

## **rant 'n' roll**

Atlanta vocalist Virginia Schenk goes down and deep to ferret out the inherent mystery and joy of Aminata Moseka: An Abbey Lincoln Tribute (Airborne Ecstasy). Vocalist Lincoln [1930-2010] changed her name to Aminata Moseka after touring Africa in the mid-'70s and returning home to get involved in America's ever-struggling civil rights problem. Lincoln wrote every song here except for "Blue Monk" by Thelonious Monk. Schenk is a captivating singer who knows and understands the allure of drama. She sings as if her life depends upon it, making each song akin to a one-act play. Take "Caged Bird," for example. Lincoln wrote it after reading Maya Angelou's autobiography and poem "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." Schenk not only sings it but recites the poem prior to the song. Lincoln wrote "Another World" after seeing the 1977 movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." It's filled with the kind of mysticism that pragmatists eschew but dreamers thrive on. Schenk is a fascinating individual, turned on to jazz by befriending drummer Jai Johanny "Jaimo" Johanson of The Allman Brothers. Recommended with reservation.

**— Mike Greenblatt, *Aquarian Weekly***