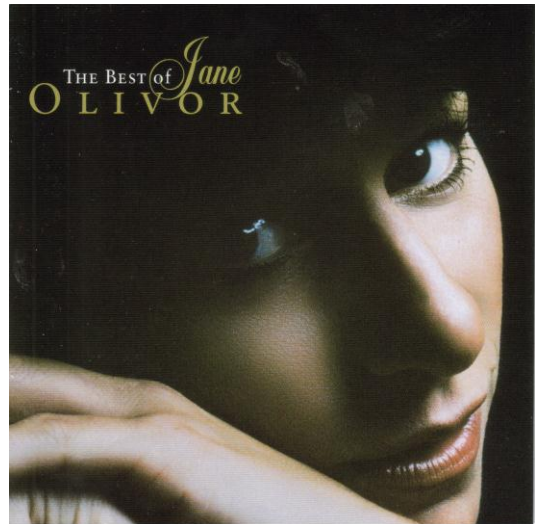


The Best of Jane Olivor  
Released 2004  
By Wendy Fraser  
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Sony Legacy certainly has enough material to release a double Best of Jane Olivor CD, but it appears Miss Olivor's fans will have to be satisfied with this CD, released at the same time as Olivor's Safe Return CD and DVD.

The CD includes a generous selection of 16 songs, but a few classics have been omitted – where oh where are “L'important C'est La Rose” and “One More Ride on the Merry-Go-Round,” for starters?



While the choice of songs is debatable and certainly subjective, there is no debating the pristine sound quality of these re-mastered recordings. They are infinitely better than the Columbia originals from the 1970s and 80s, which now sound muddy and dull by comparison.

The Best of Jane Olivor is also a significant improvement over the cheap 'n cheesy So Fine compilation released in 1995.

Kudos to Sony Legacy for including “The Last Time I Felt Like This” here – the first appearance on any Jane Olivor CD of Jane's Oscar-nominated duet with Johnny Mathis. A reviewer once aptly compared their performance to the poetic and primal mating of birds in flight, fluttering and swirling in mid-air. Mathis is one of the great pop vocalists of the last half-century and Olivor beautifully matches him here, word for word, note for note.

One wonders why Sony Legacy didn't include another rarity in this release - Jane's 1977 version of “Some Enchanted Evening,” issued as a one-sided single at the same time Chasing Rainbows was released. It's absolutely sublime and its mostly piano background is a contrast to the rich orchestration of her original 1976 version of the song.

Sony Legacy did a great job on the packaging of this release, including several never-before-seen photos. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the sloppy liner notes which are disrespectful to an artist of Olivor's stature. The errors are so glaring they make one question if Sony was taking a subtle, but deliberate slap at Olivor, who famously battled the company for unpaid royalties for her five Columbia CDs.

Jason Darrow is called James Darrow; he doesn't receive any producer credits for the songs from Stay the Night; there's no producer credit for Jack Gold for “The Last Time I Felt Like This”; the liner notes mistakenly say Jane returned to performing in 1993, etc.

Still, the music is what counts and the Best of Jane Olivor serves as a wonderful introduction for new fans discovering one of the finest singers to emerge in the last 30-plus years.