

VOLUME CONTROL



Leona Naess
I Tried to Rock You
But You Only Roll
MCA



Pat Green
Three Days
Republic/Universal
Records

A treasure has been found. Leona Naess is not well-known, but she slowly is beginning her walk toward stardom. Although she is young, her second album, *I Tried to Rock You But You Only Roll*, has grown-up sounds and pop beats mixed with her mature vocals, which are a mix of Sheryl Crow and Lucinda Williams.

She wrote or co-wrote all but one song on her latest album, and her songwriting is remarkable. Her songs seem to have too much experience to have been written by a 20-something.

On the first track, "Mexico," the breezy chorus and guitar reminds listeners of the sweeter things of their youth.

"All the Stars" and "Boys Like You" have beats similar to the new wave sound of the 1980s or Erasure's beginning beats of "Respect." However, Naess' version of new wave is modernized just enough to remind listeners what decade they are in.

"Panic Stricken" is a sweet gem hidden in the final tracks. Listeners feel the panic in her rock 'n roll cries for her mother and then a man who left her behind.

Judging from the album, Naess' influences could be Coldplay and Travis, but she delivers her version of British pop with soft memorable vocals accompanied by more upbeat tunes.

This CD, along with Leonna Naess, easily can become a favorite in anyone's collection and may be set to 'repeat' for a very long time.

(Grade: A)

Pat Green wrote or co-wrote the majority of the 13 songs on his latest album and has given each one the "Pat Green flavor" that keeps country music fans following him all over Texas.

"I didn't want people telling me what songs were going to be on my record and what musicians were going to play on them," Green said in a press release. "I wanted it to be my band, my songs, my sound and my comfort level."

It seems that Green has succeeded. *Three Days* contains Pat Green favorites that already are anthems for Texas country-music fans such as "Carry On," "Take Me Out to the Dancehall" and "Southbound 35."

The speedy fiddle and rugged guitar on many of his latest tracks provide listeners with the same upbeat, and yet "old-country" feel and is likely to produce even more Pat Green fans.

The slower tunes on the album show off Green's gravelly voice slowed down to a nice, two-stepping beat.

A duet with Willie Nelson on "Threadbare Gypsy Soul" gives the listener an illustration of truckers rolling down winding Texas highways, and the duet with songwriter Trish Murphy in "Wrong Side of Town" announces Green's induction into Nashville.

Green and his band play the final track, "Texas On My Mind," as a salute for any Texan who cheers when they hear "Texas" in a country song.

While fans may be craving more new songs from Pat Green's latest effort, the new songs on his album will become favorites among crowds from the Texas Hall of Fame to Gruene Hall.

(Grade: B+)

By: Lizette Resendez

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