

MUSIC

McLachlan leaves Nettwerk management

But Vancouver-based star will continue to record with the label that launched her career

BY FRANCOIS MARCHAND
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver-based songstress Sarah McLachlan is reportedly leaving Nettwerk's artist management roster.

But although Nettwerk's flagship chanteuse will set sail for new horizons on a management front, McLachlan will continue to record for the Nettwerk label, which also calls Vancouver home and has offices in Los Angeles, New York, Nashville and Hamburg, Germany.

In a memo sent to CelebrityAccess senior writer Larry Leblanc, Nettwerk CEO and co-founder Terry McBride said the company will "continue to manage Sarah until she has selected a new manager. We are all good friends. So, it's quite fine actually, and we remain her record label."

According to a followup email sent to Leblanc, McBride added that Nettwerk would still be handling McLachlan's management "until at least the end of March, and, maybe, even beyond that."

When reached by *The Vancouver Sun*, both McBride and McLachlan's team declined to comment.

Management duties can include strategic planning, touring arrangements and marketing. Nettwerk's management roster includes artists such as k-os, Stereophonics, Meaghan Smith and Our Lady Peace's Raine Maida.

The label aspect of the company deals mainly with the releasing and/or publishing of music, something McLachlan will continue to be a part of with Nettwerk. The company's label roster also includes The Be Good Tanyas, Great Lake Swimmers, Ladytron and Hope Sandoval, among others.

The announcement marks the end of a 23-year management partnership between McLachlan and Nettwerk, the label responsible for launching her career by releasing her debut album, *Touch*, in 1988.

McLachlan went on to sell more than 40 million records worldwide and remains Nettwerk's best-selling artist in its 25-plus-year history.

As a label, Nettwerk has sold more than 100 million albums around the globe.

McLachlan's landmark 1997 album



IAN LINDSAY/PNG FILES

Sarah McLachlan is ending a 23-year management partnership with Nettwerk, which also manages artists such as k-os and Stereophonics.

Surfacing earned four Juno Awards and two Grammy Awards and set the scene for the all-women festival tour Lilith Fair, which McBride co-executive produced.

The late '90s and early 2000s would be Nettwerk's most ambitious period, with Lilith topping major changes that also included founding Nettwerk Management in 1995 and expanding the Nettwerk umbrella, as well as signing the Barenaked Ladies in 1996, introducing the world to Coldplay, fighting the Recording Industry Association

of America's suing illegal downloaders and championing the early stages of the digital music sales era, as well as signing a wide-ranging distribution agreement with Sony in 2005.

In recent years, however, the company has had its share of difficulties.

In 2008, Canadian pop-punk princess Avril Lavigne left Nettwerk after selling 30 million albums under the label's guidance.

In 2009, the Barenaked Ladies did the same after a tumultuous few months following frontman Steven

Page's arrest for cocaine possession and his departure from the band.

Other big-name acts that have left Nettwerk over the years in either a management or label capacity include Chantal Kreviazuk, Dido, Sum 41 and Billy Talent.

In 2010, Nettwerk cut ties with Sony and signed a new distribution agreement with Warner Music Group's Alternative Distribution Alliance.

That same year, Nettwerk and McLachlan, along with promoter Live Nation, resurrected the Lilith festival

tour, which was plagued with logistical issues and had to cancel dates due to poor ticket sales.

McLachlan's latest effort *Laws of Illusion* was released through Nettwerk in conjunction with the Lilith announcement last year, and recently garnered McLachlan three nominations for the 2011 Juno Awards, including Artist of the Year and Pop Album of the Year.

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Music festival has community in mind

Vogville's Jonathan Fluevog says he wants to give emerging artists a chance to play for larger audiences

BY FRANCOIS MARCHAND
VANCOUVER SUN

For Jonathan Fluevog, launching a new music festival is all about building a community.

It's a philosophy he has been fostering for more than 10 years with his studio, Vogville, a Port Coquitlam-based, state-of-the-art operation that has seen myriad world-class acts come through its door.

With his new music event, Vogville's Day & Night festival, which takes place this weekend, Fluevog is stepping out of the studio and into the live scene, showcasing a variety of up-and-coming Vancouver-area acts during a full day of concert performances.

"The city needs these events where bands can play to a larger amount of people," he says. "I saw this need for bands to be able to band together as a community and really expand. That's what Vogville's always been about: artists coming through the studio and then going out into the world and doing well and working together. This festival is just extending that idea."

Music and art run deep in the Fluevog family.

Jonathan's father John is the world-renowned Vancouver-based shoe

designer who created unique footwear for the White Stripes, Jane's Addiction's Perry Farrell and the Dandy Warhols' Courtney Taylor-Taylor, among many others.

Jonathan has been working in the music business for 17 years as a producer and promoter, collaborating with the likes of the Shins, Scissor Sisters and Zero 7.

He is also the manager of Vancouver area pop-rock band The Light Machines, who will be performing at the festival alongside other independent acts like The Matinee, Los Furios, Lakefield and TV Heart Attack.

"Stylistically, they're all bands you would probably hear on The Peak — I didn't want to do an all-ages show with nothing but high school metal bands, which seems to be nine out of 10 all-ages shows," Fluevog says with a good-hearted laugh. "I wanted to offer the kids a show with real emerging artists that really want to get ahead."

Another thing Fluevog wanted to get away from was the "contest" idea or the "battle of the bands" phenomenon that has swept the city of late, with radio stations offering big cash prizes to the winners of yearly events.

"Yes, some of these bands have been in contests but not one of them has



Jonathan Fluevog (son of famed shoe designer John Fluevog) runs Vogville, an award-winning recording studio in Port Coquitlam.

won and they're still moving their careers forward," he says. "I believe that hard work creates opportunities and those are the bands I want to showcase in this festival. We're all in this together."

As much as his business's name is attached to the venture, Fluevog is quick to point out that Day & Night isn't meant to be seen as a promotional vehicle for his studio, which won the title of Studio of the Year at last year's BC Country Music Awards (Vogville

has produced its fair share of country music of late, working with artists like The Higgins and other B.C.-based talent).

"A few people have said, 'So is this your way of drumming up business?' No, I actually turn a lot of people away because we're so busy."

If all goes according to plan, Fluevog will be starting a monthly "Vogville Presents" series similar to the Vogville Day & Night festival in March, where a lucky band will be given a one-day

opportunity to record a song and shoot a "making-of" video in the studio, as well as headline the concert for that month.

"I'm in my 30s now," Fluevog says, "and I want to do things that affect other people in a positive way and that are bigger than just me."

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At a glance

VOGVILLE'S DAY & NIGHT FESTIVAL 2011

Featuring *The Autumn Portrait*, *By Starlight*, *City of Glass*, *Clockmakers*, *TV Heart Attack*, *Lakefield* and *Cosmik Debris* (day); *The Light Machines*, *Run the Red Light*, *Young Pacific*, *The Matinee* and *Los Furios* (night)

When: Saturday, 12 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (all ages) and 7:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. (licensed)

Where: Vancouver Alpen Club, 4875 Victoria Dr.

Tickets: \$10 per set in advance at Zulu, Scratch, Neptoon and Highlife, \$12 per set at the door

ONLINE

Awesome Sound blog

Francois Marchand spins the latest news in music here, there and everywhere at vancouversun.com/sound

INSIDE | D7

Criminal intrigue

Oscar winner Forest Whitaker wasn't looking to do a TV series. But when *Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior* came along, he couldn't say no.



THURSDAY

Mouthing off

'I was definitely a lippy kid,' Orpheum-bound standup queen Chelsea Handler tells *The Sun*'s Peter Birnie. She hasn't changed one bit. In *Westcoast Life*.

