

LYRICS TAKE NEW DIMENSION

Fifth Joni Mitchell Album Is Headed 'For the Roses'

Well, it's the same good thing again from **Joni Mitchell** — an album of beautiful, sensitive, enlightened and enlightening songs from one of the most consistently excellent singer-composers in popular music.

In her fifth album, "**For the Roses**" — her first for Asylum Records — Miss Mitchell includes 12 songs covering a broad spectrum of human conditions and life styles, and each one has something to say about human values.

Miss Mitchell departs from past style with an increased use of metaphor or symbolism in her tunes. The change could be frustrating for listeners unable to fathom her sub-surface meanings, but for those who admire artistic word usage it should add another dimension to her excellent arrangements and distinctive vocals.

The album opens with "**Banquet**," a song which superficially is about a seaside picnic, but which ultimately is an indictment of a land which can meet the needs of all its people yet doesn't.

DOCUMENTARY ON JIMI HENDRIX LIFE, MUSIC DUE

The currently released film "Rainbow Bridge" will not be the last chance Jimi Hendrix fans will have to see the late recording star on film. A full-length feature

Miss Mitchell writes:
*Some get the gravy
And some get the gristle
Some get the marrow bone
And some get nothing
Though there's plenty
to spare*

Probably the best track on the album is "**Cold Blue Steel and Sweet Fire**," an antidrug song which utilizes personification of the pusher's gun (Cold Blue Steel), heroin (Sweet Fire) and death (Lady Release).

The song follows the pusher through craving, robbery, fix, euphoric rush and finally death:

*Cold Blue Steel and
Sweet Fire
Fall into Lady Release
"Come with me, I know
the way," she says
"It's down, down, down
the dark ladder . . .
You're going to come, or
you're going to come
later."*

The title song, "For the Roses," traces the rise, stardom and inevitable fall of a pop singer. It is a story that eventually fits almost every singer, and Miss Mitchell has admitted in concert that it is an end she fears:

*Just when you're getting
a taste for worship
They start bringing out
the hammers
And the boards and
the nails.*

It is not, however, an end likely to befall this album, which, from its nine other songs to its original artwork by Miss Mitchell, is first rate. It is definitely of No. 1 quality.

The album is very melodic with emphasis put on lyrics (all written by Kaz),
—MICHAEL COATES

with the background vocals provided by **Cissy Houston** and friends adding a gospel-like affect to Kaz's smooth melodies.

Besides the title song, the theme of loneliness runs all through the album particularly on "**Tonight the Sky's About to Cry**," "**Cruel Wind**," "**Temptation**" and "**Cry Like a Rainstorm**."

In the latter, tune this theme is very evident in the opening verse.

*Life isn't easy, love
never lasts
You just carry on and
keep moving fast.
I turned off the highway
and pulled into town
I'm fancy free babe,
and I travel round
Sometimes I'm up and
sometimes down*

Kaz joins the long list of songwriters who have decided that instead of writing for other people, they'll write for themselves.

And despite the fact that many of these songwriters don't set the world afire with their singing (Burt Bacharach often skips the high notes on his tunes), an extra dimension is added to a tune when the writer performs it, since only he knows what he was trying to express in the song.

If you're lonely (and even if you're not), spend a little time with Eric Justin Kaz.

"Glen Travis Campbell" is the new offering from **Glen Campbell** and though while the tunes are generally pleasant, there is no new style approach to Campbell's music to make it anything more than pleasant.

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