

swerve

CALGARY INSIDE & OUT

fun listings +

02.02.07

riffing joni

“ I was in a café smoking,
somewhere, and a girl
came up to me and said,
'I'm a manic depressive.
I love your music, but I hate
pictures of you. Every time
I see you, you're smiling
and it makes me mad!' ”

—joni mitchell, 1997

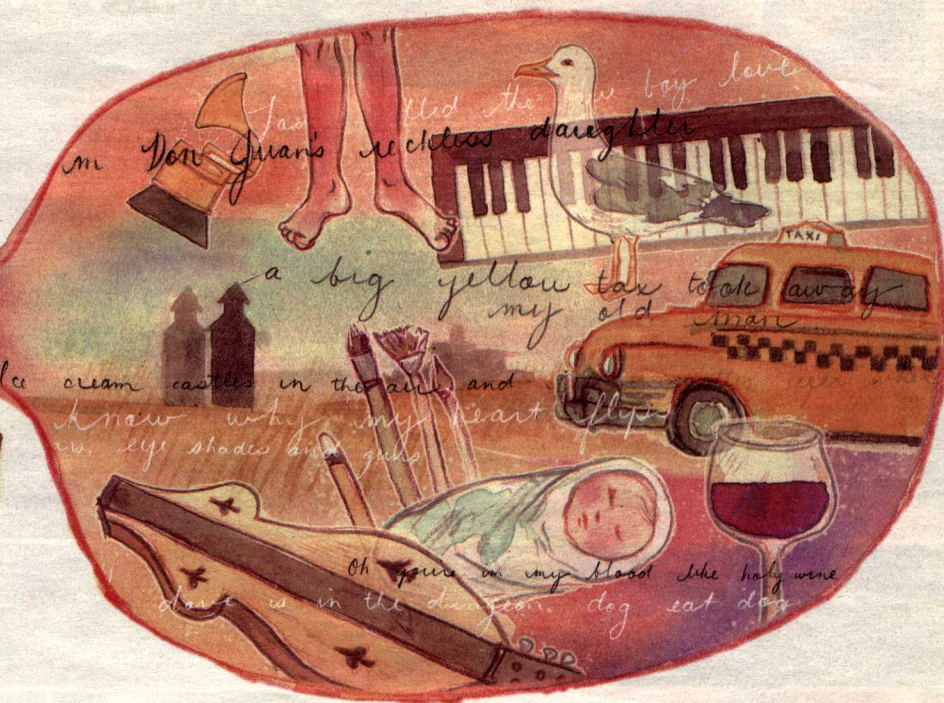
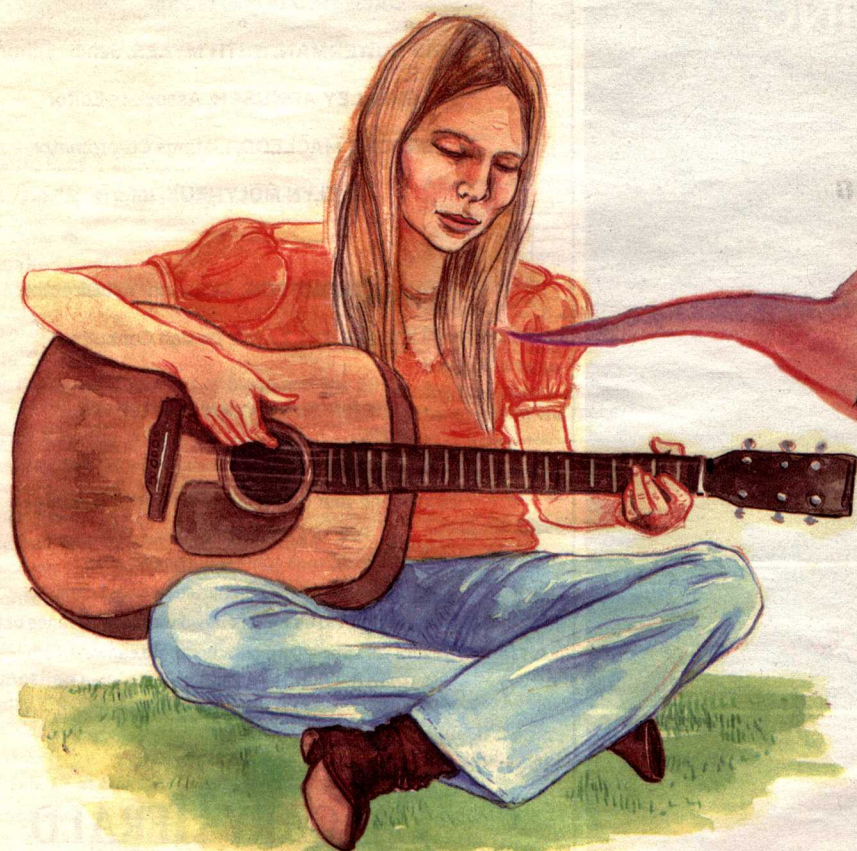
Exclusively in the
calgary herald

JONI MITCHELL'S ARTISTIC HOMECOMING : Her New Ballet + Her Quirks + Her Musical Babies + Her Roots

swerve

02-02-07

"The fragile scarecrow image of her that comes through on TV in no way prepares one for the mature, sexy realities of Miss Mitchell in the flesh"



ON THE COVER

22 ...JONI RIFFS

Joni Mitchell is here, there and everywhere right now—which makes this the perfect time to submerge ourselves in our prairie muse.

BY SHELLEY YOUNGBLUT, SHELLEY ARNUSCH AND JACQUIE MOORE

COVER BY JACK ROBINSON/HULTON ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES (TAKEN NOV. 28, 1968 FOR VOGUE)

TABLE OF CONTENTS ILLUSTRATED BY JULIE MCLAUGHLIN

DEPARTMENTS

30 SWERVE DRINKS: LET THEM EAT SMOKE

Calgary is a city on the crest of cosmopolitan—if its bylaws could just make a little room for old-world customs. BY CHRIS KOENTGES

34 SWERVE SHOPS: WE HEART MANDATORY PRESENTS

35 THE GO-TO GAL: IF THE BABY-DOLL NIGHTIE FITS

36 HERESAY: THE VEXING CASE OF THE MISSING SUNGLASSES

37 SWERVE CONTESTS/DEAR SWERVE

IN EVERY ISSUE

7 GOING OUT: Keep your silver. For Dancers' Studio West, celebrating its 25th annual blast of new choreography, they'll accept hip-hop, flamenco, funk, tap, ballet and belly dancing. Plus Famous Puppet Death Scenes lives, ATP's playRites festival psycho-analyzes and Silent Movie Mondays brings da noise.

16 STAYING IN: Oh, my achin' DVR: how to navigate the TV minefield that is Thursday night; finding fashionable sites on the Internet; and the profane, profound stylings of punk klezmer man Geoff Berner.

38 OUR TOWN: 40 BELOW 0 (1995), THE PRAIRIES

CALGARY HERALD
AND DEERFOOT MEADOWS PRESENTS

JONI MITCHELL

Paints a Ballet for the 21st Century

DANCING JONI

& OTHER WORKS

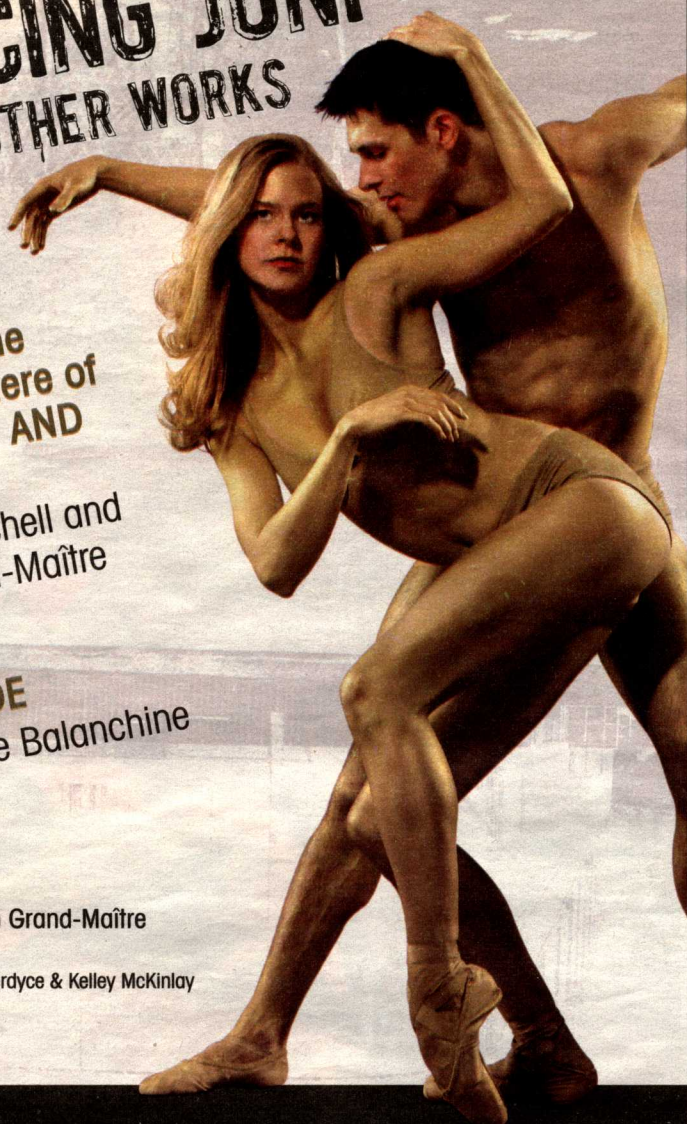
413
ALBERTA BALLET
CANADA
FIRST 40 YEARS

Don't miss the
World Premiere of
**THE FIDDLE AND
THE DRUM**
by Joni Mitchell and
Jean Grand-Maitre

PLUS
SERENADE
by George Balanchine

Artistic Director Jean Grand-Maitre

Company Artists Leigh Allardyce & Kelley McKinlay
Photography by Trudie Lee



Get your tickets **now** before we sell out!
Performing at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium,
February 8 – 10, 2007
Ticketmaster: **403.299.8888** or **ticketmaster.ca**
For info: **www.albertaballet.com**

**DEERFOOT
MEADOWS**
CO-PRESENTING SPONSOR

Bayview
CO-PRESENTING SPONSOR

ENBRIDGE
40TH ANNIVERSARY SUBSCRIPTION SPONSOR

swerve
PRODUCTION SPONSOR

nexen
40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON SPONSOR



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des Arts
du Canada



fever
www.fevercan.com



AA597922

swerve

going out **february 02-08**

sun feb. 4

Stephen Fearing

At The Club, Banff Centre
Theatre Complex. 8 p.m.
\$15 - \$17. 1-800-413-8368.

upcoming

Iain Campbell Smith

Friday, Feb. 9. Calgary Folk Club
at Dalhousie Community Centre,
5432 Dalhart Rd. N.W. \$20 at UC,
286-5651. calgaryfolkclub.com.

David Francey

Sat., Feb. 10. With Lindsay Ell.
NMC.

Lunch At Allen's

Saturday, Feb. 10, presented
by Bow Valley Music Club
(BVMC), \$20. Sunday, Feb. 11
at Margaret Greenham Theatre,
Banff Centre. 8 p.m. \$24 - \$26.
1-800-413-8368.

Barry Luft

Sunday, Feb. 11. With Collage.
At Banff Trail Hall, 2115 20th Ave.
N.W. Two shows: 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
\$12 at the door. 287-9969.

Emmylou Harris

Sunday, Feb. 11. With Carolina
Star. At Jubilee Auditorium.
8 p.m. \$63.60. TM.

Tim O'Brien

Sun., Feb. 11 at the Irish Cultural
Centre, 6452 35th Ave. N.W.
7 p.m. \$20. 220-7202.

Rascal Flatts

Thursday, Feb. 22. With
Jason Aldean. At Pengrowth
Saddledome. \$79.50. TM.

The Ruthie Foster Trio

Thursday, Feb. 22 at Knox United
Church, 506 4th Ave. S.W. 8 p.m.
\$25 at www.keystonemusic.ca.

**Mae Moore and
Lester Quitau**

Friday Feb. 23. With Andrew
Bartley at Southwood United
Church, 10690 Elbow Dr. S.W.
8 p.m. \$20 at www.fishcreekconcerts.com.

The Dry Branch Fire Squad

Friday, Feb. 23 and Saturday, Feb.
24. Friday Feb. 23: Calgary Folk
Club at Dalhousie Community
Centre, 5432 Dalhart Rd. N.W.
\$20 at UC, 286-5651. Saturday,
Feb. 24: Chinook Musical Society
at Braeside Community Centre,
11024 Braeside Dr. S.W. 271-3719.

Willie and Lobo

Friday, March 2 at Southwood
United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr.
S.W. 8 p.m. \$25 at www.fishcreekconcerts.com.

Buckwheat Zydeco

Sunday, March 4. BD&P World
Music Series at Jack Singer,

Epcor Centre. Pre-concert
Big Squeeze Jam with the
Accordian Association of Calgary.
\$26.88 - \$31.88. TM.

blues, jazz + big band

fri feb. 2

Joe Arroyo

Salsa performer with 17-piece
band. At Bowness Sportsplex,
7904 43rd Ave. N.W. 8 p.m.
\$53 - \$63.60. TM.

upcoming

Mr. Janis Steprans

Friday, Feb. 9 and Sat., Feb. 10.
Presented by Jazz Is Society
at Cantos Music Foundation,
134 11th Ave. S.E. With the
Resident Artists Ensemble.
8:30 p.m. \$20 - \$25 at UC,
Classics Plus (1134 8th Ave. S.W.)
and the door. 543-5115.

The Oath Big Band

Saturday, Feb. 10. Valentines
dinner and dance at Calgary
Petroleum Club, 319 5th Ave. S.W.
7 p.m. \$125 per couple, advance
tickets only. 254-0435.

Ndidi Onukwulu

Thursday, Feb. 15. Carma Acoustic
Blues Series at Engineered Air
Theatre, Epcor Centre. 8 p.m.
\$21.66 - \$25.86. TM.

Jazz and Mambo Gala

Friday, Feb. 16. With performance
by iBombal. Presented by the
Calgary Salsa Society at
MacEwan Ballroom, U of C.
9 p.m. \$39 at www.ticketweb.ca
and 510-8300.

Jane Bunnett

Saturday, Feb. 17. At Bragg
Creek Performing Arts Centre,
23 White Ave., Bragg Creek.

8 p.m. \$10 - \$20, available in
advance at 949-3881 and the
venue (949-4277).

Johnny Winter

Sat., Feb. 17. With David Gogo at
Bowness Community Hall. \$42
at www.keystonemusic.ca.

**Colin James & The Little
Big Band**

Friday, Feb. 23 at Jubilee
Auditorium. \$32.50 - \$42.50. TM.

B.B. King

Friday, May 4. At Jubilee
Auditorium. 8 p.m. \$70 - \$95
at TM.

**classical, choral
+ opera**

fri feb. 2

**Happening 07: University of
Calgary New Music Festival**

Last day of the festival. Three
events: New Music at Noon, free;
Ting: Surround Sound Art, octo-
phonic composition based on the
sculptures of Jean Tinguely,
7 p.m., free; Land's End Chamber
Ensemble, 8 p.m., \$13 - \$20. At
Rozsa Centre, U of C. 220-5089.
www.ffa.ucalgary.ca.

Concert Night Out

Weekly event at the Banff Centre.
At Rolston Recital Hall. 7:30 p.m.
\$15 - \$20, kids \$10, Concert
Lovers Cardholders, free.
1-800-413-8368.

Frobisher

Closing performance of new origi-
nal English language opera by
John Estacio and John Murrell
(Filumena). Presented by Calgary
Opera at the Jubilee Auditorium.
\$15 - \$125. TM.

LEGEND

TM TicketMaster, 777-0000, www.ticketmaster.ca (extra
charges may apply) **MG** Megatunes, 932 17th Ave. S.W.,
229-3022 **UC** University of Calgary ticket centre, 220-7202
SL Sloth Records, 1508 4th St. S.W., 265-6585 **G45** Giant 45,
1403 11th St. S.W., 244-5845 **JACK SINGER** Concert Hall is
at Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts, 205 8th Ave. S.E.
Box office, 299-8888; info line, 294-7444. www.epcorcentre.org
NMC Nickelodeon Music Club; all shows at Crescent Heights
Community Hall, 1101 2nd St. N.W. www.thenick.ca **BVMC** Bow
Valley Music Club; all shows at Strathcona Community Centre,
277 Strathcona Dr. S.W., concert hotline, 287-2299, [www.bow-
valleymusicclub.org](http://www.bow-
valleymusicclub.org) **MRB** McNally Robinson Booksellers,
120 Stephen Ave. S.W. 538-1797 **Pages** Pages Books on
Kensington, 1135 Kensington Rd. N.W. 283-6655

All events and release dates subject to change



40 BELOW 0 (1995), THE PRAIRIES

PAINTED BY JONI MITCHELL

They say it's impossible to separate the art from the artist, but humour us for a moment. Let's pretend that Joni Mitchell, the painter, is just that. A painter. A SAIT art student who spent her college years (okay, year—she attended in 1964 then dropped out) hanging out in an art studio rather than at open-mic night at The Depression pub (formerly located on 1st Street S.E.). Say that, instead of spending \$32, as legend has it, on a ukulele back in 1960, she bought herself a new set of paints. Imagine her career as a visual artist hadn't been, as she's famously said, "derailed by circumstance" (i.e., the world falling in love with Joni Mitchell the musician).

You can't help but wonder if Joni—had she channelled all her creative energy onto the canvas rather than sharing it with music—could have made it rockstar-big as a visual artist (in fact, scant few, if any, contemporary Canadian painters are household names, but never mind that). Would people flock to her art exhibits and speculate about when her next painting might come out? Would young artists revere her, and established artists clamour to collaborate with her? Could *Forty Below 0* have been her "Big Yellow Taxi"?

We asked Yves Trepanier, co-owner of TrepanierBaer Gallery, to

give us an unbiased critique of Joni's artwork. Does he think this painting, divorced from its famous creator, can stand on its own?

"I think it's a perfectly reasonable painting," he answered. "It's not cutting-edge, but it has connections to the great landscape tradition of Canadian art, to the Group of Seven. This could be a Carmichael or an A.Y. Jackson. It captures the isolationist feeling of a prairie winter. There's nice mottling in the snow, the sky has a nice sense of light, typical of a midwinter prairie sky. She's definitely captured something here." The painting, Trepanier decreed, "absolutely has artistic merit" that transcends its celebrity painter.

So there you go: Had her career as an artist not been derailed by her pesky musical talent, Joni could just as easily have become the reigning Queen of Oil Paint rather than the Queen of Folk. Remember, you heard it here first from a completely non-partisan, entirely dispassionate art critic. (Oh, and Trepanier would just like to add that his all-time favourite Joni Mitchell album is *Blue*.) **S**

(TrepanierBaer is currently exhibiting Coloured Pictures by Ron Moppett, who, incidentally, attended SAIT with Joni. See Listings, Page 12.)