

Community Arts

Editor Kevin Malmann
kevin.malmann@sunmedia.ca

They'll keep moving on

Local band F&M stays on course while enjoying success of '80s theme-song cover



Brian Swane
Arts

Whether they'll actually admit it, every Canadian over the age of 30 knows the song.

From the opening lyrics, "There's a voice that keeps on calling me/Down the road/That's where I'll always be," it evokes the famous montage - a solitary German Shepherd roaming across the landscape - that is forever burned in the subconscious of everyone from Beaver Creek to Main-a-Deau.

The theme to 1980's CTV family drama *The Littlest Hobo*, *Maybe Tomorrow* is a slice of Canadlana from those bygone days of the 13-channel universe, when everyone tuned in to see the weekly exploits of a nomadic dog who went from town to town saving the day.

"I think that's all my parents allowed me to watch," laughs Rebecca Anderson.

Rebecca and husband Ryan Anderson, collectively known as F&M, have resurrected *Maybe Tomorrow* from the '80's graveyard of Rubix Cube, Frogger and Max Headroom, recording their own unique interpretation of the melancholic song that has introduced the Edmonton folk band to a whole new audience.

As peculiar it is that F&M choose to record *Maybe Tomorrow*, what's even more unusual is that their rendition of the

song shows up on the soundtrack to the current theatrical release *Goon*, an ode to hockey that itself might one day become a slice of Canadlana.

The Littlest Hobo was known for corny melodrama with feel-good conclusions and much of *Goon* is played for laughs, yet somehow F&M's *Maybe Tomorrow* found its way to the emotional centrepiece of the film which tells the story of Doug Glatt, an Average Joe who suddenly becomes the enforcer of a minor league team.

"I was really surprised that the main character is very tender-hearted," says Rebecca. "(*Maybe Tomorrow*) is used in ... an angry family scene where it's very sad, so it works really well, and it brings out that tenderness and that child-like quality in the main character."

F&M has a big fan in *Goon*'s director, *FUBAR* creator Michael Dowse. They also received an enthusiastic thumbs-up from *Maybe Tomorrow*'s original writer/performer Terry Bush, who posted on Facebook that he is

"so thrilled and proud of the cover version F&M has done of my song."

While they've released several EPs and albums (their last full-length record, *Sincerely, F&M*, spent six weeks at No. 1 on *Exclaim's* Folk Chart in late 2010 and early 2011), F&M has never enjoyed this degree of mainstream attention.

"It's not just local," says Ryan, "we've been getting little bits of attention from here there and everywhere ... I guess I won't be surprised by anything anymore."

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- Ryan Anderson



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ABOVE: Ryan and Rebecca Anderson of local duo F&M, whose cover of *The Littlest Hobo* theme song *Maybe Tomorrow* is in the new hockey movie *Goon*.

BELOW: *The Littlest Hobo* was a hit family drama on CTV in the 1980s.

The band, which tours as a trio including multi-instrumentalist Bryan Miot Reichert, plans to hit the studio in the fall, and release its next album in 2013. Meanwhile, there are rumours of a new *Littlest Hobo* TV series, and if so, F&M's version of *Maybe Tomorrow* could be used as the theme.

But F&M, which Ryan describes as "folk-noir", has never really pursued airplay or popularity, and he says this taste of success won't reshape their direction.

Rebecca agrees.

"We write for ourselves and as long as we try to impress ourselves musically, I think it's more about the development than trying to figure out what people want," she says.

"Because there are so many people out there, if you like it, if you do a good job on it, if you're proud of it, you're going to have an audience."



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