

JONI MITCHELL: "Mingus." Asylum 5E-505.

Joni Mitchell, Young's fellow Canadian, has always been a jazz singer. She just never realized it until now.

"Mingus" is the long-awaited result of the odd collaboration between flighty Mitchell and immortal bassist Charles Mingus, who died earlier this year at age 56.

Mitchell's old fans might hate it. Jazz purists might hate it. But those of us somewhere in the middle will find it a pleasant record and proper vehicle for Mitchell's haunting, animated voice.

Joni plays her best guitar on record, spurred by premier jazz backers like bassist Jaco Pastorius, sax man Wayne Shorter and pianist Herbie Hancock.

Mitchell's prose and paintings (the jacket features four) also shine. Who else could add lyrics to Mingus' classic "Goodbye Pork Pie Hat" and not only get away with it, but enhance the tune? Three stars.

TONIO K.: "Life in the Foodchain." Epic JE-35545.

All right, I reviewed Neil and Joni. Let's let Tonio K. try Jackson.

"Yes I wish I was as mellow/As for instance Jackson Browne/But 'Fountain of Sorrow'/I hope you wind up in the ground."

He doesn't really have anything against Browne, Tonio (Steve Krikorian) has explained. But like those folks who live near Three Mile Island or get stuck in gas lines, he's just so ANGRY...

If you are, too, this tasty collection of hard-rock tunes about life and love gone sour might just be better than kicking the cat or punching the paperboy. Three stars.

—by **RICK BONINO**