

# LOREENA McKENNITT



## LIVE IN PARIS AND TORONTO

In stores Sept. 28th

Due to customer demand, Loreena McKennitt's first full-length live recording, "Live In Paris And Toronto", will be given its international retail release Sept. 28th.

This 2-CD set was drawn from performances on McKennitt's 1998 world tour in support of the platinum-plus album "The Book Of Secrets".

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## Artists & Music

# Capricorn's 311 Rocking, Rapping Again

BY CARLA HAY

NEW YORK—Industry observers say that 311 couldn't have picked a better time to release its next album, "Soundsystem," due Oct. 12 on Capricorn Records. The popularity of rock-meets-rap has been reaching new heights—with acts like Limp Bizkit, Korn, and Kid Rock riding high on the charts—and 311 is primed to reclaim its place in this hybrid genre, which the band has been playing for years.

311 singer/guitarist Nick Hexum says there's a reason why more attention is being paid to rock acts that infuse their music with hip-hop. "We know there's a lot of kids that grew up on hip-hop and rock. There's plenty of room for all the [rock-meets-rap] bands, but our angle is a little more melodic-based and positive than some of the other bands."

"Soundsystem," co-produced by Hugh Padgham and Scotch Ralston, is the studio follow-up to 311's 1997 double-album "Transistor." The band first broke through to the mainstream with its third album, "311," which was released in 1995 and spawned the hit singles "Down" and "All Mixed Up."

According to SoundScan, "311" has sold 2.6 million copies in the U.S. to date, while "Transistor" has sold 819,000 copies.

"Come Original," the first single from "Soundsystem," has already been getting an impressive reaction at modern rock radio. Sources say that due to popular demand, the song was leaked early to several radio stations. Many stations playing the track—including KROQ Los Angeles and WHFS Washington, D.C.—reported a tremendous positive response from listeners.

WHFS music director Pat Ferri says of the phone-request response to the song, "It was No. 1 the first week we played it. It seems like people are glad that 311 is back. In many ways, 311 was at the forefront of the rock-meets-hip-hop sound, so this is a great time for them to release their new album."

Capricorn GM Mike Bone echoes that sentiment. "There are a lot of rock/hip-hop bands right now, so 311 fits right in with what's being played today. The band has a very loyal fan base."

311—formed in Omaha, Neb., and now based in Los Angeles—has been cultivating a fan base since the band was formed in 1988. In addition to Hexum, the other band members are vocalist/turntable operator SA Martinez, guitarist Tim Mahoney, bassist P-Nut, and drummer Chad Sexton.

Even before the band experienced having hit songs and albums, 311 practiced the tried-and-true work ethic of constant touring. But, as Hexum admits, the band's hectic schedule for "Transistor" left 311 feeling "burned out."



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He continues, "The reason why it's been two years since our last [studio] album is because we kind of collapsed after the Transistor tour. We recorded 30 songs for that album in two months. With 'Soundsystem,' we did 13 songs in a year and a half. The attitude we had with this album can be summed up in the title of one of the new songs: 'Life's Not A Race.'"

Not that anyone eagerly awaiting a new 311 set after "Transistor" was left waiting too long. Fans clamoring for a new 311 album were tided over with two 1998 releases: the appropriately titled "Live" (on Capricorn) and "Omaha Sessions," a compilation of early 311 songs that was released on indie label What Have You Records.

With tracks like "Freeze Time" and "Evolution," the new 311 album reflects the band's view of the future as the new millennium approaches, says Hexum.

"This album represents a new phase for us," he says. "There's some friction or tension in the record because I went through a depressive period with a lot of insomnia. I'm on an upswing now. A lot of good music comes out of ten-  
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## amusement business

BOXSCORE  
TOP 10 CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
BARENAKED LADIES COWBOY MOUTH	Pine Knob Music Theatre Clarkston, Mich.	Sept. 3-5	\$1,323,254 \$33.50/\$25	45,935 three sellouts	Belkin Prods. Cellar Door
'N SYNC 3RD STOREE	Coca-Cola Lakewood Amphitheatre Atlanta	Aug. 26-27	\$1,062,414 \$41/\$26	37,908 two sellouts	Universal Concerts
LILITH FAIR '99: SARAH MCLACHLAN, SHERYL CROW, INDIGO GIRLS, DIXIE CHICKS, MONICA	Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre Englewood, Colo.	Aug. 28-29	\$957,140 \$75/\$45/\$30	24,137 32,061 two shows	Universal Concerts
NEIL DIAMOND	Rose Garden Portland, Ore.	Aug. 19-20	\$912,073 \$39.50/\$29.50	27,155 29,482 two shows one sellout	Sal Bonafede, Apregan Entertainment Group
LILITH FAIR '99: SARAH MCLACHLAN, SHERYL CROW, INDIGO GIRLS, DIXIE CHICKS, DEBORAH COX	Molson Amphitheatre Toronto	Aug. 21-22	\$903,808 (\$1,352,803 Canadian) \$40.42/\$33.74/ \$20.38	30,806 two sellouts	Universal Concerts Canada
NEIL DIAMOND	E Center of West Valley City West Valley City, Utah	Aug. 30-31	\$887,605 \$39.50	22,471 two sellouts	Sal Bonafede, Apregan Entertainment Group
NEIL DIAMOND	Key Arena, Seattle Center Seattle	Aug. 22-23	\$768,366 \$39.50/\$29.50	22,449 24,396 two shows one sellout	Sal Bonafede, Apregan Entertainment Group
CHER CYNDI LAUPER JULIO IGLESIAS JR.	World Music Theatre Tinley Park, Ill.	Sept. 1	\$672,209 \$75.25/\$37.75/ \$20.25	13,387 15,000	Tinley Park Jam Corp.
CHER CYNDI LAUPER C NOTE	General Motors Place Vancouver	Aug. 13	\$656,209 (\$970,868 Canadian) \$57.11/\$43.60/ \$33.46	12,950 sellout	Universal Concerts Canada
CHER CYNDI LAUPER C NOTE	Canadian Airlines Saddledome Calgary, Alberta	Aug. 11	\$639,749 (\$957,135 Canadian) \$56.48/\$43.11/ \$33.09	12,422 sellout	Universal Concerts Canada

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## Continental Drift



UNSIGNED ARTISTS AND REGIONAL NEWS  
BY LARRY FLICK

**WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?** How do some bands come up with their names? Hard to say, though some names don't always help a marginal band's cause. Fortunately, the San Francisco-based **Ing** is so good that one can forgive the oh-so-silly moniker.

Lead by the charismatic **Sean Mylett**, the acoustic-pop quartet is earning well-deserved raves for "Liberty," a stellar, self-made CD that conjures up such pleasant, cross-pollinated mental images as **Pink Floyd** collaborating with **R.E.M.** and **Simon & Garfunkel** jamming with the **Smiths**—but with enough fresh, original vibes to keep the band from dissolving into a well of overpowering influences.



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The nicely woven harmonies of Mylett and guitarist (and group co-founder) **Mark Smotroff** are a key element of each of the disc's seven fine songs—with bassist **Nick Ulman** and drummer **Chris Brown** providing the skin-tight rhythms needed to keep the material from wallowing in folk-induced dross. The lads gather to make contagious cuts like "Confusion" and "Drop" cook with radio-friendly grease.

Clearly, we're not alone in this assessment, given the attention of such tastemaking local college radio stations as **KUSF** and **KALX**. More recently, leading San Francisco commercial rock outlet **KFOG** has picked the cheeky track "Lux Radio" (which playfully debunks the allure of phone sex) to be included in its indie music program, "Local Anesthetic." Needless to say, several major labels have wisely started to sniff around the band.

For more information, call 415-332-0718.

**SUNSHINE RHYMES:** With his smooth single "Sunshine State," newcomer **Mike West** is aiming to make the Florida hip-hop scene famous for more than **Luther Campbell** and bass music.

The jam is lifted from the Fort Lauderdale-based rapper's self-made album, "They Never Knew," and it's rife with clever wordplay and a delivery that's, by turns, chilled and aggressive. West's flow is complemented by a languid (and uncredited) diva vamp at the chorus. It's a vital ingredient that gives the easy-paced cut its radio allure.

When West isn't crafting his own material, he's writing and producing for several other up-and-comers. Among the strongest of his outside efforts is "Armagetton" by the Los Angeles-based **Young Strivers**. West contributes a guest rap to that jam, which is starting to get some West Coast underground club attention.

While he shops his CD for distribution, West is doing a series of opening dates throughout the U.S. with Luke Records act **No Good But So Good**.

For further details, contact **Big Fro** at 305-532-7696, ext. 17.

**NEIL DOWN:** As the melodrama of '80s-styled Anglo-pop continues to intrigue listeners and A&R execs, this is the perfect time for nostalgic novices like **Neil** to be plying their wares.

Throughout his eponymous self-titled disc, the videogenic native of Richmond, Va., proudly wears the influence of **Depeche Mode** tunesmith **Martin Gore** and **Joy Division** on his sleeve. He warbles with a sweet, melancholy tone amid arrangements swathed in gothic synths and thumpy dance beats. With dark tunes like "What You Do To Me (Jealousy)" and "Obsessed (Maybe I'm)," this album is clearly not the soundtrack to a sunny afternoon, but it is certainly fodder for a cathartic twirl on the dancefloor. Neil briefly lightens up for a camp cover of

**Nancy Sinatra's** "These Boots Are Made For Walkin'," romping through the electronic-framed track with a playful ease occasionally reminiscent of **Erasure** front man **Andy Bell**. Definitely a budding talent worth monitoring.

For additional information, call 804-741-0315.

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sion. During our time off, I started to reconnect with the whole reason why we started playing music in the first place. I started answering all the fan mail that came addressed to me personally. It's an immense responsibility, but it kept me focused. We retooled our [official] Web site [www.311music.com], which has been great in connecting us with our fans."

Capricorn's Bone describes 311's core demographic as 15- to 25-year-olds. "We're going to use the band's Web site to market the album and tour. But we also expect 90% of album sales to be through the brick-and-mortar retail accounts."

"The new 311 album should sell at least as well as 'Transistor' did," says Dave Mendez, music buyer for Tower Records' Westwood location in Los Angeles. "The band has a commercial sound that goes well with what young people are buying right now."

A videoclip for "Come Original" will be serviced to TV and video outlets. 311 is planning to get reacquainted with fans on a North American tour of clubs and small theaters, beginning Sept. 20 in Nashville. The band will also play radio station festival shows.

311 is booked by Variety Artists International for North America, Australia, and Japan. The band is booked by Primary Talent International for all other territories.

"We're starting in clubs because we want to get back to the excitement and intimacy of playing smaller places," says Hexum. "Next summer, we'll go back to outdoor sheds and maybe put together a package tour. We're going to tour through the year 2000 and probably go into the studio again in 2001."

And how does Hexum describe 311's audience? "People tend to relate to others who come from similar backgrounds. So we get a lot of suburban kids, and it's pretty evenly split between males and females. I wouldn't want to be a total testosterone band or a superficial pop band."

311's songs are published by Hydroponic Music (BMI). The band is managed by Adam Raspler Management.

Although 311 has had more consistent commercial success than most other rock acts that have emerged in the '90s, Hexum admits that the band still has goals it would like to attain. "I'd like to see us have a really successful overseas tour. Japan, Australia, and Germany have been the most receptive to us overseas, but other countries have been harder for us to win over. I'm not worried, though. I think things will happen at their own pace."

As for the future, Hexum says, "I see the new millennium as a time where people are either going to go forward or get confused. I just want 311 to be there to represent the positive vibes."

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### Top 10 Favorite Artist Picks

August 27, 1999

#### The Most Popular New Talent On BTN

#	Artist	Genre	Weeks On
1	The Mighty Sleepwalkers	Pop, Acoustic	1
2	Kill Hannah	Alternative, Gothic	1
3	The Caine	Pop, Alternative	1
4	Sinboy	Electronic, Techno	1
5	Nomenclatura	Electronic, Pop	1
6	Groovenics	Hardcore, Punk	3
7	Rapture	Contemporary, Gospel	2
8	Pat McGee Band	Rock, Acoustic	23
9	Midsummer	Rock, Alternative	1
10	Leonard Moss, Jr.	R'n B, Pop	3

Weekly results are based on votes cast by BTN's registered online audience for any artist featured on the site. Votes are limited to one vote per artist per user. Top 10 position is determined by the average of all votes received.

### Radio BTN Favorite Song Requests

August 27, 1999

#### The Most Listened-to New Tracks On BTN

#	Composition, Artist	Genre	Weeks On
1	Clearview, Swim	Alternative, Rock	4
2	On This Day, Rapture	Contemporary, Gospel	1
3	She's A Freak, Groovenics	Hardcore, Punk	3
4	Love Of My Life, Leonard Moss, Jr.	R'n B, Pop	7
5	Somewhere Johnny, Scott Howard	Pop, Rock	10
6	Last Confession, Crown Jewels	Rock, Pop	7
7	On And On, Donna De Lory	Pop, A Cappella	8
8	Lost All Control, Clay	Alternative, Rock	14
9	Undertow, Liquid Vinyl	Rock	5
10	Take Me Away, Brilliant Trees	Pop	19

Weekly Radio BTN rankings are based on audio access requested by the site's registered and unregistered online audience for any composition featured on the site.

### New Talent Spotlight

#### The Most Outstanding And Available Acts On BTN

##### JILL SOBULE

Jill Sobule's fresh off her recent major label release "Happy Town," her second album for Lava/Atlantic. The follow-up to "I Kissed A Girl," the MTV "Buzz Bin" single from her "Jill Sobule" album, her new demos continue to combine looped beats, recorded drum tracks, melodic guitar and a conceptual, unrestrained discussion of the modern pursuit of love and happiness. Most recently, Jill has been heard on soundtrack albums to Harriet The Spy (with her "The Secretive Life" track being seen on VH1 and MTV), The Truth About Cats & Dogs ("Where Do I Begin") and Grace Of My Heart ("Truth Is You Lie").



Genre:  
Pop, Rock

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