

Joni's Work Marked by Simplicity

Hejira: Joni Mitchell (Asylum 7E-1087)

Produced with a rich, rare simplicity, Joni Mitchell's new offering is a mesmerizing, magical effort.

Produced with such utter simplicity that its richness is almost impossible, the album presents nine new story songs from Joni, each a jewel of perfection and emotion telling of one of her experiences — sharing her mind with us.

There are usually only two other players per song — just a bassist and another instrumentalist. The most complicated tune in the album has only five players (including her), and yet the encompassing warmth and fullness of the music is so great you feel there are many more performers.

Thirty-Three & 1/3: George Harrison (Dark Horse DH 3005)

You will probably approach this album with a great deal of skepticism, and rightly so, but will likely come away pleasantly surprised.

It is one of George Harrison's best

Record Scene

efforts, in spite of the circumstances under which it was produced. It is the last record Harrison will produce under the auspices of A&M records in America for Dark Horse and A&M are now doing legal battle.

He has some excellent musicians — Willie Weeks, Gary Wright, Richard Tee, Billy Preston, Tom Scott, David Foster and others — providing the music.

All the songs but one — Cole Porter's '50s ballad "True Love" — are

new pieces from Harrison, and you'll find he has come out of his mystic mold and more into the pop mainstream.

Sudan Village: Seals and Crofts (Warner Bros. BS 2976)

Seals and Crofts' level of performing proficiency is so great that they can give us an album of new music — recorded live in concert.

This is all new music, and it is executed with a perfection which only groups the stature of Seals and Crofts have the dedication to achieve.

It is all typical Seals and Crofts' music, right out of that well-established mold of their extensive repertoire. The only difference here is singer Carolyn Willis, blessed with an extraordinary voice, who provides vocals on three tunes.

The album is beautiful and meaningful, recorded with a rare clarity. It instantly hits you with its

force, and mells you right into its frame of mind.

Waves of Dreams: Sonny Fortune (A&M711)

Following his acclaimed debut album, "Awakening," saxman Sonny Fortune returns with an equally hot and smooth second.

He is, through his intensity and clarity, one of the rising sax stars of jazz. He is also, through the excellent music he has provided for his last album and this, one of the rising stars of jazz composing.

He wrote four of the five lengthy pieces here, with the fifth coming from pianist Michael Cochrane, who provides keyboards on every track.

The music ranges from fairly traditional bop-tinged jazz to spacey progressive pieces, with Fortune's superb sax work making each piece something special.

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