

Holly Near

A Sure-Fire Success

By Aly Kim

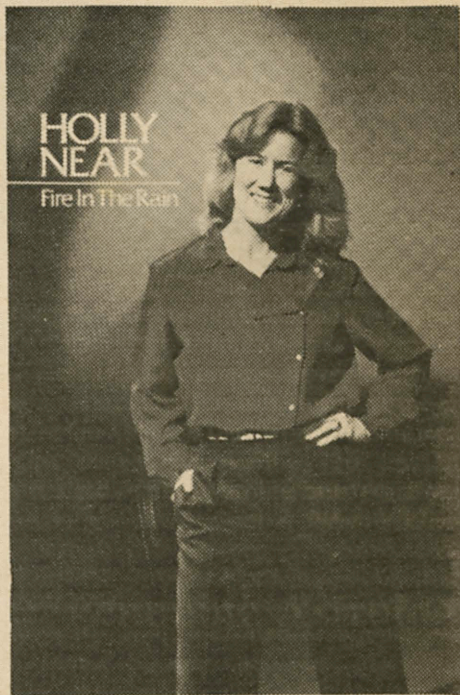
Fire in the Rain, Holly Near's latest release, is superb. You will not be disappointed with this, her fifth album. Again, Holly brings to us a tight, professional sound.

Fire in the Rain, distributed by Redwood Records, was produced by June Millington, who also helped with arrangement, guitar and background vocals. Excellent string and horn accompaniment throughout the album was arranged by Mary Watkins.

As always, Holly speaks to each of us about a wide spectrum of issues. Political issues are spoken to with her songs — "Foolish Notion," an anti-war song, a reminder that war is still here, still real; "Ain't No Where You Can Run," a song about the threat of nuclear power; "Working Women," about struggles of office women.

Emotional support is given with "Sit With Me," a song of friendship, the space where we can be whomever we are; "Golden Thread," of relationships and bonds; "Fire in the Rain," a love song.

With new lyrics to a song formerly recorded as "Laid Off," Holly expresses changes in her attitudes. The song, now titled "I Got Trouble," brings the focus directly upon herself rather than upon "her man."



The music itself is wonderful. Adrienne Torf, who tours with Holly, again displays her talents at the piano. The San Francisco Women's String Ensemble adds a special touch to the total sound.

The album is a total creative experience not to be missed.