pop picks

MILES OF AISLES - Joni Mitchell - Asylum AB

With the able assistance of Tom Scott and the LA Express, Joni Mitchell takes you on a worldwind cross country tour via this new live two record set that features the talented artist applying her vocal, guitar and piano talents to the songs she wrote that elevate her to the plateau of genius once thought to be the domain of Bob Dylan exclusively. Included in this set are such hits as "You Turn Me On I'm A Radio," "Big Yellow Taxi," "Circle Game," "Woodstock," "Both Sides Now" and "The Last Time I Saw Richard."

BREAKAWAY - Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge - Monument PZ 33278 - Producer: Fred Foster

The great coupling of two truly talented and creative performers is always exciting, especially when they're husband and wife and know each other's styles intimately. This dynamic new LP presents a new look at love and life through the eyes of such selections as "Lover Please," "We Must Have Been Out Of Our Minds," "Slow Down," "Dakota (The Dancing Bear)" and "The Things I Might Have Been." A thoroughly enjoyable and incisive LP that will undoubtedly rethe top of the charts.

NEW AND IMPROVED - Spinners - Producer: Thom Bell - Atlantic SD 18118

The magnificent soul quintet which year after year dominates r&b and pop polls alike has itself another LP to be extremely proud of. The impeccable harmonies and individual vocal brilliance which have consistently been the trademarks of the group are here in abundance on such tracks as "Sitting On Top Of The World," "Lazy Susan," "Living A Little, Laughing A Little" and the group's recent number one smash single with Dionne Warwicke, "Then Came You."

HISTORY OF BRITISH ROCK VOL. 2 — Various Artists — Producer: Seymour Stein — Sire SASH-3705-2

One of the finest packages ever conceived (our hats off to Seymour Stein), this follow up to Vol. 1 is another blockbuster package containing two records that put the history of British rock at your fingertips, from the early 'Invasion' days of the Troggs and Beatles to the sound of Thunderclap Newman, Badfinger and Arthur Brown. Included on this set are Rod Stewart's "Little Miss Understood," Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and the Bee Gees "Massachusetts." Another superlative collector's item.

BLACK BACH - Lamont Dozier - ABC ABCD-839 - Producer: McKinley Jackson

Lamont Dozier, long regarded as one of the premiere r&b writers in the history of the genre has firmly established himself as an artist to reckon with and his hits "Trying To Hold On To My Woman" and "Fish Ain't Bitin'" proved without doubt that he's as capable a singer as he is a writer. This LP features a new collection of Dozier genius reflected in such cuts as "Shine," "Prelude," "Thank You For The Dream," "Intermission" and "Blue Sky And Silver Bird." A fine effort.

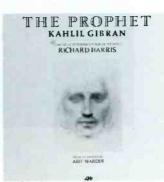
SOUL & INSPIRATION — The 5th Dimension — Bell 1315 — Production Co-ordination: Pamela Vale

Including the dynamite song, "Hard Core Poetry," the new 5th Dimension LP is another journey to the center of your musical consciousness and it alternately jumps and croons according to the type of mood the super quintet wants to create. Other exciting tracks from this fine package include "Somebody Warm Like Me," "No Love In The Room," "Harlem" and the stunning title cut. The impeccable harmonies and tight arrangements that have been the cornerstones of the group's success are here in abundance.





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JOY TO THE WORLD — Three Dog Night — ABC DSD-50178

A truly impressive statement from one of America's most popular and famous rock groups, this LP lives up to the name greatest hits in every way. Keyed by the three million seller, "Joy To The World," the record also boasts "The Show Must Go On," "Sure As I'm Sitting Here," "Old Fashioned Love Song," "Shambala," "Never Been To Spain," "Liar" and "Black & White." Perfect timing for the festive holiday season, this album will go gold overnight and platinum by Christmas. Joy to the world.

WITH EVERYTHING I FEEL IN ME — Aretha Franklin — Atlantic SD 18116 — Producers: Jerry Wexler, Arif Mardin, Aretha Franklin

Lady Soul returns just in time for the holiday season with an LP that will have old St. Nick boogiein' and crooning soulfully once he puts it in his bag of toys. Aretha has never been more forceful, either as a pure singer or lyric interpreter, and her delivery of such songs as "Without Love," "You Move Me" and "When You Get Right Down To It" is incredible. Her range is blended beautifully within the well thought out arrangements which give her the room she needs to do her thing. Out of sight!

THE PROPHET KAHLIL GIBRAN — Musical Interpretation Featuring Richard Harris; Music composed by Arif Mardin — Producers: Jerry Weyler Ed Mathews — Atlantic SD 18120

Wexler, Ed Mathews — Atlantic SD 18120

A monumental undertaking that's been over eight years in the works, this rendering of some of the works of philosopher prophet Kahlil Gibran by Richard Harris with Arif Mardin arranging and conducting the musical accompaniment is truly one of the most exciting packages ever conceived. The essence of Gibran's wisdom was uncluttered simplicity and this trademark is captured adroitly by the artists and producers in a tour de force unparalleld heretofore. A magnificent effort well worth hearing.

TOTAL ECLIPSE — Billy Cobham — Producers: Ken Scott, Billy Cobham — Atlantic SD 18121 The renowned Mr. Cobham has made the

The renowned Mr. Cobham has made the transition from highly rated sideman to superstar very gracefully and his latest Atlantic underscores the fluidity with which he both plays and directs his players. Cobham's songs range from the frenzied energy of a typhoon to the sultry sweetness of a quiet beach at sunset and his total command of the arrangements and dynamics of each piece work to his advantage quite well. Particularly exciting are "Moon Germs," "Solarization" and "Last Frontier."

ENCORE - Argent - Producers: Rod Argent, Chris White - Epic PEG 33079

The devastating live performance of one of rock's premiere groups is captured beautifully on this exciting new two record live set that features such dynamic selections as "God Gave Rock 'n' Roll To You," "The Coming Of Kohoutek," "Hold Your Head Up," "Keep On Rollin'" and the fabulous "Time Of The Season." The group is impressive throughout with skillful arrangements complementing the fine song selection and terrific individual performances by each member of

HIGHLY PRIZED POSSESSION — Anne Murray — Capitol ST-11354 — Producer: Brian Ahearn

The lovely Canadian songstress who has won so much acclaim in such a short time is back with another great collection of tunes which feature her singing at the top of her form — which is beautiful. Particularly effective in interpreting lyrics Anne is excellent on "Dream Lover," "Lift Your Hearts To The Sun," "When We Both Had The Time To Love" and "Please Don't Sell Nova Scotia." Her rendition of the title track is a classic and Vini Poncia's adroit production lets her shine through brightly.