

VANCOUVER FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bragg leads folk assault onto beaches

By MARTIN STRONG
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With the kind of determination that would impress Rick Hansen, the organizers of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival have once again put together a line-up which features some of the most interesting, exciting and diverse musical entertainment from all over the world.

And it will all be at Jericho Beach Park this weekend, starting at 6 p.m. tonight and not ending until Sunday night when more than 30 acts will have presented their work on the seven stages set up in the park.

Generating a lot of talk for the festival is the appearance of Billy Bragg, Britain's outspoken singer and songwriter. His forthright political style makes him a natural for the folkfest while his portable stage show (an electric guitar and amp) make him extremely portable when travelling from the different daytime stages.

The set-up for the weekend will be much the same as last year's. There will be an evening line-up on the main stage

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, while the six daytime stages will operate simultaneously and feature such themes as *The Human Condition*, and *Love Songs*. These sets are all laid out in the program and offer some of the hardest decisions of the week-end.

Canadian folk music is well represented this year with bands like Spirit of the West from Vancouver, as well as Gaelic Cape Breton, and Connie Kaldor.

Also much anticipated is the Vancouver premier of Michelle Shocked, who is making waves with her debut album *The Texas Campfire Songs*, (Cooking Vinyl Records). The album was recorded in a deserted corner of The Quiet Valley Ranch Folk Festival in Texas last summer.

Probably the youngest name on the bill is Illinois fiddle player Alison Krauss. Only 16 years old, Krauss has been winning fiddle championships all over the United States.



MICHELLE SHOCKED (above) makes her Vancouver debut at this weekend's Vancouver Folk Music Festival. Shocked is one of the most talked about new performers on the folk scene. Meanwhile, perennial folk favorites Roy Bailey, Frankie Armstrong and Leon Rosselson (left) will also be among the more 30 acts visiting the festival for its 10th anniversary year.



For country fans, a rare treat is the appearance of Pat-sy Montana, the first woman country singer ever to have a million selling record (*I Want To Be A Cowboy's Sweetheart* — recorded in 1935).

Other names such as Dublin's *Nightnoise*, Shari Ulrich, and Ferron, will be there as well as countless

others all deserving special attention.

Tickets are available at the usual outlets and at the festival office for \$50 for the weekend, \$25 each Saturday and Sunday, \$17 for Friday night. Children are \$3, youths \$15, \$40 fixed incomes, and seniors are free. Pack a lunch or enjoy the on-site food which is both inexpensive and diverse. Bring a frisbee and enjoy.