Blog Post #3

James Brown once said, “This is a man’s world, but it wouldn’t be nothing, nothing without a woman or a girl” and this statement still rings true, even in our very own music industry. Though we have so many incredible male artists in our world today, we want to make sure the lovely ladies in this industry get the recognition they deserve. So, without further ado, let’s talk about our top 5 Canadian female artists that have made us proud and paved the way for female artists of the future.

1. **Portia White**

Born in 1911 in our very own Nova Scotia, Portia White was the first Black Canadian concert singer who specialized in classical music. She had done everything she needed to do against all odds to follow her dream of going into music. Travelling 16km a week for music lessons, working around those who tried to silence her, and making sure she still gave back to her community in the end through being a schoolteacher are all things that make us admire Portia even more. Though she did not make any studio recordings, her concert recordings are amazing. Her signature song “Think on Me” is beautiful and portrays her talent so well, feel free to check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyDDdzMnoZo&t=95s>

1. **Joni Mitchell**

Up next on our list, we have our folk queen from the beautiful province of Alberta, Joni Mitchell. From being inducted into the Juno Hall of Fame in ’97, to being the first Canadian woman to be a part of the American Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, to having 16 Grammy nominations, Joni Mitchell has clearly been working hard and boy are we impressed! Beyond all of that, she also started her own fundraiser for children affected by war and works closely with other organizations that help those in need. If that isn’t enough, she also makes incredible music. For us, our personal favourites are Big Yellow Taxi and The Magdalene Laundries which you check out on Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube. We love Joni Mitchell and, though she left us to live in the United States, she still has a special place in our Canadian hearts.

1. **Anne Murray**

From Nova Scotia just like Portia White, Anne Murray was an amazing pop/country/adult contemporary music star (isn’t her versatility impressive?). Though she has been retired for years now, we never forgot the art that she created during her music career and all of her triumphs. There is so much to learn about Anne but one fun fact that we love to share is how she holds the spot for the most decorated JUNO winner with 25 awards (wow!). She is truly inspiration to those in the music industry and absolutely love her music. Want to check her out? Try listening to some of our favourites like You Needed Me and Just Another Woman in Love on Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube!

1. **Avril Lavigne**

Bringing it into the 2000s, we have none other than our favourite pop-punk princess, Avril Lavigne from Ontario. With her music defining an entire generation of young girls and her fashion statements inspiring a new era of wearing ties as necklaces, Avril Lavigne had us all in the palm of her hands. She was an icon to many young girls and even today, she continues to make music that her now-grown fans love. If you haven’t listened to her music yet, you definitely should check it out now. Our personal favourites are Complicated and Sk8r Boi which are both available on all streaming platforms!

1. **Alessia Cara**

Last, but certainly not least, we have a relatively newer star, Alessia Cara who was born and raised in Ontario. Since her breakout song, “Scars to Your Beautiful,” was released in 2015, Alessia has had a really impressive career. She has since won 20 awards, performed the end-credit version of the song “How Far I’ll Go” from the movie Disney movie, Moana, and has been an incredible advocate for mental health and has been open about her struggles to help anyone who may need it. She is a genuine inspiration, and we absolutely love her. She continues to make amazing music and we think you will love them as much as we do. Our favourite songs? We love Scars to Your Beautiful and Here which is currently streaming on all platforms for your listening pleasure!

Though we stopped at these five fantastic artists, there are so many more to talk about. These ladies are just the tip of the iceberg that is Canadian women in the music industry, and we hope to extend this list in the future. In the meantime, we hope you enjoyed reading and we super hope you check out these artists if you haven’t already!

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