



### Laura Nyro "**The Loom's Desire**" Rounder Records

Following a long battle, we lost Laura to cancer in April 1997. Since that time we've had the totally appropriate "**Time And Love**" [1997] – female only, various artists tribute disc, the live collection [recorded circa 1990] from "**Mountain Stage**" [2000], and, last year, also from Rounder, her final studio work "**Angel In The Dark.**" A couple of months prior to her passing, Columbia/Legacy, an imprint for whom she recorded nine albums, issued the double CD "**The Best Of Laura Nyro – Stoned Soul Picnic.**" The closing pair of cuts on Disc 2 of that collection were, respectively, "And When I Die" from Nyro's 1994 Christmas Eve Bottom Line show, and finally from the 1993 equivalent, "Save The Country." Mention of the latter neatly segues with this review of the double CD "**The Loom's Desire**" since the thirteen cuts on disc one reprise the 1993 event, and the other features eleven songs from the 1994 show. The aforementioned "**Best Of...**" *live* recordings do not reappear here, although there's a 1993 rendition of "And When I Die" and from 1994 "Save The Country." The latter kind of leads me to deduce that these discs are edited versions of those shows. Accompanying herself on piano, Laura is supported solely by a six-piece female – and totally angelic - harmony group during the 1993 show, while the 1994 show only features a female trio. Spread across the discs, Nyro covers material from her entire career. "Wedding Bell Blues," "And When I Die" hail from "**More Than A New Discovery**" aka "**The First Songs**" [1967], and there's also the, then as yet, unrecorded songs [in the studio, that is] "Angel In The Dark" and "Gardenia Talk." The cover songs include "Oh Yeah, Maybe Baby," "Dedicated To The One I Love" and "Let It Be Me." As for Nyro's numerous *hits*, apart from the quartet of titles that I've already mentioned, there's "Emmie" and "Blowin' Away," plus from her [then recent] CBS album "**Walk The Dog & Light The Light**" [1993] comes "Art Of Love" and the title cut. This lady truly possessed soul and great presence and this collection truly attests to that.

[**P.S.** As this album review was being written in mid June 2002, CBS were about to begin reissuing Laura Nyro's catalogue of albums – yup, you guessed it, as enhanced versions of the original releases].

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

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