

## **Letter of The Day**

### **Shame on the Juno artists who didn't show up**

**By Lyla Miklos**

**The Hamilton Spectator**

**March 9, 1999**

Sunday night I had the privilege of being “a seat filler” at the Junos. This means if Celine Dion or another artist had to get up and go to the bathroom, I would go and keep her seat warm till she got back.

For weeks prior I was excited with the possibility of, maybe, just maybe, sitting next to one of our many musical celebrities – Shania Twain, Alanis Morissette, Jann Arden, The Tragically Hip, Sarah McLachlan . . . etc.

As the big day got closer and closer, more and more Canadian-born and bred singing sensations were confirmed no-shows. Many of them with rather lame excuses that bordered on the “I'd rather watch paint dry” side.

I ended up with some really prime seats for almost the entire evening.

A little too prime if you ask me. As the evening progressed, I realized there were actually more seat fillers than actual musicians and industry types sitting in the VIP seats on ice level. It seemed as if more awards were being accepted by presenters than actual winners.

What a disappointment on numerous levels. Many of these “stars” were just at the Grammys (the American equivalent of the Junos) only a week prior and many of them performed there too, but for some reason they just didn’t have time for a sold-out Copps Coliseum audience of Canadian FANS! Shame on all of you.

To the artists who did show up, and even more so to the ones who performed, thank you for remembering the fans who gave you your start and giving us one heck of a show.

The night didn't have one bad performance. Some of the highlights for me were Colin James' rousing opening number, The Philosopher Kings, Natalie McMaster and Jesse Cook dueling it out on fiddle and guitar and Celine Dion's emotional tribute to Hall of Fame inductee Luc Plamondon.

It was a fun, high energy show. Too bad so many Canadian artists and musicians missed it.

***Lyla Miklos***

***Host of Centre Stage***

***C101.5 FM – Mohawk College Radio***