

# Do we call **Joni** Juno now?

Joni Mitchell spent most of the day thinking about fame. And it seemed that it usually comes posthumously. "When you're all wrapped up," she said.

It came way ahead of schedule for her last night. Not only was she named to the Juno Hall Of Fame at the 11th annual music industry salute to itself, but it was Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau who gave the blonde singer in the body hugging gold sheath dress the plaque that places her in the company of Paul Anka, Guy Lombardo, Oscar Peterson and Hank Snow.

In a 2½-hour show which saw the absent Anne Murray, as the only big winner, sweep four awards, Trudeau went on to say how Mitchell, born in Fort McLeod, Alt., 37 years ago, expressed the spirit of the west. "Liberty and freedom" played "an important part in her songs," he added. It was a glossy political speech, complete with constitutional joke. And in a pure show business sense, it was perhaps the next-best stand-up routine of the night — second only to host Ronnie Hawkins ripping the back of his right pant leg in full view the CBC's two-hour national TV coverage.

## Newer acts

It was a good night for some of the newer acts in Canadian pop music: Martha And The Muffins, who tied in the best single category with Anne Murray; Eddie Schwartz, who felt "I'm having amnesia" after he won the composer of the year award; Prism, named group of the year over Rush; Graham Shaw, named most promising male vocalist; and Powder Blues, named most promising group ("It's a long way from Grossman's Tavern," sighed Dave Woodley, the band's sax player, once with the Downchild band).

It wasn't the smoothest of nights for Hawkins, one of six co-hosts who found himself trapped in the Rolls Royce bringing him on stage. He and partner Carroll Baker were forced to start singing Bo Diddley, his signature song, half out of the back seat. Later he fluffed his lines. "Well, I cain't see, cain't hear, and I cain't read those cue cards," he drawled before going on. "I guess you could say this is a typically good night."

His weren't the only gaffes, certainly. Because last night's top country group award was the Good Brothers' fifth Juno over the years, Brian Good kept his excitement in check. Too much so, in fact. "It's happened so many times," he started to say, only to try and correct the impression being given: "No, it's not. I don't want to be like Gordon (Lightfoot) up here," in reference to a show some Junos back when Lightfoot seemed less than enthused at receiving one of the streamlined mini-pyramids.

## Mangled name

But Eddie Eastman, named country male vocalist of the year, topped that when he mangled the pronunciation of Bruce Cockburn's name in naming him as top male singer of the year. Elsewhere, however, certain people in certain situations managed to use it rather than let it use them:

□ Rob McConnell, the trombonist and leader of Boss Brass, in accepting the jazz album of the year award said: "Our German record company will be pleased and I am also." The dig went unnoticed by most of the Canadian companies which didn't sign his band.

□ Andrea Martin, the actress-comic now five months pregnant and living in New York with her husband, remembered the first awards show she had helped host, a spoof of the Junos on CITY-TV five years ago. She managed some high-schtick with grand-piano sized John Candy.



Joni Mitchell received Hall Of Fame award from the PM

BORIS SPREMO/TORONTO STAR



**PETER  
GODDARD  
MUSIC**

"I never thought I would be doing seriously now what I did as a joke back then."

□ Carole Pope, perhaps the most tensely-awaited prize winner of the night as the most promising female vocalist, made her own promise backstage. No, the sudden jolt of massive fame wouldn't make her change her ways, she said later backstage: "If anything, I'll be more disgusting."

After it was settled that Anne Murray won as female and country female singer of the year, as well as seeing both her Greatest Hits album and single, Could I Have This Dance, end up winners, only one question was left unanswered. It might prove

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Ronnie Hawkins' torn pant leg was a highlight.

# Junos

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to be the biggest, though — will there be a Juno Awards next year? At least, will there be a need for it?

Murray's manager, Len Rambeau, thinks it should be phased out. "Because it no longer works as a TV show, with the same people returning year after year, we should consider taking it off TV altogether. Make it a purely industry event," he says. He is considering suggesting to the 900-member Juno membership that Murray and perhaps Lightfoot and other ever-present figures might "retire" from competition in the annual event.

## Alternate shows

Already, a variety of alternate awards shows have developed to fill what the Junos are thought to be missing. Wednesday night's U-Know Awards, the "alternative to the Junos", sponsored by station CFNY-FM and broadcast live from the CN Tower attracted a number of names: Geddy Lee from Rush, Michael Jordana, Rough Trade's Kevan Staples, Cano, Blue Peter. And the recent Black Music Awards from Toronto, and the West Coast awards from Vancouver honoring the Powder Blues and Loverboy, among others, are proving, according to Juno-founder Walt Grealis, that "As it is with politics, the music industry and musical tastes have been regionalized in this country."

Awards shows often reveal more about the people pulling the strings than those on them and last night was no exception. The glamor may have been on stage; the real clout was watching from the seats. And the power brokers were grumbling.

"The problem is that the CBC has taken the show away from us," said one executive. "It's on earlier (at 7 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. in the past) so it can reach a younger audience, yet look at the age of almost everyone involved — in their 30s for the most part."

However, without producer Jack Budgell's show business flourishes — the opening dance sequence was the most effective opening ever, but far too much was pre-taped — last night might have been completely dreary.

Over the past year the music saw a decline in sales, the demise of one company, London Records, and another, MCA, "put on hold," according to one description. Then there were more complaints about record piracy, rental record shops and illegal home taping, and the serious competition coming from the video disc and video tape market.

Many of these problems were mentioned to the industry crowd before the cameras were turned on. After that, all was smiles and glitter.