

**FOLK ICON JOAN BAEZ CELEBRATED WITH FOUR-CD BOX SET
THE COMPLETE A&M RECORDINGS, INCLUDING THE ALBUMS
DIAMONDS & RUST AND DOUBLE LIVE FROM EVERY STAGE**

"All of us alive are survivors, but how many of us transcend survival?" --Joan Baez (And A Voice To Sing With, 1987)

Joan Baez has been an icon for folksingers, protest singers and social activists like no other figure save her occasional compatriot Bob Dylan. The four-CD box set **The Complete A&M Recordings (1972-1976)** (A&M/UME), released August 19, 2003, brings together for the first time those years of war and peace, roots and reflection, as heard through her music.

With 80 digitally remastered selections--every track from her six A&M albums plus a trio of non-album singles ("Dylan's "Forever Young" plus two CD debuts, "Where's My Apple Pie" and "Johnny I Hardly Knew Yeh")--**The Complete A&M Recordings** spans some of her most controversial songs, a breakthrough Spanish album, and a live album embracing her entire career. The package also features the original liner notes for each album and an essay based on interviews with Baez and others by Grammy-nominated historian Arthur Levy.

After 12 years on Vanguard (since she was 18), she moved to A&M for 1972's confrontational Come From The Shadows. From a labor union hymn and "Song Of Bangladesh" to an indictment of the prison system and her cover of John Lennon's "Imagine," the album remains a document of musical protest. So too is 1973's Where Are You Now My Son? with its 26-minute title opus with sounds from her tapes of life in Hanoi during her visit there.

Anticipating a trend by many years, her next album was in Spanish. 1974's Gracias A La Vida (Here's To Life) included a Pablo Neruda poem; a song banned from the public for four

decades in Spain and deleted from copies of the LP sold there; "Dida," with guest vocal by Joni Mitchell, and "Guantanamera."

With the Vietnam War winding down, she next recorded a nonpolitical album: Diamonds & Rust proved to be her most successful at A&M, reaching #11 in 1975, going gold and launching the Top 40 title song that became her signature. The tour that followed resulted in another Top 40 hit, 1976's From Every Stage, her first full album of live material in 12 years. Half acoustic and half with a band, the set included songs associated with Baez but recorded by her for the first time, such as the spirituals "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Amazing Grace," and Dylan's "Blowin' In The Wind" (later heard in Forrest Gump). Other songs recalled earlier years, from "Stewball" and "Blessed Are" to "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down." In 1976, the gentle Gulf Winds, her first album comprised entirely of her own songs, was her last for A&M.

Today, more than three decades after the earliest tracks on this box set, Joan Baez continues to transcend survival.

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