

**FROM “THE NIGHT THEY DROVE OLD DIXIE DOWN” TO “DIAMONDS & RUST,”
NEW COMPILATION COLLECTS THE BEST OF JOAN BAEZ**

If Bob Dylan is the king of modern folk, then Joan Baez is surely the queen, with her sweeping soprano making her one of the most recognizable voices in music. But for the greatest artists, their songs resonate far beyond the music itself. Of no one is that truer than Baez. Since her first album 40 years ago, she has chronicled and perhaps helped mold the political and social changes that have swept across not only the U.S. but the world.

On The Best Of Joan Baez edition of 20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection (A&M/UMG), released October 19, 1999, 11 of her most popular and significant songs have been digitally remastered using the latest 24-bit/96k technology and brought together on one album.

Spanning her A&M career from 1972-1976, The Best Of Joan Baez features the two most cherished songs for Baez fans--a live version of her 1971 #3 hit “The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down” (written by Robbie Robertson and originally recorded by the Band) and her acoustic 1975 Top 40 tribute to Dylan, “Diamonds & Rust.” Also included is her cover of Dylan’s classic “Forever Young” as well as covers of songs by Jackson Browne (“Fountain Of Sorrow”), John Prine (“Hello In There”), Janis Ian (“Jesse”) and her sister Mimi Farina (“In The Quiet Morning,” an homage to Janis Joplin).

Another highlight is “Dida,” a breezy acoustic duet with its author, Joni Mitchell. Lesser known to U.S. audiences is “Gracias A La Vida (Here’s To Life),” a song in Spanish whose same-titled 1974 album established her as a star in almost every Latin country. Two Baez originals are also featured: “Love Song To A Stranger” and “Children And All That Jazz.”

At first a folk balladeer of traditional Americana, as the civil rights campaign intensified in the ‘60s, Baez became increasingly identified with the protest movement. Her commitment to

non-violence and her stance against the Vietnam War prompted her arrest for participation in anti-war rallies. In the '70s, she moved from Vanguard to A&M, a several-album tenure that ran from Come From The Shadows (1972) through the gold Diamonds & Rust (1975) to the live From Every Stage (1976), recorded during the “Diamonds & Rust” tour.

Since then, she has continued to divide her energies between social activism and singing, with the two often intertwined. With a devoted fan base, regular appearances and occasional albums, Joan Baez remains one of the greatest interpretative singers of our time--and an artist whose actions have spoken louder than words.

The series **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** features new “best of” albums from the most significant music artists of the past century.

9/99

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