
Record Previews



Joni Mitchell: Too Cerebral

JONI MITCHELL: "Hejira" (Asylum 7E-1087). A Boston paper recently ran a review of this album under the headline: "Joni Mitchell to Fans: Drop Dead." Fortunately, Mitchell isn't coming up for reelection to anything, for this album is as deliberately inaccessible and cold as any she's made — which is as cold and inaccessible as anyone. On the other hand, it recoups much of the ground lost with last year's "The Hissing of Summer Lawns," both musically and lyrically. The focus is the road — the title refers to Mohammed's flight from Mecca — but not only as a means for escape, it's for adventure, too. The singing is the most diverse she has done since "For the Roses," particularly on Side One, which has hints of standard pop melody. But in the end, this is a bit too cerebral for its own good.

on clarinet and finishes on soprano sax, playing with a great deal of lyricism and a feeling for the almost spectral nature of the piece. A soulful vocal by Syreeta on "My Funny Valentine" completes a very rewarding album.

John Devonshire
Asbury Park Press

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WINGS AGAIN: When it comes time to write the definitive history of pop music, 1976 will undoubtedly be remembered as "the year of the live album." Peter Frampton's double-record concert set, which is just a couple of weeks away from becoming the best selling rock album ever, has dominated the charts most of the year, and live albums by Led Zeppelin, Lynard Skynyrd and Earth, Wind and Fire also have been enormously successful.

Now there is **Paul McCartney and Wings' "Wings Over America,"** which may well be the best of the lot. Recorded during Wings'