

Jones goes for what she wants on second CD

Continued from page 1D
 either. Jones trusts her hand mates, and two years in the studio and on the road have forged ensemble empathy that belies her own sudden stardom. There is no song on the album titled "Feels Like Home." For Jones, it's a state of mind.

Where the mostly down-tempo, ballad-heavy "Come Away With Me" was a tad too mellow, the new album has a bit more energy, and more varied rhythms, whether it's the lightly sauntering "Sunrise" and "Long Walk Home," the bluegrass jauntiness of "Creepin' In" (a duet with Dolly Parton) or the bluesy plaintiveness of "In the Morning" and "Above Ground," neither of which would sound out of place on a Bonnie Raitt album.

Make no mistake: Norah Jones is a pop singer. That she records for Blue Note, a legendary jazz label, seems to confuse people, as does the fact that her CV includes jazz studies at the University of North Texas. No doubt Jones loves jazz, particularly the great jazz vocalists of the '40s and '50s, but at this stage she shows no particular ambition to go that route either vocally or in her keyboard work, which is never showy or busy. As a pianist, Jones is given to rolling accents and subtle support chords (she gets a little

funkier on the Wurlitzer organ).

One of the few displays of her instrumental skills is the album's closer, "Don't Miss You at All," where Jones has added her own ruminative lyrics to a brooding Duke Ellington instrumental, "Melancholia." Ellington wrote memorable pop tunes, and if you listen to his solo recording on 1953's "Piano Reflections," you'll hear elegant sorrow gently articulated. Jones, also working alone, deftly taps into that mood with a touch as light as Ellington's. Half original, "Don't Miss You at All" is as close to a standard as one will find on the new album.

The other covers she chose are less familiar than those on her first CD. Jones slows down tragic Texas troubadour Townes Van Zandt's already languid "Be Here to Love Me," first recorded a decade before she was born. Van Zandt was no stranger to blues — he killed himself in 1997 — but he was also one of the finest chroniclers of romantic vulnerability, and when Jones wearily begs "Just hold me and tell me that you'll be here to love me today" with Garth Hudson's accordion dancing lightly behind her, she taps into universal needs. "The Long Way Home" is a Tom Waits-Kathleen Brennan song that first appeared on

the 2002 soundtrack for "Big Bad Love," and Jones pretty much follows the same loping country gait of Waits's recording, though her version is a lot easier on the ears as she pits the security of a loving relationship against the lure of the road.

It's probably too early to get a fix on Jones as a songwriter and lyricist, but her only solo effort, "What Am I to You?," is one of the album's strongest tracks, a weary demand for romantic reassurance featuring bluesy Hammond organ, shuffling drums from the Band's Garth Hudson and Levon Helm and twangy guitar by Tony Scherr. Jones's work with Alexander is also quite strong: "Sunrise" rides a galloping bass and rolling piano as a lover offers cool celebration "when I see we made it through another day," while "Toes" has a Nick Drake-style unhurriedness as Jones reflects on taking a chance on love, or on life.

A third Jones-Alexander collaboration, "Carnival

Town," conjures hazy melancholy that's equal parts Hoagy Carmichael and Kate and Anna McGarrigle, with shimmering harmonies and subtle strings that quietly mesmerize.

The album's emotional centerpiece is "Humble Me." Built around author Kevin Breit's resonator guitar and Jones's archaic pump organ, it's one of the most haunting, harrowing songs about familial dislocation in moons too blue to count, a spare, slow waltz that captures the haunted hopelessness of fractured love and torn families.

Like "Come Away With Me," "Feels Like Home" takes time to reveal itself, and the process will be a little slower only because the new album lacks the instant emotional hook of a "Don't Know Why." On the other hand, the more you listen to "Feels Like Home," the more you'll understand why Norah Jones titled it that way.

WAGR-AM 1540
 CHARLOTTE, NC

WAGR-FM 93.3
 SALISBURY, NC

WGAS-AM 1420
 GASTONIA, NC

88.3-FM
 CHARLOTTE, NC

WADE-AM 1340
 WADESBORO, NC

...with Dr. Tony Evans, Larry Burkett, Pastor Robyn Good, Pastor Phillip Davis, Pastor Charles Jacobs, Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Dr. James Dobson, Youth Radio, Devotional Music, Focus on the Family, and much more!

Tune in and get blessed!

1501 N. I-85 SERVICE ROAD • CHARLOTTE, NC 28216
 704-393-1540

'Shakin' at AACT

Continued from page 1D

the AACT. "In this story there are eight women who are shaping the lives of one 12-year-old child. One of the main characters is Big Momma, the biological grandmother of the girl whose mother dies."

Womack says the production shows the dynamics of the black experience when it comes to black girls.

"It's a very moving and funny play. Some of the characters talk about different experiences in their lives," she said. "They speak of their pain but they turn their pain into lemonade. You know how the saying goes if life gives you lemons you make lemonade. The women also let the girl know that she can get through anything."

It sheds light on the black experience without being too dark, deep and melodramatic. It's a cross between "A Raisin In the Sun," Brewster's Place" and "Ma Dear." It's an all-female cast but it's for everybody.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

RINGLING BROS. & BARNUM & BAILEY

3 RINGS OF FAMILY FUN!

MAR. 3 - 7

Wed. MAR. 3	Thu. MAR. 4	Fri. MAR. 5	Sat. MAR. 6	Sun. MAR. 7
7:30 PM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	11:30 AM
7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	3:30 PM	3:30 PM
7:30 PM			7:30 PM	7:30 PM

OPENING NIGHT TICKETS ONLY \$11!
(Includes Front Row and VIP Seats. No double discounts.)

For the fastest and easiest way to order tickets, go to www.Ringling.com

ticketmaster Ticket Centers, including FYE and Hecht's Dept. Stores, Arena Box Office or call (704) 522-6500

For information call: (704) 357-4801 • Groups (704) 357-4722

TICKET PRICES: \$11 - \$15 - \$20
 Limited number of Front Row and VIP seats available. Call for details.
(Service charges and handling fees may apply, no service charge at Arena Box Office.)

Meet the animals up close at the **Animal Open House**. Get autographs and clown around at the **Three Ring Adventure**. The fun begins 90 minutes before showtime - **ALL FREE** with your ticket.

BRIDGE CLUB
BABY SITTERS
GOLF BUDDIES
FAMILIES
SWEETHEARTS
SHOPPING PALS
CO-WORKERS
SISTERS
BROTHERS
COUSINS
STUDENTS
BOWLING TEAMPARTS
VOLUNTEERS
CAR POOLERS
SOCCER MOMS
TENNIS PARTNERS
NEW PARENTS
CLASSMATES
BRIDGE PALS

verizon wireless
 We never stop working for you.

INTRODUCING FREE in-NETWORK CALLING BETWEEN FRIENDS

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, ABSOLUTELY FREE to any of our 36 million customers from the National IN-Network Coverage Area.
1 or 2-yr. Customer Agreement required.

Plus, **Unlimited night & weekend minutes** when on the America's Choice™ Network. IN-Network calling not available everywhere on the America's Choice Network.

Calling plans starting at **\$39.99** monthly access with 1 or 2-yr. Customer Agreement. Select CDMA phone required. Calls outside America's Choice Network are 69¢/min.

Are you in?

Buy One. Get One FREE. **\$29.99**

Color Phone **\$69.99**

Bring your number to America's most reliable wireless network.
Only available at participating sales associates about Local Number Portability

CALL 1.800.2 JOIN in **CLICK verizonwireless.com** **VISIT any of our stores**

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES
Open Sundays.

CHARLOTTE
 Arboretum Shp. Center
 704-540-3500

ParkTowne Village
 704-523-6744

Shoppes at University
 704-546-9510

Southpark Mall
 704-364-0955

CONCORD
 Hwy. 29
 Across from Lowe's
 704-794-9900

GASTONIA
 1620 E. Franklin Blvd.
 704-861-8323

HUNTERSVILLE
 North Cross Shopping Center
 704-987-2355

MATTHEWS
 Windsor Sq. Shopping Center
 704-841-4010

MONROE
 Hwy. 74
 704-296-0500

PINEVILLE
 Carolina Place Mall
 704-540-1680

ROCK HILL
 636 Crown Pointe Lane
 803-327-7620

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS PLEASE CALL 1.866.899.2862

AUTHORIZED RETAILERS Return policy & phone offers vary by location

CHARLOTTE
 AWL, Inc.
 4913 Chastain Ave. Suite 36
 704-525-2851

FORT MILL
 All About Wireless, LLC
 761 Crossroads Plaza
 803-548-3300

ROCK HILL
 IPT
 Galleria Mall
 803-980-4067

ROCKINGHAM
 One Tone
 Hwy. 74
 910-997-2323

SALISBURY
 Cellular Sales
 Alexander Point
 704-797-9450

OneTone TELECOM

LINCOLNTON
 Lincoln Center
 704-736-9456

RadioShack
Now available at participating locations of:

CLV

Nights 9:01 pm - 5:59 am M-F; Wknds 12:00 am Sat - 11:59 pm Sun.
 Taxes & surcharges apply & may vary. Federal Universal Service Charge of 1.88% (varies quarterly based on FCC rate) & a 45¢ Regulatory Charge per line/month are our charges, not taxes.

Important Consumer Information: National IN-Network Coverage Area covers 235 million people. Subject to Customer Agreement, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. \$175 cancellation fee per line, other charges & restrictions. 45¢/min. after allowance. \$35 activation fee per line with 1-yr. term. Cannot combine with other offers. Usage rounded to next full minute. Unused allowances lost. Coverage & offers not available everywhere. Rebate takes 8-10 weeks. Eligibility to keep your number varies. See verizonwireless.com/bestnetwork for network claim details. ©2004 Verizon Wireless.