

End of an Era : Why the Sixties Generation Has Quit Smoking Pot

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Rolling Stone

ELVIS COSTELLO REPENTS

The Rolling Stone
Interview by
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Convertible Music

Josie Cotton

Elektra

★★★½

CONVERTIBLE MUSIC is a delightfully frothy pop record. With Josie Cotton's chirpy girl-group harmonies, and a

smattering of electric guitar and organ parts that suggest a cheapo Emencee more than Farfisa or Vox, this LP makes the Go-Go's positively Wagnerian by comparison. But the cheesiness of the enterprise is deftly balanced by some nifty lyrical touches and clever arrangements, and *Convertible Music* winds up sounding like the summer's best beach record.

Cotton's wit—bolstered by the compositions and production of Bobby and Larson Paine—hits its zenith on “Johnny, Are You Queer,” an irresistibly danceable aural confection that was a minor hit on California radio last year and definitely deserves a second go-round. The light, cutesy parodies, “So Close” and “Rockin’ Love,” recall Karla DeVito and early Blondie, while on “He Could Be the One,” Cotton resembles a merrier Valerie Carter. Torpid ballads like “Another Girl” breach the barrier that separates fun from filler, but who could resist the c'mon-and-pony-with-me pep of “Systematic Way?” Not me. Put it on—and pass the suntan lotion.

—CHRISTOPHER CONNELLY