



RECORDS

Miles Of Aisles

Joni Mitchell
Asylum AB 202

This live double album collection of old and new material recorded on her recent tour shows Joni at her most vulnerable self yet. She sometimes misses the high notes—check out the difference for example between her voice on earlier albums and this one (as on “All I Want” and “A Case Of You”). And with several exceptions (such as “Carey”) the arrangements here aren’t nearly as potent as those on her studio LPs. Still, the self-effacement she chooses to retain (I’m getting on my best out of tune voice” she says at one point) give the listener just a little more insight into her.

Two new songs, “Jericho” and “Love Or Money,” by her description “hopeful” and “a portrait of a disappointment,” put Joni on even par with her excellent band, the L.A. Express. This is to her credit. Few realize how sensitive she is to the hungry jaws of superstardom that would gobble her up given the chance. She granted no interviews (not even with *Rolling Stone*) on the tour and let Tom Scott do most of the talking. Thus I think she has emerged from the tour even stronger because she understands the fine line between fame and fantasy. She is famous because she is, more than anything else, her own woman and not the company’s.

When she was here last March, one will recall the remarkable interplay between Joni and guitarist Robben Ford (heard here on “You Turn Me On, I’m A Radio”) and sax/flutist Tom Scott (“Rainy Night House”). She is definitely confident in this band. As they challenge each other they are rewarded by several high moments. “Both Sides Now” in particular can be appreciated just as much now as it was way back in 1968.

Once again I look forward to her next album (the sun just came out during “Woman Of Heart And Mind” and it fits). She has proven herself many times over.

—ward silver

Phoebe Snow

Shelter SR 2109

The age of the self-sufficient female vocalist is here. Within the past three years, seemingly in the wake of Janis Joplin’s death, women have increasingly made themselves and their blues known. Maria Muldaur, Bonnie Raitt, Maggie Bell, Melissa Manchester, Wendy Waldman and of course the everpresent Joni Mitchell are all good examples.

Phoebe Snow has entered this circle with her first album featuring “Poetry Man,” which on first listening sounds like an airy Maria Muldaur. Indeed, her voice has that tough/sweet quality. Often there is a jazz scat undercurrent as on Jesse Fuller’s “San Francisco Bay Blues”. However, she exploits octave changes (as on “Poetry Man”) less than sparingly over the course of the album.

The album is doing extremely well for a new woman artist not only because of the strength of Phoebe’s vocals but also thanks to the instrumental assistance of David Bromberg, the Persuasions, saxophonist Zoot Sims and Dave Mason.

Like Children

Jerry Goodman and Jan Hammer
Nemperor (Atlantic) NE 430

From the original Mahavishnu Orchestra, Goodman and Hammer display the virtuosity that lay dormant for three years with that band.

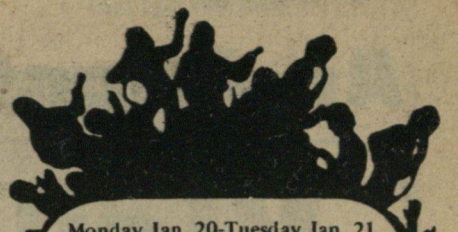
JONI MITCHELL

PHOEBE SNOW

GOODMAN AND HAMMER

It was personally enjoyable to hear more of Jan’s work which often paled in the light of McLaughlin and Cobham. “I Remember Me” for example has a very nice Carlosian (*Sonic Seasonings*) moog touch to it and is heightened by Goodman’s violin. “Night” has similar spaciness to it building (like the darkness) mysteriously through ascending and descending moog and violin.

The music here is very interesting when one considers the two men are playing all the instruments although some valid criticism has been leveled that there should have been fewer vocals. One exception is the last song, “Giving In Gently”/“I Wonder”—Jerry’s vocal has just the right amount of sensitivity and is complemented by a pretty moog and piano line by Jan. Furthermore, Goodman demonstrates a more than adequate proficiency on guitar.



Monday Jan. 20-Tuesday Jan. 21

Booker T.

Wednesday Jan. 22-Saturday Jan. 25

Jimmy Buffett

Monday Jan. 27

The Mad Mountain Mime Troupe

Tuesday Jan. 28-Saturday Feb. 1

Mike Bloomfield

Nick Gravenites Barry Goldberg
Mark Naftalin George Rains
Roger “Jellyroll” Troy

Monday Feb. 3-Wednesday Feb. 5

Willie Nelson

Gamble Rogers

Thursday Feb. 6-Saturday Feb. 8

Oregon

Monday Feb. 10-Tuesday Feb. 11

Weather Report

Wednesday Feb. 12-Saturday Feb. 15

Phoebe Snow

Monday Feb. 17-Tuesday Feb. 18

Earl Scruggs Revue

Wednesday Feb. 19-Saturday Feb. 22

Jonathan Edwards

Monday Feb. 24

Paper Lace

Tuesday Feb. 25-Saturday Mar. 1

Red, White & Blue (Grass)

Monday Mar. 3-Tuesday Mar. 4

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