

American Indian guitarist writes 'ethnic metal'

Carlos reflects culture in music



By Jill O'Brien
Staff Reporter

Although American Indian guitarist Paul Carlos' lyrics don't always focus on Indian issues, his music does reflect his culture.

"Instead of saying something the regular way, I'm going to say the same thing through the eyes of a Native American person so it will have a different imagery," Carlos said.

"I'm a rock n' roll musician, but I still incorporate native elements in some of the songs. I have one or two songs specifically about the Indian thing, but my songs are for everyone. I call it 'ethnic metal.'"

Carlos, 28, was born and raised in Montreal. His American Indian roots extend from his mother's side in South America, he said.

"I didn't learn about my culture until later, but I always knew something was different about me and my family."

What he learned about his culture was from his grandmother, he said.

He stopped looking at his Indian culture from the outside and started looking inside himself to understand it, he said.

"There's a prophecy from South America that says one day when the condor and the eagle meet, there will be a spiritual re-awakening among the people. The condor represents South and Central America and the eagle represents North America and middle America. I kind of feel like the living incarnation of that prophecy," he said.

"I was born in the North, but I'm from the South. So it's real odd — something I feel that is out of my grasp."

Interpreting prophecies might be out of his grasp, but guitar playing isn't.



Courtesy Paul Carlos

Songwriter and guitarist Paul Carlos stands between Frank Giroux (left) and Joe Cerrato, members of his former band the Medicine Men. Carlos has formed a new band, Brother Sun, which is currently in the studio recording.

"Making music is a passion of my life. I started young and got hooked and I can't get unhooked."

Carlos said his main musical influence was Jimmy Page.

"I'm a diehard Les Paul user," he said. "When I was a teenager, I was mesmerized by Page and his Cherry Sunburst Les Paul, and I thought I just had to have one."

After Carlos acquired his own Cherry Sunburst guitar, he formed the band Medicine Men in 1988 in Montreal.

Shortly after that, he got what every rock 'n' roll musician dreams of — a record deal.

He and the band moved to New York to begin work on a record for Savage Records. While there he be-

came a spokesperson for American Indians and other minority groups, he said.

In 1992 Savage Records released what was to become Medicine Men's first and last album, "Keepers of the Sacred Fire."

Carlos dropped the label. He left partly because of the stereotypical image of Indians the name "Savage" implied, he said. But he really left the label for a variety of reasons.

"They weren't delivering what they had promised. What they said and what they did were two totally different things," he said.

He also dropped the band's name out of respect for the real medicine men, he said.

““ Making music is a passion of my life. I started young and got hooked and I can't get unhooked. — Carlos guitarist

Now his group is called Brother-Sun, which features Carlos on lead guitar, guitarist Doug Caye, drummer Frank Giroux, and bass player Cristo Carire.

He said he would have liked to keep the concept of Medicine Men a bit longer, especially since he had some good experiences come from the music.

"When I wrote the song 'Peace of the Sky,' for Medicine Men, back in 1989, I knew what I wanted to convey, but I had problems with the lyrics. On the last day, in the midst of recording, it just came out."

It was an experience he would never forget, he said.

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Second Wind finds new life in the movie business

Shop's goods seen in De Niro's film



By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

Like most unknown talents, Second Wind was "discovered" by the movie-making industry. But unlike most new discoveries, Second Wind does its work right here in Lincoln.

The vintage clothing store made its big screen debut fall of '93 in first-time director Robert De Niro's "A Bronx Tale."

Karen Jordan-Anderson, owner of the vintage clothing shop at 720 O St., said the store supplied period clothing for the film.

"Talk about breaking into the business the right way," she said.

Jordan-Anderson attributes her recent rash of Hollywood work to "fate, good luck, good fortune and someone smiling on me."

Last year, on a whim, she took a suitcase full of clothes to New York when she went to visit a friend.

"I schlepped them around and sold them there," she said.

One of those buyers would turn out to be Second Wind's ticket into the movie business.

When that New York buyer decided to concentrate on film work, she remembered

the little shop in Lincoln and decided to offer a job to Jordan-Anderson and her shop.

And the partnership between Hollywood and the Haymarket was born.

In the beginning, she didn't take the offer very seriously, Jordan-Anderson said. But things began to seem pretty real when the production assistant of "A Bronx Tale" called Second Wind about the film's clothing needs.

"I had no clue. For a long time I didn't realize what I was getting into," she said.

What she was getting into was the profession of trying to please people who are quite particular about details. The production assistant even pointed out that "Bob De Niro" was very picky about how wide the character's ties should be.

"I was just kind of like 'Whoa, this is serious,'" Jordan-Anderson said. "She said 'De Niro,' and I said, 'Oh, OK, you mean BOB De Niro.'"

That revelation brought the seriousness of the job home, she said.

"A Bronx Tale" called for the costuming of 2,000 extras in accurate period clothing, Jordan-Anderson said.

It was a large order, but Second Wind had little trouble filling it, she said.

That's because the film was set in the 1960s. It's a period Jordan-Anderson said was a popular one with her regular Lincoln customers, so she had plenty of clothing in stock.

When the film made it to the big screen in Lincoln, Jordan-Anderson said she was excited to see her contributions appear.

"There was a lot I could recognize — the people around us (at the movie theater) probably hated us because we were pointing at things," she said.

"The dead guy at the end was wearing my



Jay Calderon/DN

Jenn Phelps, Second Wind employee, holds two garments similar to those the store supplied for use in the movie "A Bronx Tale."

tie."
"A Bronx Tale" turned out to be good exposure for Second Wind. The costume team who worked on that film moved on to other projects and have contacted her for assistance.

The shop contributed clothing for the upcoming film "Hudsucker's Proxy," starring Tim Robbins, as well as the latest from director Robert Redford, "The Quiz Show."

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