

## THE BEST OF ACCLAIMED SINGER RITA COOLIDGE FEATURED ON NEW HITS COMPILATION

Leon Russell wrote the Joe Cocker classic “Delta Lady” about her. She won Grammys with Kris Kristofferson. She had hits covering songs first made famous by The Temptations, Boz Scaggs and Jackie Wilson, and scored a new one for James Bond. She immortalized “Superstar” before The Carpenters. Simply put, Rita Coolidge has been one of music’s most respected female voices.

**The Best Of Rita Coolidge** (A&M/UME) edition of the **20<sup>th</sup> Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** series, released February 8, 2000, compiles 11 of her best recordings largely as a solo artist, largely in the ‘70s and all while she was on A&M. Each has been digitally remastered from the original source.

In 1969, Coolidge was performing with Delaney & Bonnie and Friends, and with many of them joined Cocker’s infamous Mad Dogs and Englishmen road show. Her version of “Superstar” was a highlight of the tour and the classic live album. Greatly in demand as a backup singer, Coolidge sang with Clapton, Stills, Scaggs, Nash, Mason and others even as she began a solo career.

Yet it was only in 1977 that she broke out on top. Anytime...Anywhere went platinum on the strength of her gold renditions of Wilson’s “(Your Love Has Lifted Me) Higher And Higher” (#2) and the Scaggs torch ballad “We’re All Alone” (#7), plus The Temptations’ “The Way You Do The Things You Do” (#20). The gold album Love Me Again (1978) featured “You.”

Touring with husband Kris Kristofferson and appearing in cameos in his films (Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid, Convoy and A Star Is Born), they collaborated on 1979’s Natural Act,

released shortly before their divorce, which included, ironically, the Grammy-nominated “Loving Arms.” The pair previously collected two Grammys for Best Country Duo for songs on his albums.

In 1983, Coolidge reached the Top 40 for the last time with “All Time High” from the soundtrack to the James Bond thriller Octopussy. **The Best Of Rita Coolidge** also includes her critically acclaimed renditions of Mason’s “Only You Know And I Know,” Peggy Lee’s “Fever” and The Chiffons’ “One Fine Day” as well as “I’d Rather Leave While I’m In Love.”

Today, Rita Coolidge (who became one of the original veejays on VH-1) continues to record and perform.

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

###

Contact: Sujata Murthy, Universal 818-777-7812  
Todd Nakamine, Universal 818-777-7797