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Thank you, Can. Songwriters'
Hall of Fame. Thank you SOCAN.

I SPEND SO MUCH TIME PLAYING +
SINGING MY OWN SONGS — IT'S
VERY INTERESTING, AND VERY
MOVING, TO HEAR THEM PER-
FORMED BY OTHERS!

AND ON AN OCCASION LIKE THIS —
TO BE SO HONOURED IN THE
COMPANY OF THESE WONDERFUL
ARTISTS.

I'VE BEEN AT MY CRAFT FOR A
LONG TIME — LONG ENOUGH
THAT THE BEGINNING SEEMS
LIKE YESTERDAY.

(2)

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THOSE WHO WERE A BIT QUICKER ON THE DRAW THAN ME, BOB DYLAN, GORDON LIGHTFOOT, BUFFY STE MARIS AMONG OTHERS, I WAS SEDUCED AWAY FROM THE PURSUIT OF AN EDUCATION IN JAZZ COMPOSITION BY SONGS,... CREATIONS THAT COMBINED MUSIC WITH SOMETHING LIKE POETRY.

THO I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT AT THE TIME, I CAME TO REALIZE THAT ART, INCLUDING THE ART OF SONGWRITING, IS ABOUT

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SHARING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE. MUSIC IS A SPIRITUAL BONDING AGENT, A MEANS OF SHARING DEEP FEELINGS OF ALL KINDS. WHEN YOU ADD WORDS, THE SHARING BECOMES POINTED - SPECIFIC.

A SONG CAN OFFER INSPIRATION, DISTRACTION, SOLACE, SOLIDARITY - A SENSE THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN OUR FEELINGS. THE HUMAN ABILITY TO CREATE SONGS IS PRECIOUS AND VITAL. WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE IT AND I THINK WE ALWAYS WILL - THE ARTIFICE OF MACHINES (AND ISIS) NOTWITHSTANDING.

(4)
I'M IMMENSELY GRATEFUL TO HAVE
BEEN ALLOWED TO LIVE A LIFE
CENTRED AROUND SONGWRITING,
AND IMMENSELY GRATEFUL FOR THE
ATTENTION MY EFFORTS HAVE
RECEIVED. TO BE ABLE TO DO
THIS AND MAKE A LIVING AT IT
IS TRULY A GREAT GIFT.

RE "MAKING A LIVING AT IT," I
WANT TO OFFER A WORD OF
THANKS TO BERNIE F, MY FRIEND
AND LONG-TIME MANAGER, ^{FROM} WHOSE
ASTUTE EARS AND TALENT FOR
STRATEGIZING I HAVE BENEFITED
GREATLY. SO TOO, ALL THE
EXCELLENT PRODUCERS AND

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MUSICIANS I'VE WORKED WITH,
SOME OF WHOM ARE HERE
TONIGHT, WHO HAVE HELPED
GIVE MY RAW MATERIAL THE
POWER TO APPEAL TO THE
WORLD AT LARGE.

IN A WORLD INCREASINGLY
DEFINED BY ITS FAKERY, WE'VE
TOGETHER PULLED OFF THE
GREATEST TRICK EVER — WE
SPREAD TRUTH!

CHEERS ALL!