

Music Review: Paul McCartney - *McCartney III*

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

AS AWFUL AND DEPRESSING QUARANTINE is and has been, it provided artists, particularly musicians and producers, with an opportunity to focus much more of their time towards making creative efforts. One of these musicians is none other than Paul McCartney himself. According to McCartney, he was inspired to release a "McCartney" album each time there was some sort of a dissolution of something in his life. The original "McCartney" (1970) came out mere months before The Beatles split up; "McCartney II" (1980) recorded after his band Wings split up; and the new "McCartney III," which came out in December of 2020, was recorded in the midst of a newly isolated social life. As each of the previous two "McCartney" albums were, "McCartney III" is self-produced and features Paul playing all instruments and performing most, if not all, vocal parts.

Right away, the opening track "Long Tailed Winter Bird" was a pleasant surprise. Every element of this song is very original, from the songwriting, musical qualities, even choices of instruments. You won't find many albums that feature guitar, recorder, and vocoder all in one song. It immediately sets a fresh and experimental

mood. "Find My Way" unfortunately doesn't allow this flow to continue, but still a nice listen. The message of the song is obviously inspired by the current world situation; the lines "You never used to be afraid of days like this, and now you're overwhelmed by your anxieties" reflect this. The next tracks "Pretty Boys" and "Women and Wives" showcase creative and interesting lyrics.

"Lavatory Lil" is likely a throwback to the titles of a couple tracks off of The Beatles' 1969 album "Abbey Road;" "Polythene Pam" and "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window," and shares the driving rock feel of both. This style is continued with "Slidin'," the song that proves a 78-year-old can get as heavy as any young whippersnapper guitarist these days. The first track on side B, "Deep Deep Feeling," reminds me strongly of the style of David Bowie's final album, *Blackstar* (2016) with dark, moody arrangements, agitated lyrics, and unconventional harmonies and melodies. It is clear that Paul was enjoying experimenting with various aspects of this song. Another standout track for me.

The acoustic and vocal "The Kiss of Venus" is reminiscent of much of his older works, particularly late

Beatles/early solo period. "Seize the Day" and "Deep Down" are a bit lackluster, though even "Seize" has some interesting surprises that kept the listen relatively enjoyable. The final track is a breath of relief to end the album on. It starts with a reprise of the opening track, then continues with original material for the rest of its duration. A sweet and simple song about Paul's farm life, once again featuring solo vocals over acoustic guitar, Paul's voice takes on a surprisingly and almost tear-jerkingly smooth, youthful sound that sounds exactly like the material on the first "McCartney." Perhaps that's why he decided to end the album with this song, to bring his solo career in a full circle.

While I was overall pleased with this album, even considering my low expectations, the only thing I hold against it is that some of the mixing work is in my opinion a little too modernly mixed for an album that is supposed to be a return to a more organic style of music. Still, it doesn't ruin the whole thing for me. I greatly appreciate this album for its originality and experimentality, and I hope it opens a door for other music producers who feel they need to stick to a commercial route to be successful.

Concordia Sisterhood of Empowerment

BY ISABELLA D'BURKE

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The club's mission is to encourage women of CSP to celebrate individual accomplishments, to support each other in difficult times, and empower one another to become leaders in the community.

ESTABLISHED IN 2010, Concordia Sisterhood of Empowerment is a club on campus that stays true to its name. The club's mission is "To encourage women of CSP to celebrate individual accomplishments, to support each other in difficult times, and empower one another to become leaders in the community." As the 2020-2021 president, I can strongly say that we try to do that in and out of every event.

When I became president, I ultimately wanted to make CSE a safe place for women to talk about sensitive topics, learn how to handle them, and empower those

around them. My officer team and I decided that we didn't want to overwhelm members and decided to host monthly meetings discussing topics and also have other opportunities such as volunteer events or guest speakers. It is so important that women know they have somewhere to go where they won't be judged and can be supported no matter what. Not only that, but they can grow in their knowledge of topics and discover what they want to do in the future. While we declare majors, we don't always know what we want to do when we graduate. By having speakers come in, students can learn about other women's journeys and network with community members.

While we had many events planned, Covid definitely took its toll this year. It's been hard to get members to show up and it has been hard to properly promote events despite our best efforts on social media. Throughout it all, we still want women to know that we are here if they ever need anything.

In the fall, we had some member events where we talked about self-advocacy, confidence, and even had a guest speaker from the community. We had to cancel our volunteer event as Covid rules got stricter, but we still have big plans for the spring semester.

This spring, we are partnering with Lauryn Samuel and Black Athletes United (BAU) to put on weekly

meetings called, "Women: Let's Talk Us." This allows for women to have a more consistent place to come and talk about topics such as self-love, vulnerability, and others. Since they are weekly, if you miss one meeting there are still plenty to come to. Everyone is welcome to come chat in the Diversity Center, Monday's at 6 pm. We are also partnering with the Concordia Activities Board (CAB) and hosting a self-defense night February 23rd in the BEC. If the event goes well, we will host another later in the spring or next fall!

Another large event we are planning is called "Empow(Her)." This event will take place on April 8th in the BEC and is a professional development event. We will have an opportunity for women to get professional headshots, have their resume reviewed, and speak to a panel of successful female alumni. This event will be a great way for women to hear from others in the community who were once in our shoes. Not only can we learn about their jobs, but we can learn about their journeys and hardships. This event is intended to help women to grow professionally and network with others. Be sure to check it out and follow us @cspcse!!