

g what he does.

How about Gordon Lightfoot?

ah. [laughs] Oh, you're just hitting them all! And I thought I was so mysterious! I can sing *Canadian Railroad Trilogy* from end to end. I guess I had one drum of his, or my mother did, which I'm not sure if it's still available, but it had "Early Morning Rain," "Canadian Railroad Trilogy," "For Loving Me," "Black Day in July," that early Lightfoot, wonderful stuff. Very inspiring. If you're sitting in your room and you want to play guitar and sing, you listen to this guy, and he seemed to have such a pure vein he was drawing from. I like that.

Was just reading here in your little press thing about some of the bands you were listening to--I guess it was while you were in the States--were Captain Beefheart and Iggy Pop...

[laughs] Well, I lived in Minneapolis for two years, I don't know. I'd love to say I was trendy enough to be into all these groovy bands, but... I had a friend in high school who was very knowledgeable about music, and I remember him being so upset when Lowell George of Little Feat died. I didn't really know who Lowell George was and I certainly wasn't that hip on Little Feat, but since then I've listened to the band quite a lot. He was also into Captain Beefheart, and we used to sit around listening to Captain Beefheart and thinking about getting stoned. He was really into the New York Dolls, and then we were getting the Pistols and the Clash and stuff like ABBA on the charts, so we were getting this really weird mix of music. So I guess the point is that when people think of a songwriter and folk--y'know, there's that awful four-letter word again--they think, "Oh, well he must've listened to... Peter, Paul, and Mary... Bob Dylan," I know, blah-blah-blah. And really you can't avoid all these other things and I used to listen to them a lot.

Who is another really far out one, but how about Chris Costello?

ah, he's someone that I admire a great deal as a

songwriter; he's incredibly clever, his wordplay is really clever, and that's something that I would really strive for, that kind of... cynical cleverness. Everyone likes to think of themselves as clever, but he is clever.

You've played with Sarah McLachlan before, haven't you?

Yeah, we did some shows together in Ontario before Christmas.

How were they?

It was good. It's funny that you can live in the same city as someone and not meet them till you go out on the road together.

The first show we did together I wasn't really impressed with what she did. It took me a couple of shows to really catch on to what she was about. I like what she does a lot, and I particularly like her band. I admire her as a singer--y'know, when

you were talking about what singers do I admire, I think she has a real strong control of her voice; there's a musicality there that I like. I like that somebody has spent enough time to learn how to sing, instead of just getting up there and wailing 'cause there's a lot of that going on nowadays.

Have you ever been to Prince Edward Island?

I never have. I've never been to Newfoundland, I've never been to P.E.I. so I'm really looking forward to it.

"I wasn't really impressed with what Sarah did."
