

Joni Mitchell's music still matters on *Chalk Mark*

By CALVIN GILBERT
Music critic

■ **JONI MITCHELL**
Chalk Mark In a Rain Storm
Geffen

With guest vocals by the likes of Billy Idol, Tom Petty, Benjamin Orr, Don Henley and Willie Nelson, *Chalk Mark In a Rain Storm* is being heralded as Joni Mitchell's most accessible album in years.

It is accessible, perhaps, from the standpoint of the contemporary instrumentation and production. The music, however, is about as uncompromising as anything she's done short of her tribute to Charles Mingus.

As a singer and songwriter, Joni Mitchell is probably the only female who's made any consistently important contributions to modern popular music. That's not meant to be a sexist statement. It's just hard to come up with many others whose artistry matches hers. Oh yes, there are some great singers around, but in the realm of the singer-songwriter, Carole King has been erratic, at best, and Laura Nyro has been in semi-retirement.

All of this means that any new Joni Mitchell album is something to look forward to with excitement and anxiousness.

To describe the new album as accessible is somehow to equate accessibility with mindlessness. That's not the case, of course, and any record that includes native American Indian chants as the background vocal or a remake of the Sons of the Pioneers' "Cool Water" might be considered a bit out of the musical mainstream.

Mitchell reworks "Cool Water," the



Joni Mitchell

Bob Nolan standard, with her distinctive guitar style and lyrical exchanges with Nelson. By interpreting the song, she moves away from the literal meaning of the original.

Mitchell's songwriting is again fascinating, as her lyrics take on military themes and take a few jabs at the yuppie mentality. Some of the music was written with her husband, bassist Larry Klein. One of the highlights is "A Bird That Whistles," an adaptation of "Corrina, Corrina," which features only Mitchell, Klein and saxophonist Wayne Shorter. An entire album by this trio could have great possibilities.

In light of Mitchell's musical depth, the ultimate judgment of the album doesn't come immediately. It's something you arrive at after hearing — living with — the work over a period of months.

The initial listenings indicate that it's yet another fantastic album by someone who remains in control of her art.

■ **DWEEZIL ZAPPA**
My Guitar Wants To Kill Your Mama
Chrysalis

This is a tough concept to even begin to consider, but think about it.

Frank Zappa is your father and he named you Dweezil.

Had you become an attorney or an accountant, that might have caused you some major problems. In reality, Dweezil Zappa is a talented musician in his own right, and his upbringing by one of the most misunderstood people on the planet has apparently served him well.

The younger Zappa's future depends upon his ability to mature as a songwriter and his decision, if he

makes it, to move away from the Eddie Van Halen-Steve Vai school of rock guitar.

The album, with the title track taken from one of his father's songs, has a strong sound, although he tends to preach a little more blatantly than he should in his lyrics.

Zappa seems to be a straight arrow, and his lyrics offer positive messages for listeners to stay away from drugs, refrain from living on the streets and generally letting peer pressure lead them astray.

A bit of subtlety, sorely needed, may come with maturity. He's a hot guitar player and an interesting character, to be sure. If, by chance, he comes to town to perform, it should be a great show. The album's marred by heavy-handedness.

■ **STEVE WARINER**
I Should Be With You
MCA

The main criticism of Steve Wariner is that he lacks any real personality or identity and that he sounds a lot like Glen Campbell.

All along, he's written some good songs and selected some even better ones to make albums which are nice in their own way.

At this point, Wariner's voice is more supple than Campbell's, but his mentor provides background vocals on the album's tastiest track, Jimmy Webb's "More Than Enough." It's not the best song he's ever written, but any Webb song is worth hearing.

Wariner is extremely talented. He takes great care and pride in his work. The album's solid, but the criticism is still well founded.

record ratings

■ **LOCAL POPULAR SINGLES**

COMPILED BY WFMT-FM

No.	Name of Record	Recording Artist
1.	"Out of the Blue"	Debbie Gibson
2.	"Man In the Mirror"	Michael Jackson
3.	"Endless Summer Nights"	Richard Marx
4.	"Get Outta My Dreams..."	Billy Ocean
5.	"I Want Her"	Keith Sweat
6.	"Rocket 2 U"	The Jets
7.	"Where Do Broken Hearts Go"	Whitney Houston
8.	"Devil Inside"	INXS
9.	"Girlfriend"	Pebbles
10.	"Some Kind of Lover"	Jody Watley

■ **LOCAL POPULAR ALBUMS**

COMPILED BY WFMT-FM

No.	Name of Record	Recording Artist
1.	"Faith"	George Michael
2.	"Dirty Dancing"	Soundtrack
3.	"Kick"	INXS
4.	"More Dirty Dancing"	Soundtrack
5.	"Whitney"	Whitney Houston
6.	"Good Morning, Vietnam"	Soundtrack
7.	"Introducing the Hardline"	T. Trent D'Arby
8.	"The Lonesome Jubilee"	John C. Mellenkamp
9.	"Rock of Life"	Rick Springfield
10.	"Bad"	Michael Jackson

■ **LOCAL COUNTRY SINGLES**

COMPILED BY WKJN-FM

No.	Name of Record	Recording Artist
1.	"I Wanna Dance With You"	Eddie Rabbitt
2.	"I'll Always Come Back"	K.T. Oslin
3.	"Everybody's Sweetheart"	Vince Gill
4.	"Famous Last Words"	George Strait
5.	"It's Only Make Believe"	Ronnie McDowell
6.	"Cry, Cry, Cry"	Highway 101
7.	"It's Such a Small World"	Crowell/Cash
8.	"I'm Gonna Get You"	Eddy Raven
9.	"The Last Resort"	T. Graham Brown
10.	"Baby I'm Yours"	Steve Wariner

■ **LOCAL SOUL SINGLES**

COMPILED BY WXOK-AM

No.	Name of Record	Recording Artist
1.	"Da' Butt"	E.U.
2.	"Wasn't I Good To Ya?"	Da'Krash
3.	"Ooo La La La"	Teena Marie
4.	"Wishing Well"	T. Trent D'Arby
5.	"Sweet Sensation"	Lvert
6.	"That's What Love Is"	Miki Howard
7.	"Get Outta My Dreams"	Billy Ocean
8.	"Don't Mess With My Heart"	The Swingers
9.	"My Girl"	Sade
10.	"Do You Feel It?"	Tyrone Davis

■ **CHRISTIAN TOP 10**

COMPILED BY WLUX-AM

No.	Name of Record	Recording Artist
1.	"Here I Am, Send Me"	Keith Green
2.	"Let's Have a Revival"	The Hemphills
3.	"Jesus Christ, My Friend"	Diane S. Lewis
4.	"I've Got a Right"	The Nelons
5.	"Walkin' On With Jesus"	The Dixie Echoes
6.	"God Still Moves"	The Chapmans
7.	"Let's Turn the Lights On"	Wendy Bagwell
8.	"I Sing Because"	Squire Parsons
9.	"I Lean On You, Lord"	Florida Boys
10.	"Higher Ground"	Steve Green

■ **ALBUM ORIENTED ROCK**

COMPILED BY WBRH-FM

No.	Name of Record	Recording Artist
1.	"Get It On"	Kingdom Come
2.	"Born To Be Bad"	George Thorogood
3.	"New Sensation"	INXS
4.	"Talking 'Bout"	3
5.	"That's the Way I Wanna Rock"	AC/DC
6.	"Johnny B. Goode"	Judas Priest
7.	"Tall Cool One"	Robert Plant
8.	"Don't Die"	Robert Palmer
9.	"Scream With the Alien"	Joe Satriani
10.	"Welcome to the Jungle"	Guns and Roses