

# VANITY FAIR

## THE MUSIC ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2001  
\$3.95

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there can be no evil."  
—CERVANTES*

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**JOHN LENNON**  
**THE COLLECTED**  
**INTERVIEWS: 1973–80**  
BY LISA ROBINSON

**A 375-PAGE,**  
**ALL-ACCESS PASS** TO THE  
STARS OF ROCK, POP, HIP-HOP, FOLK,  
COUNTRY, CLASSICAL, BEBOP AND PUNK:  
FROM BECK AND BRANDY TO TONY BENNETT,  
LIL BOW WOW AND THE BRILL BUILDING  
(AND THAT'S JUST THE B'S)

**ROCK OF AGES**  
JEWEL, BEYONCÉ KNOWLES,  
BECK, DAVID BOWIE, JONI MITCHELL,  
STEVIE WONDER, MAXWELL,  
EMMYLOU HARRIS, GWEN STEFANI,  
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**"WHY DOES DAD WEAR PINK LEATHER PANTS?"**

**AND OTHER ISSUES OF ROCK STARS' KIDS**  
BY EVGENIA PERETZ

**GIRL GROUPS, PASTRAMI AND PHIL SPECTOR**

**THE DEFINITIVE ORAL HISTORY OF THE BRILL BUILDING ERA**  
STARRING: NEIL DIAMOND, CAROLE KING, BURT BACHARACH AND OTHERS...  
BY DAVID KAMP

**BECK** PICKS HIS 50 FAVORITE ALBUM COVERS

**PLUS:**

DOMINICK DUNNE ON THE DAY SINATRA SANG THORNTON WILDER

JOHANNA FIEDLER ON MAESTRO OF THE MET JAMES LEVINE

JAMES WOLCOTT ON WHY ELVIS MATTERS

JONATHAN SCHWARTZ ON TONY BENNETT

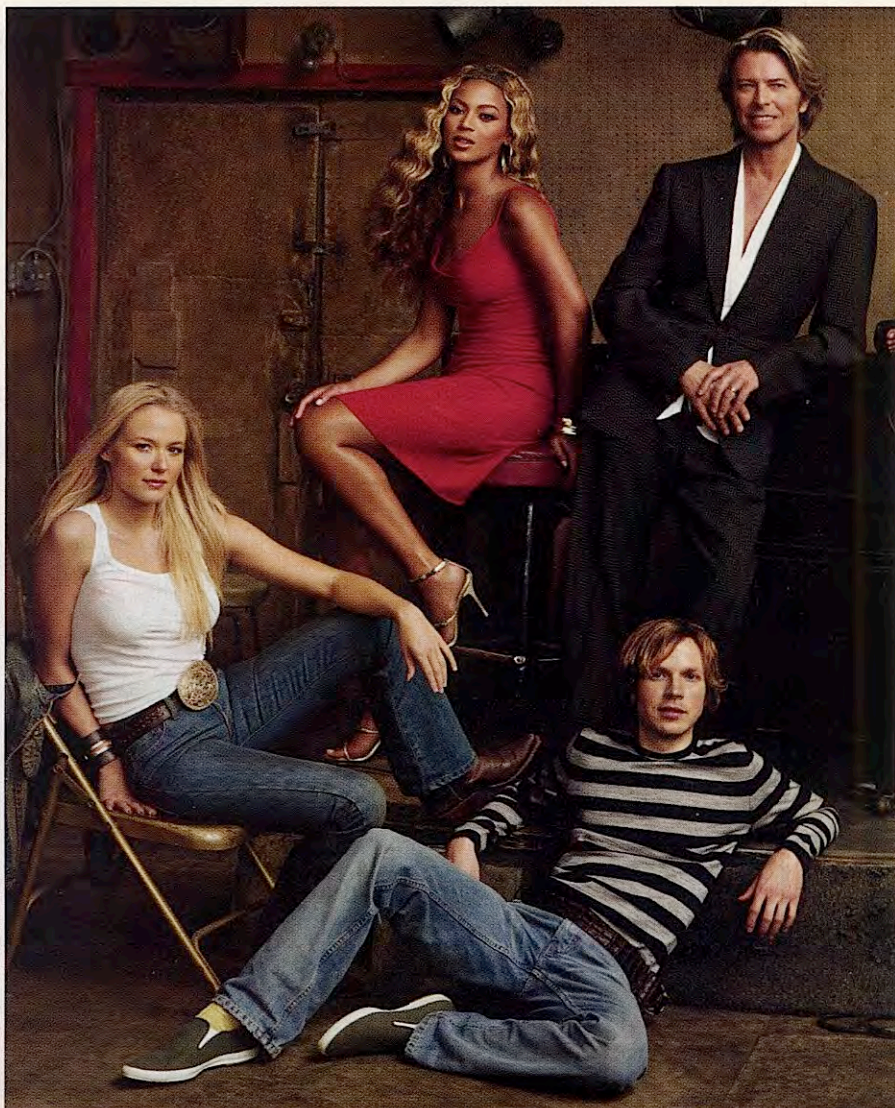
# THE SOUND AND THE GLORY

With 45 Grammys, 65 platinum albums, and God knows how many Top 10 hits among them, the 12 greats on this month's cover span four decades of cutting-edge sound

**A**t age six **Jewel Kilcher** performed with her family in clubs in Alaska. At 18 she wound up in San Diego writing songs while living in her van. At 22 she had already toured with Bob Dylan and Neil Young and had a debut album, 1995's *Pieces of You*, which sold more than 11 million copies. Since then there's been the huge, best-selling book of poetry, two more multi-platinum albums, and three more fatiguing years on the road. Now 27, Jewel is about to release *This Way*, a return to her raw, folk-country roots recorded in Nashville. Despite her glammed-up image of the past five years, the Jewel on our cover is who she really is: an onstage natural who is most at home in Rancho Santa Fe at the house she shares with her mother, or at the Texas ranch of her boyfriend, rodeo champion Ty Murray, where, she says, laughing, "I castrate cattle on my days off." —LISA ROBINSON

When the paparazzi staked out *Vanity Fair's* cover shoot for this issue, they zeroed in on Destiny's Child's front woman, 20-year-old **Beyoncé Knowles**, a performer who should be revered if only for popularizing the word "bootylicious." With fluttering soul-diva trills, set to a trembling breakbeat, she sings lead and writes songs for a trio whose three records have defined the sound of contemporary R&B, sold more than 18 million copies, and, last year, yielded two Grammys—not bad for a band that lost on *Star Search* in 1992 and nearly named itself Self Expression. Knowles proved a trouper for the *V.F.* shoot, driving six hours from Buffalo after a concert to make the morning call, pausing only for a visit to the New York passport office (hers had been lost), and then going through a number of costume changes—while the guys mostly got to stand around and schmooze. —MARC GOODMAN

**Beck** has managed to hold on to what used to be called "artistic integrity" and still achieve massive commercial success. Raised in California in a bohemian family, he took his first professional steps at age 18 at open-mike nights in New York City clubs, where he sang folk, blues, and hip-hop/punk. His 1993 eight-track demo



## SUPER GROUP

Above, Jewel Kilcher (wearing a tank top by Jockey International, jeans by Levi's, boots by Lucchese, and cuff by Pilar Olaverri; on chair, a jacket by Miss Sixty), Beyoncé Knowles (wearing a dress by Diane Von Furstenberg, shoes by Giuseppe Zanotti Design, and jewelry by M&J Savitt), Beck (wearing a shirt by Burberry Prorsum, jeans by Levi's, belt by Roberto Cavalli, and shoes by Comme des Garçons Homme Plus), and David Bowie (wearing clothing by Alexander McQueen). Hair by Louis Angelo, Danilo, Tina Knowles, and Toni Swann. Makeup by Billy B., Scott Barnes, Paul Starr, Maria Verel, and Reggie Wells. Hair products by Johnson & Johnson (Kilcher), L'Oréal (Knowles), Bumble and Bumble (Mitchell), Kiehl's (Harris), Kérastase (Stefani), Paul Mitchell (Elliott). Makeup products by Max Factor, Nars (Kilcher); L'Oréal (Knowles); Bobbi Brown, Yves Saint Laurent (Mitchell); Chanel (Harris); Chanel, Nars, Stila (Stefani); MAC (Elliott). Manicures by Deborah Lippmann. Grooming by Rheanne White. Set design by Rick Floyd. Styled by Kim Meehan. Photographed exclusively for *V.F.* by Annie Leibovitz on July 26, 2001, in New York City. Left, Beyoncé changes an earring at the shoot. Below, Beck, Gwen Stefani, and hungry man Bowie.



PHOTOGRAPHS, CENTER AND BOTTOM, BY KATHRYN MACLEOD; FOR DETAILS, SEE CREDITS PAGE

of the song "Loser" (later released as a single) accidentally became a Top 10 smash after it was played on the radio and listeners incessantly called in requests. "If I'd known that many people would hear a song of mine," said Beck, now 31, "I don't think I would have put out that one." What followed were sales of more than 10 million albums, three Grammys, three Brit Awards, and recognition as one of the most influential musicians of the last decade. He has gone—and can go—in any musical direction. "There's definitely been some cliffs I've fallen over," he says, "but sometimes it's a successful car crash." —L.R.

**David Bowie** was the glamorous 70s antidote to dreary California rock. His career has seen dazzling character re-invention, not just hair and makeup changes. This self-described "synthetic artist" claims his work wasn't about fashion: "Hopefully," says Bowie, "it was about style. It was Eurocentric—I never thought American audiences would pick up on it." He has released 27 albums, has had 25 books written about him (he says he's read none of them), skipped the ceremony when Madonna inducted him into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996, was recently named a *Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French government, and last year, at age 53, was voted "Most Influential Artist" by more than 100 pop stars in Britain's leading music weekly, *New Musical Express*. His new album, recorded over the summer in



upstate New York, will be released in early 2002. He lives in New York City with his wife, the model Iman, and at our cover shoot he proudly displayed photos of their year-old daughter, Alexandria Zahra Jones. As ever, looking to the future. —L.R.

**Poet, composer, painter—Joni Mitchell** started out 37 years ago as a high soprano with an acoustic guitar. But, as she would be the first to tell you, she is no folksinger. A complex songwriter and imaginative guitarist, she has produced an influential, remarkable body of work that includes 21 albums, among them collaborations with Wayne Shorter and Charles Mingus; she has also had a retrospective of her paintings in her native Saskatoon, won five Grammy Awards, and received a 1997 induction into the



Rock and Roll Hall of Fame that she refused to attend. A chain-smoker who rails at the diminished standards of today's pop culture, Mitchell is a wicked mimic and says that reading Nietzsche makes her smile. Her next project: two albums of her songs with a symphony orchestra. At our cover shoot, when a nearly breathless Maxwell told her how much her music meant to his life, she stared at him for a minute, smiled, and said, "Well then, give me a hug." —L.R.

Blind since birth, **Stevie Wonder** had his first No. 1 hit in the summer of 1963 with "Fingertips (Part 2)." He was 13. But it was in 1971, at the age of 21, when he was still under contract to Motown, that Wonder became a true musical pioneer, negotiating complete artistic freedom as well as the publishing rights to his future song catalogue—

#### SWEET HARMONY

Left, Joni Mitchell (wearing a blouse by Roberto Cavalli and jeans by Gap), Stevie Wonder (in his own clothes), Maxwell (wearing a T-shirt by Calvin Klein Underwear), and Emmylou Harris (wearing a jacket by Gap, shirt by Ghost, and jeans by Diesel). Above, Wonder, Maxwell, and Missy Elliott get acquainted at V.F.'s cover shoot.

then almost unheard of in pop. The resulting string of albums represents one of the greatest hot streaks in music history: *Talking Book*, *Innervisions*, *Fulfillingness' First Finale*, and *Songs in the Key of Life*.

In the early 80s he exercised a different kind of power with the single "Happy Birthday," which launched his ultimately successful campaign to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday. He landed in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989, and in 1996 won a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award—testament to an artist ever true to his passion and talent. —PUNCH HUTTON

The years have been kind to **Maxwell**, a self-proclaimed former "nerdy kid." His change in social status began at the age of 17, when he learned to play a hand-me-down Casio keyboard. Now 28, he has transformed himself into a one-man musical love machine, with an easy, silky voice and a bent for stylized funk—Marvin Gaye meets Prince. His 1996 debut CD, *Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite*, went platinum, and he's been performing to packed houses of swooning female fans ever since. His recently released third album, *Now*, has won ecstatic reviews, debuting at No. 1. It helps, too, that he has one of the most recognizable hairdos in the business. Not that any of this has gone to Maxwell's head. "It's all superficial," he claims, shrugging off success. "In two years, I might join the Peace Corps or pick berries." —AARTHI RAJARAMAN

For more than 30 years, with her ethereal soprano, **Emmylou Harris** has been slicing through the barbed-wire fences of

country music, incorporating elements of rock, pop, folk, and gospel. "I would hope that we could get rid of these categories," says Harris, a Gram Parsons protégée who is fond of songwriter Townes Van Zandt's declaration "There's only two kinds of music—the blues and zip-a-dee-doo-dah." ("God protect us from the zip-a-dee-doo-dah," she adds.) An interpreter of others' songs as well as her own, the 10-time Grammy Award winner says she's most proud to "have a bunch of people out there who've been sticking with me as I zig and zag. I haven't made it easy for them." Not easy, perhaps, but a few zigs and zags are certainly preferable to a zip.

—STEPHEN LEVEY

The lead singer of Orange County's homegrown pop band No Doubt, 32-year-old **Gwen Stefani** has a sexiness that is alternately cartoonish (think Betty Boop) and tomboyish (think Tatum O'Neal in *The Bad News Bears*). Typically, she comes armed with either fuchsia or platinum hair, a bare midriff, and, always, a voice like an electrical current. She and her bandmates had been cranking out their signature blend of ska rhythms and New Wave-ish pop hooks for eight largely unknown years before their third album, 1995's *Tragic Kingdom*, sold more than 17 million copies worldwide, was nominated for a Grammy for best rock album, and also won the group a nomination for best new artist (ha!). Two subsequent albums, including *Rock Steady*, which will be released in December, and collaborations with musicians as diverse as Eve and Moby, have earned Stefani a reputation for being down with just about everything and everyone.

—LAURA KANG

According to **Jay-Z** (born Shawn Carter), rapping was as natural to him as breathing; he never even put his rhymes on paper. One of hip-hop's most successful and compelling M.C.'s, Jay-Z, 30, grew up in Bedford-Stuyvesant's Marcy Projects and went on to multi-platinum fame, leaving behind his life as a street hustler. He's sold more than 12 million records, seen two albums go to No. 1 in the same year, and received Soul Train and MTV Awards as well as a Grammy (although he consistently boycotts that award show because he feels it overlooks major hip-hop acts). Just out: his new album, *The Blueprint*, with its strong beats and samples from the Doors and Michael Jackson. For Jay-Z, who grew up listening to his mother's Brothers Johnson and Stevie Wonder records, meeting Wonder at our cover shoot was enough of a thrill to actually get him there on time. Says Jay, "Stevie walked into the room and everyone just stopped what they were doing."

—L.R.

**Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott** exploded onto the scene in 1997 with her landmark debut, *Supa Dupa Fly*, but she made it clear from the go that she was thinking long-term, persuading Elektra to fund her own label, the Gold Mind, Inc. Elliott is currently promoting her third album, *Miss E... So Addictive*, which peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard 200, while its first single, "Get



#### GUIDED BY VOICES

Above, Gwen Stefani (wearing an A-shirt by Hanes, vintage belt by Stussy, sneakers by Vans, and necklace by Paige Roberts at Fragments), Jay-Z (wearing a T-shirt and jeans by Rocawear and sneakers by Nike), Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott (wearing a custom suit by Mode Squad and jewelry by Diamond Quasar—Jacob the Jeweler), and Chris Cornell. Left, Emmylou Harris catches up with her pal Joni Mitchell.



Ur Freak On," spent 24 weeks on the Hot 100. She has also produced for Whitney Houston; written songs for Destiny's Child; worked with Aaliyah, Busta Rhymes, Janet Jackson, Jay-Z, P.Diddy, Eve, Mariah Carey, and Eminem; and licensed her own lipstick in a joint venture with Iman (profits go to Break the Cycle, a domestic-violence charity). "This shit ain't real!" she says. "I go from talking to Mariah to working with Whitney? Who's next?" Who knows?

—ASH CARTER

As lead singer and front man for Soundgarden, **Chris Cornell** brought grandeur back to hard rock. His emotional, sweeping vocal range—to say nothing of that fabulous face—made him *the* rock singer of the last decade, while his band transcended the Seattle grunge scene. Since Soundgarden quietly—but unofficially—broke up in 1997, Cornell, now 37, has released a passionate solo album (*Euphoria Morning*) and gone on tour, backed by his pals from the band Eleven. Recent jam sessions with Tom Morello, Tim Commerford, and Brad Wilk, from Rage Against the Machine, have apparently turned into a for-real project: Cornell will front the as yet unnamed new band. Early reports from a Los Angeles studio where the four have been working with producer Rick Rubin say the musicians sound as if they have come to save the world. With Cornell behind the microphone, we expect nothing less.

—L.R.

PHOTOGRAPH, BOTTOM, BY KATHRYN MACLEOD; FOR DETAILS, SEE CREDITS PAGE