

THE WORLD OF MUSIC

Joni Mitchell keeps on growing

By JUDY HUGG
Copley News Service

Joni Mitchell is a veritable jewel in the field of contemporary recorded music, consistently making graceful and expressive statements with every aesthetic undertaking. And her newest album is a perfect example of this.

"For The Roses," her first album for Asylum Records, marks another stage of positive growth in her music while standing on its own as a completely cohesive and crystal-clear work of art.

Miss Mitchell's stance has matured — the songs are a fluid interaction of melodies, rhythm and words that find each other with unerring precision. The years of experience behind her have enabled her to write songs with the basic structures being freer, yet the creative vision in each cut is much more focused than in earlier attempts.

She sings, plays a multitude of instruments, and creates her own eerily beautiful backing harmonies. The stunning album packaging which includes some original art by Joni, is merely a further reflection of the talents possessed by Miss Mitchell.

"Cold Blue Steel And Sweet Fire," the title song "For The Roses," "See You Sometime," and "Woman of Heart and Mind," are just a few of the super cuts on the album, which is a must for record collectors.

singing sensation, Katia Ricciarelli. Miss Ricciarelli displays a voice of extraordinary range and sensitivity in the eight Verdi arias on this record. She is supported by the Philharmonic Orchestra of Rome under the baton of Gianandrea Gavazzeni.

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"Portland" is the debut album of Gary Ogan and Bill Lamb who call themselves by the same name. The Elektra LP is all about love — lost, found and celebrated and it has to come on as a winner. Taking on a folk flavor the songs are enhanced by some fine guitar and vocal work by the boys. Ogan, who wrote seven of the songs on the LP claims that Chet Atkins and the Beatles influenced him most "because of the sophisticated orchestration," and Lamb says that "Simon & Garfunkel, Peter, Paul & Mary, and my late grandmother who sang and danced professionally in Ireland were most influential in my career."

Listen to such cuts as "Portland Rain," "Everything You Knew," "Our Sweet Love" and "Just For Awhile" and you'll hear these early influences coming through in Portlands' own classy style.

