## arts & entertainment

## Kumbaya my CD, kumbaya

by Andrew Smith

Every year, the public is flooded with a myriad of compilation albums, with many being of questionable value, while others only existing to serve their own profitable ends.

Kumbaya is the ideal cure to this dilemma.

MUSIC REVIEW Various Artists Kumbaya Album, Nineteen Ninety Four Sony Music

Most people's initial reaction to the name is the same, sitting around campfires as a child, singing various appropriate songs. "Kumbaya" was a song of hope and survival, sung by Africans who were enslaved in the Americas, and it is this hope that comes out in this foundation.

The Kumbaya Foundation is the

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Infidels) and serves as the Canadian music scene's response to social and health issues, with a current focus on AIDS. Particular work is done with the care for those who suffer from the effects of AIDS, including treatment, emergency financial assistance, and child care.

The album is a compilation of works by various Canadian artists, from many different areas of the music industry. Studio works by Sarah McLachlan ("Good Enough"), Mae Moore ("Arrow"), The Lost Dakotas ("Cowboys are Frequently Secretly"), Rush ("Nobody's Hero"), and Lee Arron ("Soul in Motion") join live versions of Junkhouse's "Praying for Rain" and Lorie Yeats' "Little Wild One" for a pleasant selection of differing styles.

None of the tracks overshadows the others in any great way. All artists worked together to collect a series of songs whose contents and feelings are essentially alike, while each

brainchild of Molly Johnson (The being expressed according to their string budget, in order to give as own particular style.

> Unfortunately, there is no track from Johnson, as her American label would not release a single to the enterprise. Not to be left out of the work, she and other vocal greats such as Salome Bey, are featured with Devon & the Metro Squad and Souls United on "That's a Friend"

The album is tied up with The Holly Cole Trio covering the Elvis Costello song "Alison"

Throughout the album, there are messages, both obvious and hidden, about responsibilities, reactions and reality.

A concert to be put off in Toronto expects to have almost 75% of its overheads donated, the airlines and the police being two of the major costs which will have to be paid in full.

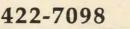
In bold contrast, Kumbaya's profits go almost exclusively to the foundations for which it has been raised. The foundation operates on a shoemuch as possible as what is donated.

Moe Berg of the Pursuit of Happiness, who does not normally play at "charity" concerts due to the commercialism and bureaucracy involved, expressed satisfaction towards Kumbaya's directive to send the money collected directly to those who need it most.

As a direct effect of her no profit stance, Johnson found herself temporarily homeless after being evicted. She explained that she simply refuses to take money from Kumbaya, and that it is not meant as a paying gig.

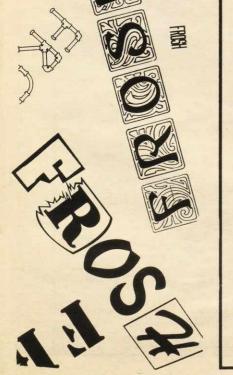


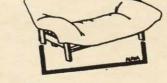


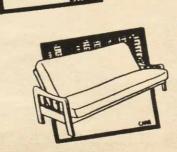












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