

NEW TUNES

Joni Mitchell — *Night Ride Home*



Very few artists can produce creatively exciting work during their entire career, and Joni Mitchell is not one of them. Her heyday was in the '70s, when Mitchell created a handful of classic albums like *Blue* and *Court and Spark*. This new release has received an inordinate amount of attention because it embraces the folky style Mitchell is best remembered for. Her studio savvy is certainly up-to-date: The sound is shimmering and glossy, like the Daniel Lanois-produced albums for U2, Dylan and the Neville Brothers. Mitchell waxes nostalgic about old friends and old times, and certain lines do have verve. But nothing here is new or engaging. After four or five listens, most of the tunes are still as

difficult to recall as the old memories Mitchell uses for inspiration.

Michael Giltz

Brazil Classics 3 — *Forro, etc.*

World music compilations are easy enough to throw together, and anyone who has taken a chance at the record store knows how frequently you get burned. Paul Simon's *Graceland* sparked a deluge of African compilations, most of which didn't really capture the range of exciting music available. Now David Byrne is hoping to create new interest in the artists of Brazil. He's overseen four compilations of Brazilian music, all of which are notable for excellent liner notes, astute selection of tracks and ter-

rific sound quality. Volume 3 is as good a place to start as any, because the accordion-driven music known as forro is particularly infectious. Most songs are about romance and surge along at a galloping pace. The enclosed translations will tell you what the artists are singing about, but anyone with ears will know that the overriding concern is to keep everyone dancing.

Michael Giltz