and they spend a considerable amount of time to prepare and produce a quality program. This week we're highlighting "Standard Deviations," a show produced by UNB student Jonathan Goodine. His undergrad degree was in Jazz from St. FX., but he quickly points out this does not make him an authority on jazz.

Jonathan says, "I came to study jazz quite accidentally. I wanted to do a music degree, and Classical sounded way too square for an 18 year-old. I didn't know of any degrees in Rock and Roll at the time, so Jazz sounded like a good plan. I knew basically nothing about it when I started, which I guess is a bit of why I like doing the show; a show like this could've really helped me at that time."

Jonathan plays jazz that is accessible to anyone, from the pro to the novice or uninitiated. He plays classic, time-proven stuff, as well as newer interpretations.

"I want to be sure that there's always an anchor point for new listeners, but give those more familiar with the genre something new to hear as well," he says. "In a way, 'Standard Deviations' says it all. Probably 90 per cent of what I play is standard repertoire; some of it may be original or classic recordings, but a lot are more modern interpretations of the standard catalogue. From the 20s to present day, I try to fit a bit of it all in, along with the odd anecdote, historical fact, and the occasional bit of jazz philosophy."

through the phone. Instead, I relax in the knowledge that someone is actually coming to pick me up. Because if you tell me that I didn't call, I won't want the cab anymore. I'll still need one, but not one of yours because you're a complete jackass.

And what's even more aggravating is that it's not one sole cab company that's doing this to me. It's several of them. Therefore, I hate them all.

I don't know how many times this has happened to anyone else. Maybe they only hate me. But I do know that once is more than enough to give your cab company a bad name. And let's face it, it's really irritating.

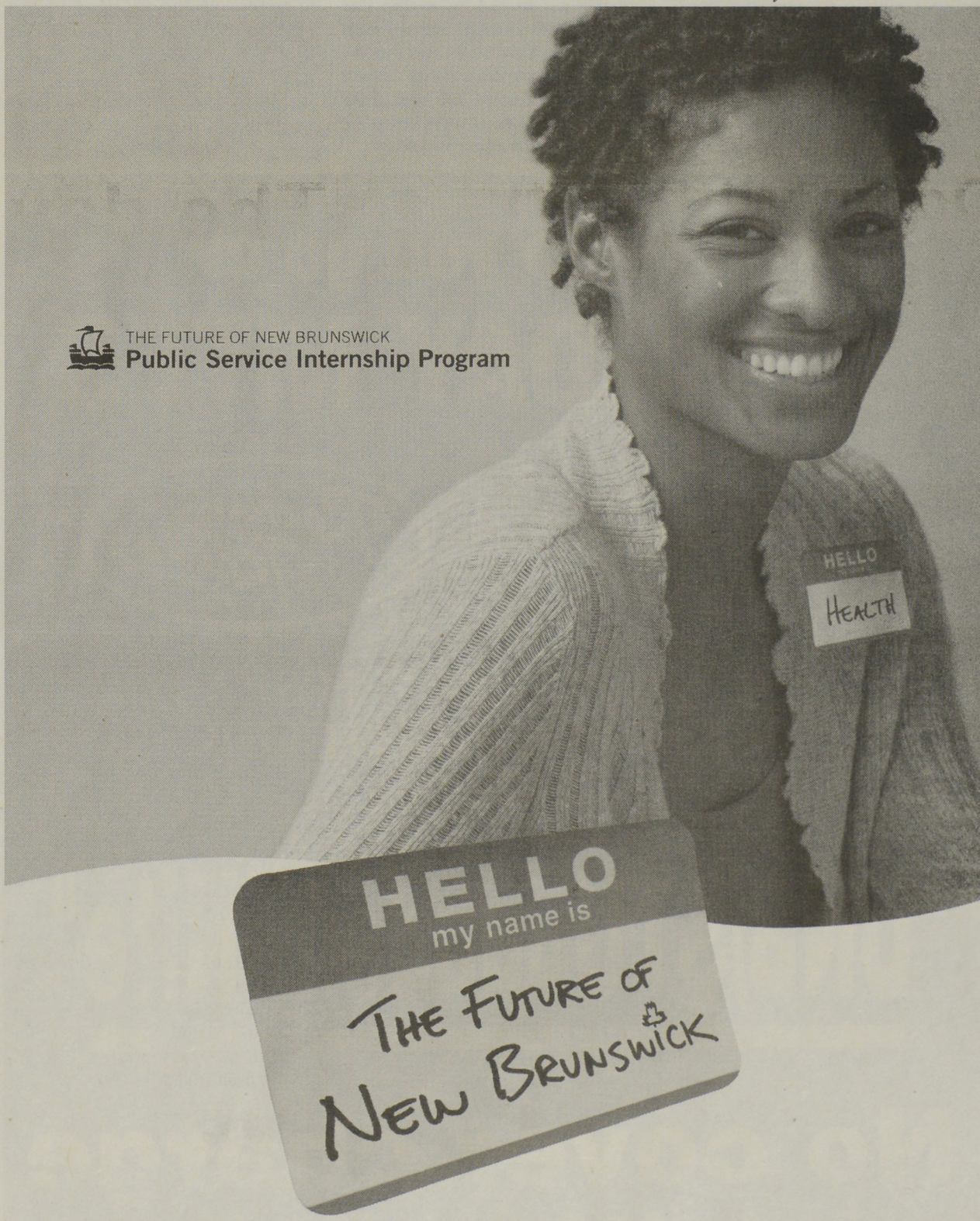
CHSR Top Thirt-ay

1. Yo La Tengo - I Am Not Afraid Of You And Will Beat Your Ass - Matador
2. The Dears - Gang of Losers - MapleMusic
3. Mew - And The Glass Handed Kites - Columbia
4. Thom Yorke - The Eraser - XL
5. Tapes N' Tapes - The Loon - XL
6. Ratatat - Classics - XL
7. * Screaming Eagles - Enemy Gold - Indie
8. V/A - Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man Soundtrack - Verve
9. * The Hidden Cameras - Awoo - Arts & Crafts
10. * The Trick - Six.song.demo - Indie
11. * Peaches - Impeach My Bush - XL
12. * Shout Out Out Out Out - Not Saying / Just Saying - Normals Welcome
13. * The Golden Dogs - Big Eye Little Eye - True North
14. * MSTRKRFT - The Looks - Last Gang
15. Be Your Own Pet - Be Your Own Pet - XL
16. * Feist - Open Season - Arts & Crafts
17. Sonic Youth - Rather Ripped - Geffen
18. * Ladyhawk - Ladyhawk - Jag-jaguar
19. * Emily Haines and The Soft Skeleton - Knives Don't Have Your Back - Last Gang
20. * The Superfantastics - Like Letters (demos) - Indie
21. * Carla Bozulich - Evangelista - Constellation
22. Hot Chip - The Warning - Emi
23. V/A - Treats 2006 - Barsuk
24. * The Soft Disaster - Roughs/Stalls - Indie
25. * Amy Millan - Honey From The Tombs - Arts & Crafts
26. The Knife - Silent Shout - Mute
27. * Chad VanGalen - Skelliconnection - Flemish Eye
28. * Feuermusik - Goodbye, Lucille - Junior
29. * Feu Therese - Feu Therese - Constellation
30. Archie Bronson Outfit - Derdang Derdang - Domino

* = new entry



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