



THE PRINT MAGAZINE YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

APRIL EDITION

Local Montreal Music Scene

Exciting Music Week Back for Another Year

Janelle Bryan, Xplore MTL

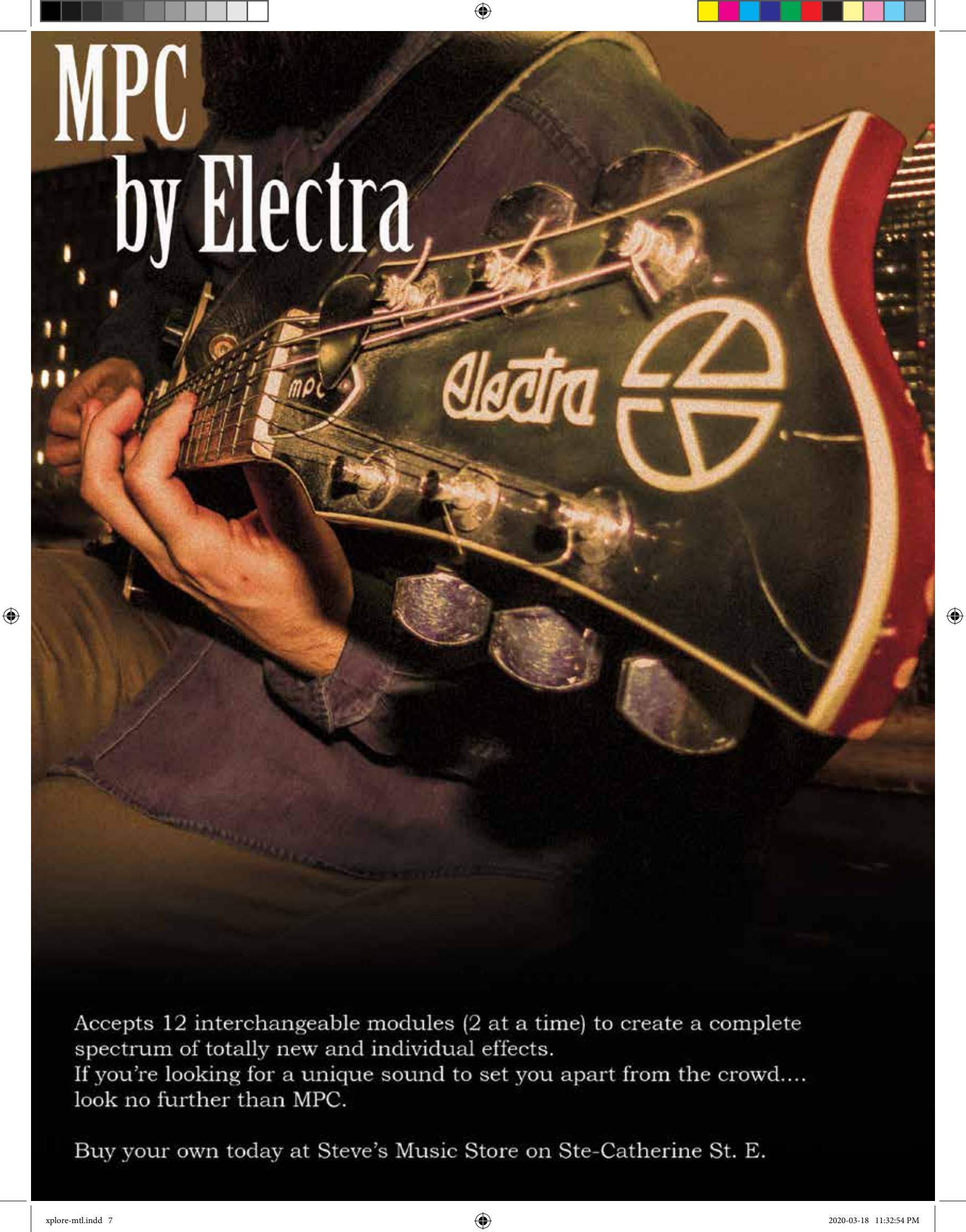
This April, prepare yourself for a week of celebrating Black art and music as Kalmunity hosts Montreal's second annual festival of its kind. From April 28 to May 5, the best in Hip Hop, Jazz, Reggae, House, Afrobeat, Funk, Soul Dancehall, Spoken Word, and much more will be available at locations like Petit Campus, Resonance Café, Pop Up Lab, and many more.

Kalmunity is known to be Canada's largest and longest running black arts and improv collective with over 60 creatives being members since its founding in 2003 by Jahsun. He has described the creation of Kalmunity as "an opportunity to create a space where we could come back to the essence of why we play music — to express the inexplicable, to express the soul. The best way to do that is to be as honest as possible, and the best way to do that is through the improvisation element." The Montreal Gazette named Kalmunity to be 1 of 5 best places to take out of towners as they produce 2 weekly events of improvised music; Jazz Sunday evenings at Café Resonance and Hip Hop Tuesday nights at Petit Campus. Kalmunity was created to be "an outlet for black and cultural expression", and has had a large part in the protection and development of Montreal black music in addition to being a part of workshops for young artists and outreach programs.



Having been already featured at events like The Montreal Jazz Fest, House of Paint, Nuits D'Afrique, and many of the like, Kalmunity is putting together the second edition of a festival to continue their work of offering a space for black artists, and opportunities for locals and visitors to see part of Montreal culture. In addition to music, the Kalmunity Music Week will also highlight the KVC Urban Market, the Black Speculative Art Movement: Afrofuturism Conference, Youth and Community outreach, panels, discussions, workshops, and much, much more. With the likes of Dwayne Morgan, Chanda and the Passengers, DJ Lady Oracle, and Jason 'Blackbird' Selman, you can either choose to go for one day for as little as \$10, or go for the whole week for only \$150.

Visit www.kalmunity.com for more information about the collective and future events, and buy your tickets through eventbrite (a link is offered on Kalmunity's website).



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Checking out Montreal's Music Scene: O Cara

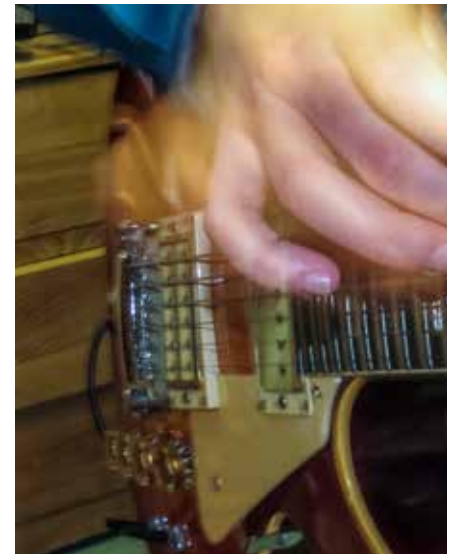
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Montreal is known to be a city of artistic expression, from film to art to even a vibrant independent music scene that has been around since the 1990s. This April's edition of "Band of the Month" is a part of the latter scene, Montreal-bred O Cara. You might have seen them at local shows like the annual fundraiser, Coldest Night of the Year, or playing a gig at the likes of St-Laurent's Barfly. They released their first EP, CLARITIES or whatever, just last year in August on Bandcamp. This month, our reporter was able to sit down with one of the guitarists of O Cara, Timothy Bryan, and give a glance of what O Cara is about, and what it is like to be a part of a thriving music scene in Montreal.

X: Thank you for taking the time to do this Timothy, I'm sure our readers will be very interested to hear about your band and your perspective on being an independent band in Montreal. Why don't we start with you telling me a bit about O Cara: your music style, your band members, a brief history of who you are.

TB: Me and some friends started O Cara a few years ago, in 2017 I think. At the time it was myself on guitar, Ryan on guitar, Ben on keys, Pat on bass, and Josiah on drums. Everyone but Josiah took turns on vocals. Ben ended up playing with us for about 6 months, but ended up leaving due to he didn't really want to play in a band. Pat was with us for about a year, but left a little while after moved to Ottawa. He was replaced by Julien, and that has been the line-up for the last year and a bit.

Stylistically, we've always been all over the place. We originally started with heavy influences of canadian folk music, jazz, spoken word, and math rock. The first year or so we actually played almost only acoustic music. With the evolution of time and members, we're a bit heavier now and have a stronger influence of indie, alternative, and post-hardcore. A few of our biggest influences are mew-ithoutYou, radiohead, and Manchester Orchestra.



X: What are your goals for the band, to just have fun for now or produce music to make money?

TB: Best case scenario would be to have a career from playing music, but with the current state of the music scene and especially with the kind of music we play ie. not particularly marketable, that's not a feasible option unless we a) went full time with touring/writing/recording year-round and b) got lucky. None of us are all that interested in giving up everything else going on in our lives to pursue this with that level of commitment, so for now we're just enjoying writing with each other, playing shows, and releasing music when we can. We want it to be a part of our lives, but there's no expectation that it will be financially viable for us.

X: How was it to make an EP, interested in a full CD or happy for now?

TB: The EP was really fun to make, and it was a great learning experience for all of us. We definitely want to keep making and releasing music, and we'll hopefully have more music out before the end of the year. We're not sure what kind of release it will be, but a full album definitely isn't out of the question.

X: What is it like to be a part of the music scene in Montreal; what are your favorite things about it and what is frustrating?

TB: It's pretty great to be honest, compared to a lot of other cities. We have such a vibrant city and there's always so much going on, and the scene is diverse enough to support so many artists in tons of different styles. My only frustration with the scene is that myself and Julien, the two members of the band that regularly go to shows and participate in the scene, are actually mainly involved in hardcore and metal, so it has been challenging finding shows and promoters in the indie crowd. The scene defi-



nately exists, but we're not that well connected right now. We do have a few good contacts that have gotten us shows, and we're hoping that as we remain active and play more and release music we'll become more integrated and people will know who we are.

X: As an ending note, what are your favorite local bands and festivals that you suggest for our readers?

TB: Osheaga is a plague. Some local bands I like are Kennedy, Offset, Patent, Chthe'ilist, Gulfer, Fer Sher, Bas Relief, Lil' Andy, and Bule.

So there you have it readers, another independent band coming out of Montreal's music scene, here to give you fresh music hopefully this year. It is not easy to try to make it in such a large city full of artistic potential, but you may want to keep an eye out for this one, and the other bands Timothy had mentioned. We can easily get swept up in the popular music from the United States, but I'm here to remind you that we have plenty of amazing artists in our own backyard. Check this section out next month to hear about another Montreal band, to get more music suggestions, and maybe hear more about festivals beyond "Osheaga is a plague". Remember to check out O Cara on Facebook, Instagram, and Bandcamp for their EP and upcoming events they will be playing at, and always support your local artists of every kind.

