

Obscure "Juno" Soundtrack Becomes Billboard No. 1

The soundtrack to Academy

Award-nominated film "Juno" climbed to the very top on the Billboard 200 this week, displacing Alicia Keys' "As I Am" with nearly 65,000 sold copies.

Indie film "Juno" received Academy Award nominations last week for best picture, best director (Jason Reitman), best actress (Ellen Page) and best original screenplay (Diablo Cody) and the comedy's soundtrack picked up momentum, selling nearly 65,000 copies in the week ending Jan. 27, according to Nielsen Soundscan.

Trade paper Variety notes that this is the first soundtrack from a best picture nominee to reach No. 1 on the Billboard chart since "Titanic" did 10 years ago.

The "Juno" soundtrack is half-full of Kimya Dawson songs, either solo or with her two bands The Moldy Peaches and Antsy Pants. As the story goes, Reitman asked Ellen Page what music her character would most likely listen to and she promptly answered The Moldy Peaches — a move that brought an unanticipated spotlight on the musicians.

Others on the soundtrack are Cat Power with "Sea of Love," Sonic Youth with "Superstar" and Belle & Sebastian with "Expectations," as well as songs from 60s-70s artists The Kinks, The Velvet Underground and Mott the Hoople.

Alicia Keys' "As I Am" last week's No. 1, sold another 60,000 albums, slipping to No. 2. Her album has sold nearly 3 million copies since its early November release and will probably continue to fare well following her performance at the upcoming Grammy Awards.

Natasha Bedingfield's "Pocketful of Sunshine" opened at No. 3 with 50,000 copies, marking the British singer's best debut so far. Mary J. Blige's "Growing Pains" and Radiohead's "In Rainbows" rounded out the top five.

Among notable releases this week is Cat Power's collection of covers "Jukebox," which sold 29,000 copies to debut at No. 12, the highest one-week numbers of her career.

John Legend's concert set "Live from Philadelphia" and Raheem DeVaughn's "Love Behind the Melody," both released last week, dropped from their high positions in the top ten and entered the top thirty, while Rihanna's "Good Girl Gone Bad" surpassed a million copies sold in the 34 weeks she has been on the chart.

