

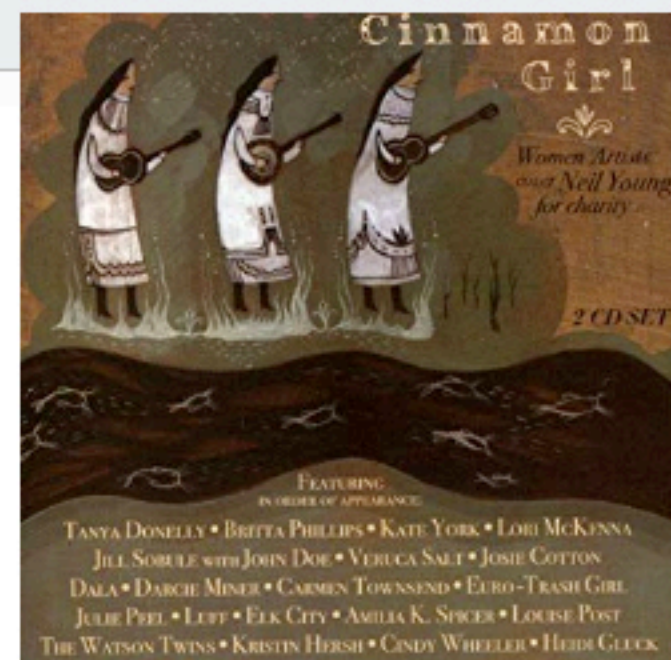
COMPILATION

Various artists

"Cinnamon Girl: Women Artists Cover Neil Young For Charity"

(American Laundromat Records)

3.5 stars



Just when you think there's no one capable of putting life into yet another tribute album, along come the women who makes this salute to Neil Young an absolute must-have companion piece for fans of Young's catalog.

The double-CD includes cover versions of 21 Young songs (technically 20 since "Ohio" is performed twice), with the proceeds going to Casting For Recovery, an educational program for women who have or have survived breast cancer. The cast of contributors is intriguing, featuring some well known as well as obscure artists, mostly focusing on material Young penned in the early part of his career, between 1969 and 1979.

There are some very striking arrangements, like Kate York's "Comes a Time;" Josie Cotton's rockin', full-band workout on "Cowgirl in the Sand;" Dala's eerie version of "Ohio," which incorporates a bit of "Find the Cost of Freedom;" The Watson Twins' re-worked and refreshing "Powderfinger;" and Luft's grungy and gritty "Tell Me Why," among others.

There are also a couple of duds, notably Kristin Hersh's disappointing "Like a Hurricane," and Julie Peel's droning "I Believe in You," but those are exceptions here. Veruca Salt, Tanya Donnelly and Jill Sobule also are featured on the set.

For purchasing information on the Internet go to: www.alr-music.com.

- Kevin O'Hare