

**THE BEST OF SANDY DENNY CELEBRATES LEGENDARY SINGER-SONGWRITER
FROM FAIRPORT CONVENTION TO FOTHERINGAY TO HER SOLO ALBUMS**

Sandy Denny, patron saint of modern English folk rock, is today a heroine of the new acoustic movement on both sides of the Atlantic, praised by the likes of Robert Plant, Elton John, Rod Stewart, Pete Townshend, Don Henley, Judy Collins, Nanci Griffith and Kate Bush. First gaining fame in the '60s with Fairport Convention, the singer-songwriter also enjoyed a critically acclaimed solo career before her death in 1978.

The Best Of Sandy Denny edition of **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UME), released October 22, 2002, brings together 10 selections from Fairport Convention, her Fotheringay band and each of her four solo albums, all digitally remastered.

The album begins with Fairport Convention's 1969 Unhalfbricking rendition of "Who Knows Where The Times Goes?," her signature piece which she wrote when she was just 18. How popular was Denny at the time? She won the Best Female Vocalist category in the then-prestigious Melody Maker readers' poll in both 1969 and 1970. In that latter year, she led short-lived Fotheringay, represented on **The Best Of Sandy Denny** by "Nothing More," from its self-titled, and only, album.

Denny finally made her solo debut with 1971's The North Star Grassman And The Ravens, which included "Late November." Her second album, 1972's Sandy, featured a string of fan favorites--"It Suits Me Well," "It'll Take A Long Time" and "Listen, Listen." Her most ambitious album yet, Like An Old-Fashioned Waltz, arrived in 1973 bearing the defiant independence of "Solo" and aching nostalgia of the title track.

In 1975, Denny returned to Fairport Convention, though much of the original lineup had departed in the interim. The prodigal daughter helped Rising For The Moon become the band's best-selling album in five years, marked by its closing track, the eight-minute epic "One More Chance." But the reunion was not to last and Denny exited.

Her fourth solo album, Rendezvous, appeared in 1977. With her marriage in trouble, she was drinking heavily and had recently begun suffering from blinding headaches and momentary blackouts. Nevertheless, the track that closes this collection, the fragile "I'm A Dreamer," hints at a brighter future. But it was not to be for her. Six months after she played her final concert, Denny fell down a flight of stairs at her home and suffered a massive brain hemorrhage. She died on April 20, 1978 at age 31. There would, as she herself sang on that final album, be no more sad refrains.

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

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PRESS CONTACT: Sujata Murthy, Universal 310-865-7812
Todd Nakamine, Universal 310-865-7797
RADIO CONTACT: Elliot Kendall, Universal 310-865-9852