

10 THE CHILLIWACK PROGRESS, Sunday, April 23, 2000

THE PROGRESS

REVIEW

MUSIC

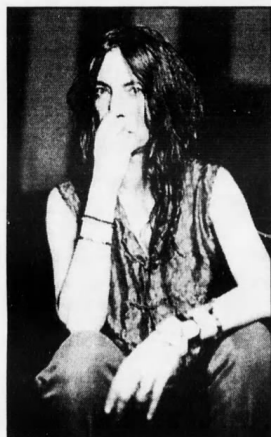
Both sides wow

Veterans Joni Mitchell and Patti Smith couldn't be more different or the same

Patti Smith
Gung Ho
Arista

They began as completely different animals, and that is where they remain 25 years later.

Patti Smith, the original punk poet and our own poetic flower child Joni Mitchell have survived more than three decades of hammer and nail. The business has not always been kind to them but their music has certainly been sweet; so sweet to all of us smart enough to recognize the legend in the ladies.



Smith, like her contemporary New York punksters Lou Reed and Iggy Pop remains a vibrant and constant source of inspiration. The 53-year-old mother of angst rock is at her tormented best here on *Gung Ho*, Smith's first record since out-putting the outstanding duo of *Gone Again* (1996) and *Peace and Noise* (1997.)

Never one to shy away from big themes, Smith again dives head on into the struggle of love, hate, war and surrender.

Considering the immense pain that came through in her classic *Gone Again*, *Gung Ho* is a sunny departure from the drab, glam queen persona built up over the years.

Smith, joined by friends Lenny Kaye and Oliver Ray, backed by bassist Tony Shanahan and drummer Jay Dee Daugherty, is perhaps at her vocal best here. "I've rarely sounded better," she said recently.

On the track "Lo and Beholden," Smith rips into a shrill, edgy turn of phrase with a voice as recognizable as Dylan, Lennon, or Reed.

Lyrically, Smith is on top again. Taking charge with "We will be heard," in "Strange Messengers," and the dark, questioning, "Who remained awake,?" in the stunning 11-minute title track.

Rick Collins, Staff Writer



Joni Mitchell
Both Sides Now
Reprise

Although Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now* is a reminiscent look back, it has all the earmarks of a twenty-first century record.

Mitchell, Canada's quintessential pop poet, songwriter, folkie and painter revisits her favourite songs here adding a jazz twist and the fresh look of a painter's eye.

That's not to say Mitchell after 40 years in the art world is getting stale and looking to regurgitate fame. If you know anything about our Joni, fame is furthest from her mind.

In a recent CBC interview the 56-year-old icon tells of "begging her record company to remove her from their artist list. I'm a painter," she insists.

But on *Both Sides Now* Mitchell has created one of her most intelligent efforts. The songs are fresh and new in their jazz clothing; comfortable as standards recreated for a time and place outside of their original era.

Mitchell takes us back for a brief peek, but as quickly as clouds change from horses to wind-filled tall ships on a blustery day, we are moved to the future. And the future sounds wonderful with Joni around.

Rick Collins, Staff Writer

George Strait

He's chosen tracks with themes rang-

With "King of the Mountain" listeners