

The Legacy of Jimi Hendrix

By Helen Marketti



knew he had to pull out all the stops. Paul McCartney and several other musicians had suggested he play at the festival. Jimi had this chance to grab the audience, that's why he painted the guitar and sacrificed it by setting it on fire. He wanted to be known in America, not only Europe."

"Jimi was part of the cutting edge of how people listened to music and how it was made," said Janie. "For instance, the way he did his version of The Star Spangled Banner, many thought that was sacrilegious. Jimi did an interview on The Dick Cavett Show after Woodstock to talk about that. He couldn't understand why people wouldn't like it because he thought it was beautiful. It hurt him when people didn't understand what he was doing. People saw him as a famous rock guitarist but he wanted to connect with all cultures of people on a deeper level and be more than that."

Keeping Jimi's memory and music alive is a privilege for Janie. "We release two songs posthumously each year. Jimi had a large catalog of material that he had worked on and he would have wanted to share his music with his fans. We also release a new documentary every 18 months that has interviews with people

who knew Jimi and worked with him. There is always something new to learn about Jimi because there were so many facets to his life. Next year, Jimi would have turned seventy years old so we have many special things planned to honor his memory and his music."

Jimi passed away at the age of 27 in 1970 and Janie was nine years old at the time. "I always knew he was destined for greatness," said Janie. "He was a forefront thinker. When he purchased Electric Lady Studios, Jimi had some of the best architects design the studio to his vision. We no longer own the studio but are still involved with it. Jimi wanted to be in the front. He wasn't satisfied with being a sideman. He wanted to be the lead. He wanted to deliver the message himself."

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with careful thought and a watchful eye.

"It is an honor to keep his legacy alive," said Janie. "It was a promise we made to each other many years



JANIE HENDRIX

ago. When I was six years old, Jimi told me that I would never have to worry about anything. He said he would always take care of me. I told him that when I grew up I would take care of him, too. It never occurred to me that he wouldn't be here. Jimi's legacy could not live on if it weren't for his fans. As a musician, he is always in the Top Ten if not number one as the greatest guitar player in the world by Gibson Magazine or Rolling Stone."

While Jimi was known for his rock star image, to Janie he was her older brother whom she adored. "I would save every article I could find when he was away on the road. We listened to his music all the time and wore out three copies of his album, Are You Experienced? We had his music down pact. In some ways, it did seem surreal. I remember seeing him in concert and people were trying to touch him and pull him offstage. They were throwing themselves on his limo. I thought it was scary. I thought people sometimes treated him as a possession instead of a person. I always thought that people weren't taking care of him as his family would."

"Jimi was very shy and soft spoken," remembers Janie. "Once he was onstage however, he knew he had to get the attention of the audience. He had already made it big in Europe so when he had the chance to perform at The Monterey Pop Festival in 1967, he

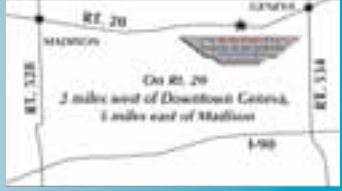


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