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Up 'til Now/Janis Ian. It's true...up 'til now there has not been a "best of" album of Janis' work available in the United States. This compilation of her work through 1992 is now available as an import from Holland. Includes her best-known songs, "At Seventeen" and "Jesse" as well as 15 other gems. Spasm 31109.

No Mermaid/Sinead Lohan. Okay, no one knows her name now, or they think that maybe it sounds familiar. Chances are good that folks will know this young Celtic songwriter someday soon. Bring this album into your store, get an in-store play copy and be known as the store who introduced people to this woman's work. Fans of Mary Black will love Sinead! And why would her name sound familiar? She wrote two songs on Joan Baez' most recent release, *Gone From Danger*, including "No Mermaid." Interscope 90199.

Shum Ticky/Laura Love. Our favorite Afro-Celt performer, who plays bass like nobody else, is back with her second release on Mercury Records. For those of us who have watched Laura rise from a three-song set in an AWMAC sampler performance to

a showcase slot at the National Women's Music Festival to a nightstage slot the following year, it's a pleasure to see her music being introduced to a wider audience through this album. She'll be appearing on both the "Conan O'Brien Show" and PBS' acclaimed "Sessions at West 54th" this fall in support of this album. Mercury 558866.

Salva Nos (Save Us)/Mediaeval Baebes. Okay, maybe they don't quite fit the profile of your typical chant performers. They aren't nuns or monks — think of them instead as hard-core Anglo-Saxon acid-mead mistresses of the Middle Ages music scene. The twelve-strong troupe includes one ex-stripper, a number of exotic dancers, a systems analyst and former members of the infamous riot grrrl/punk band Miranda Sex Garden. Released last November in the U.K., the album has already sold over 80,000 copies and chances are good that the group will take the U.S. by storm as well. Perhaps this group is exactly what Hildegard von Bingen had in mind when she decided to leave her mark on early music. Virgin 46229.

Bathroom Betty/Bette Midler. This album, Bette's Warner Brothers debut, is an album of sweeping ballads and sassy pop — just what one would expect from the Divine Miss M! She takes on a diverse range of material including the longtime live favorite "Ukulele Lady," the jazzy "I'm Hip," Ben Folds Five's "Boxing" and Leonard Cohen's "Song of Bernadette." The album's first single, which is likely to become a blockbuster hit, is the epic "My One True Friend," written by Carole King, Carole Bayer Sager, and David Foster. Expect lots of TV appearances and press in support of this release. Warner Brothers 47078.



Taming the Tiger/Joni Mitchell. Four years is a long time to wait for a follow-up album to *Turbulent Indigo* but sometimes waiting is the only option, and the result is amazing. This release is a masterful new collection of songs from a legendary figure who remains one of the most compelling, complex and original performers in popular music today. "Lead Balloon" will be the lead single to AAA radio and Joni will be staging her first tour in many years this fall, along with numerous television appearances and magazine features. Reprise 46451.