

Alkaline Trio Gets Back to Basics



PHOTO: BEAU ROUJETTE, COURTESY OF BIRNBY RECORDS

By MORGAN DICK >> HENRY WISE WOOD HIGH SCHOOL, CALGARY AB

For a band that's just released its seventh studio album, Chicago's Alkaline Trio isn't showing its age. The rockers' latest effort, *This Addiction*, is a fast 40 minutes of stripped-down punk that harkens back to their early days. "This new record is actually sort of a step backwards in terms of having it take a more simplistic and honest approach to things," drummer Derek Grant tells me over the phone. "Each new album was a very important step in getting us to where we are today." Taking steps back to move

forward, the guys of Alkaline Trio returned to their hometown of Chicago to the studio where their earliest recordings were done –

"I think if it's not coming from someplace honest, people can tell."
—Derek Grant, Alkaline Trio

even using the producer who they'd first worked with – to make *This Addiction*. As Grant explains, this return to the group's musical roots is part of the transition back from more experimental albums,

such as 2005's *Crimson*. "That was, in my eyes, sort of this, this pinnacle in us exploring different sounds, and really trying to push our writing," he says. While the new record is also garnering praise for the depth of its songwriting, Grant insists that this, too, is nothing new. "I feel like there's always been a great deal of emotional depth to the lyrics, and, you know, I think that a lot of people relate to it for that reason," he says. It's that relatability and depth that has helped build an uncommonly long career for Alkaline Trio – with music that roars out of the gate but also strikes you with its truthfulness. Grant reiterates that the key to this long-term success is honesty: "When it comes to any sort of art, I just think you've got to be pure. I think if it's not coming from someplace honest, people can tell." While most bands would have passed their expiration date three albums ago, Alkaline Trio is still going strong. And if history has taught us anything, it's that getting back to the basics could easily be just another pit stop for this band, whose music never ceases to change.

A Story That's Going to Last

By ERIKA STARK >> DR. E.P. SCARLETT HIGH SCHOOL, CALGARY AB

According to Dan Marsala, "the bands that last are the ones who have integrity and do things for the right reasons." This is precisely why Marsala's band, Story of the Year, has managed to thrive in the music industry for the last eight years. Story of the Year maintained that mindset throughout the recording process of its latest album, *The Constant*. "*Black Swan* [SOTY's previous release] was a really long writing process," recalls Marsala. "This time around we wanted to get it done quick... and not worry about anything. It was real easy and really laid back." *The Constant* is an interesting blend of "fast, punk hardcore songs" and "piano ballads," says Marsala, something that reflects the band's willingness to expand



PHOTO: BRIAN SHEPHERD, COURTESY OF BIRNBY RECORDS

its musical horizons. "We've always been able to pull off many different styles," Marsala continues. "We try not to have any boundaries [and] go wherever the song takes us." Looking forward, the group simply wants to keep on doing what they love. "We want to maintain a certain level of success and still be a touring band. Our main goal is

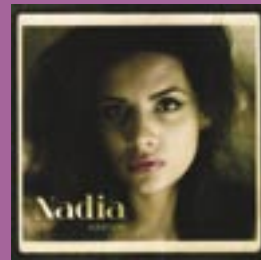
to continue doing this as long as possible," explains Marsala. There is no reason why Story of the Year shouldn't be able to accomplish that objective with a great fourth record to promote and tour. Above all, however, they are passionate about their music – and that's the reason that this story is going to last.

NADIA Arrival

★★★★★

By TIFFANY SENGSAVANG >> LANGEVIN SCIENCE SCHOOL, CALGARY AB

Calgary native releases enchanting debut album.



A singer-songwriter from Calgary now living in Brooklyn, New York, Nadia Kazmi showcases her powerful vocals on her debut album, *Arrival*. Nadia sings as if each lyric comes straight from her heart. From her melancholic whispers in *Julian* to frenzied rock temper tantrums in *Tyranny of the Heart* and touching on genres from blues to techno, *Arrival* goes beyond the bounds of ordinary music.

TIFFANY'S FAVE TRACK: *Julian*

FIVE STAR TRAILER PARK Dark as the North Atlantic

★★★★★

By KYLE LOWDEN >> HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, CALGARY AB

Not so dark, just good music.



Featuring catchy beats and stellar guitar solos, Five Star Trailer Park puts out another successful CD with its sophomore album, *Dark as the North Atlantic*. While the name of the album might suggest that the tone of the record is dark, this Canadian pop-rock band's songs tell meaningful stories that are perfect for helping you through rough patches in life. With the short track times (one track, *Set Fire to Me*, comes in at under three minutes), it is the perfect album to listen to escape this busy world. You'll probably wish the album never had to end with its honest lyrics and great energy.

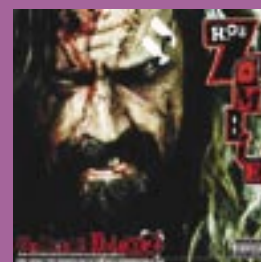
KYLE'S FAVE TRACK: *A Beautiful Train*

ROB ZOMBIE Hellbilly Deluxe 2

★★★★★

By TITANIA YAN >> QUEEN ELIZABETH SECONDARY, CALGARY AB

A great companion record to debut album.



Twelve years after his debut album *Hellbilly Deluxe* was released, the multi-talented Rob Zombie has finally put out its companion album, *Hellbilly Deluxe 2*. The 11 tracks on this album combine heavily distorted guitar, prominent bass and moderate drum fills that bring out the shock metal undertones of the songs. With tracks like *What?* and *Sick Bubblegum* defining the high points of the CD, this album provides a heavy industrial-metal sound with a mixture of chilling effects. Fans of Rob Zombie's music and his other creepy film creations will enjoy this album.

TITANIA'S FAVE TRACK: *Werewolf, Baby!*

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Juno Awards 2010: Celebrating Canada's Stars

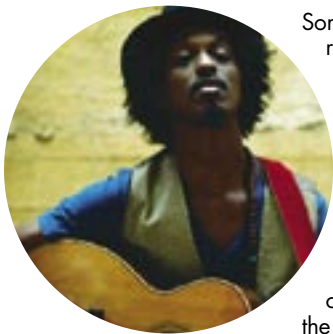
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By VIOLA CHEN >> PORT MOODY SECONDARY, PORT MOODY BC

With our Olympic success and newfound patriotism, it has been a great year for Canada – and the festivities have just begun!

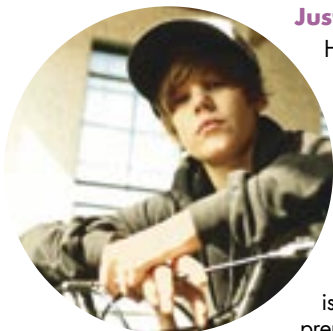
After nearly four decades of celebrating Canadian music, the 2010 Junos prove to the world that Canada's musical talent is only getting better. Since 1970, the Juno Awards have been presented annually to honour the musical achievements of Canadian artists and bands. The 2010 Juno Awards guarantee to showcase Canada's burgeoning music scene in the small maritime city of St. John's, Newfoundland. In honour of the awards, we decided to feature some of the top nominees at this year's Junos.

K'Naan



Somali-Canadian rapper K'Naan has received nominations for New Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year. His acclaimed record, *Troubadour*, has shaken up the world of rap music with poignant melodies and heartfelt lyrics. K'Naan's addictive single, *Wavin' Flag*, has received a nod for Rap Recording of the Year. Overflowing with soul and emotion, the song is on the road to become a cultural phenomenon as the anthem of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Justin Bieber



Have you caught the Bieber fever? Sixteen-year-old Justin Bieber can thank YouTube for his rise to stardom after his mom posted videos of him singing and performing on the public broadcasting website. His platinum-selling record, *My World*, has earned him three Juno nominations this year: Album of the Year, Pop Album of the Year and New Artist of the Year. Teenage girls and moms, prepare to eat your hearts out.

Michael Bublé



Hearthrob crooner Michael Bublé is this year's top nominee with an overall total of six nominations including Artist of the Year and Album of the Year. The Burnaby native has also received the nod for Songwriter of the Year and Fan Choice Award. The release of Bublé's latest album *Crazy Love* deservedly rakes in nominations for Best Pop Album and Best Single for *Haven't Met You Yet*.

Hedley



With numerous Juno nominations already under its belt, Hedley (named after a small town in B.C.) returns with two more nods in 2010. Hedley's 2009 release *The Show Must Go* earned nominations for Group of the Year and Pop Album of the Year.

Nickelback



Veteran Juno band Nickelback has been acknowledged once again. The post-grunge band, originally from Hanna, Alberta is nominated for the Juno Fan Choice Award and in the Best Rock category. Fifteen years have passed since the start of Nickelback's career, and the guys are still on top.

Billy Talent



Group of the Year nominee Billy Talent is also up for Album of the Year and Rock Album of the Year for its fourth studio album, *Billy Talent III*. The band's hit single, *Rusted from the Rain*, claims its rightful nomination for Single of the Year.

Billy Talent: The Returning Champs

By MORGAN DICK >> HENRY WISE WOOD HIGH SCHOOL, CALGARY AB



PHOTO: DUSTIN RAHN, COURTESY OF WARNER MUSIC

"We're not grown-ups. We're old men!" Aaron Solowoniuk corrects me when I prod him about his age. The Billy Talent drummer is 35 years old, and, with the release of last summer's *Billy Talent III*, four records deep into a massive rock career. As Solowoniuk recalled during our phone interview, the band's skyrocket to Canadian punk glory stems from years of paying their dues.

Like so many of us, Solowoniuk's interest in music was sparked at a young age, as he remembers watching MTV and doing air drums on his bed. It was in high school that he came together with three good friends (Ian D'Sa, Ben Kowalewicz and Jon Gallant) to form Billy Talent. But, despite the early start, the band endured 10 tough years before breaking into the mainstream. "Being 17 to 27 and not having any sort of success is very difficult, but we all have a passion for it and there never really was a discussion about stopping it at all," says Solowoniuk.

Those words carry even more weight considering that during that time frame the musician, then 21, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis – a lifelong neurological disease. "It took me three or four months to get back into rehearsal mode, and from there on in, I always just told the guys to treat me the same," he

recalls. "Let's just keep doing this."

That sense of determination finally paid off when the band wrote *Try Honesty*, the aggressive track that anchored *Billy Talent I* and cemented the group's place in mainstream Canadian rock music.

After the whirlwind success that followed – another album and popularity overseas – it would have been easy for

the group to stop challenging themselves musically. But Solowoniuk is adamant that they always continue to push their sound. Case in point: *Billy Talent III*, a record just as raw as the others, but with some slower tempos and more experimentation. "We didn't want to do like *Billy Talent I* or *II* again," Solowoniuk explains. "We kind of wanted to get out of our comfort zone, and do something new, and push ourselves," he adds.

Although the new record is a departure, it's obvious that a consistent passion for live music has remained at the band's core. The group tries to go all out for every show and, as Solowoniuk says, "really just leave it all on the floor."

That passion got Billy Talent through the tough years, and you can hear it in every track the band produces. No matter which direction they take, the guys of Billy Talent are sure to get your pulse going – and knowing the lengths taken to get here, there's no disputing they deserve it.

"We're not grown-ups. We're old men."
-Aaron Solowoniuk, Billy Talent

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