

Helen Marketti's Music Corner



By Helen R. Marketti



The Immediate Family

The Immediate Family is a group of five gentlemen who recorded, toured and became friends with a host of famous music artists beginning in the 1970s. Their names are listed on record albums from A to Z as they were sought after time and again. Their talent and genuine personalities contributed to the songs of the day that hit the charts over and over while creating lasting friendships in an industry that sometimes is not "friendly".

A recently released documentary about The Immediate Family details their beginnings and brings their career full circle to now at this moment. Ranging in age from 65 to 75, The Immediate Family consists of Danny Kortchmar (guitar), Waddy Wachtel (guitar), Russ Kunkel (drummer), Leland Sklar (bassist) and Steve Postell (guitar).



The documentary's director, Denny Tedesco is no stranger to putting together memorable and attention grabbing documentaries. His father was Tommy Tedesco who played guitar for another group of session musicians during the 1960s called The Wrecking Crew. Denny's documentary on The Wrecking Crew fills in the gaps as to who was the band that played on all of those hit records in the 60s. Yet their names were never listed on album covers because record companies did not want the public to know about them. They were strictly a hidden treasure as studio musicians. As they faded back and a new generation began, The Immediate Family was in the thick of things basically from the beginning.

The documentary has in depth interviews with James Taylor, Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt, David Crosby, Phil Collins, Stevie Nicks, Carole King, Neil Young, Keith Richards and many more. The love and admiration for these gentlemen are clear and evident. There is a mutual respect and the same end goal of making great music.

Denny Tedesco shares his thoughts on The Immediate Family, the making of the documentary and the importance of their story being shared. "They call themselves The Immediate Family because they have always felt like brothers. The longevity of The Immediate Family has lasted longer than The Wrecking Crew because they toured and played live. These guys have great personalities. The love what they do. There is a great line in the documentary from Waddy where he said, "I never met someone that was happy after retiring from the music business." If you love your work, there is nothing better."

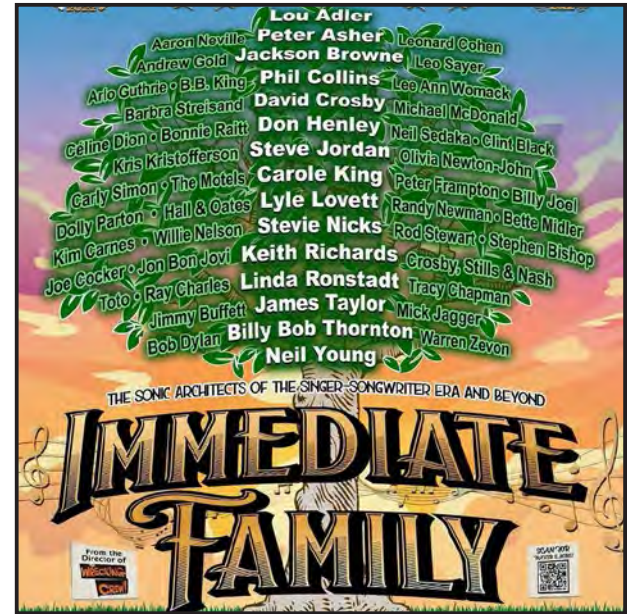
When word circulated that Denny was putting together this documentary, artists practically stood in line to share their love and experience working with The Immediate Family. The music and friendships intertwining to create the music we enjoy and savor.

"Each era is a different animal," said Denny. "In the 60s my father and the rest of The Wrecking Crew would record an entire album within a day or two. There wasn't any time to prepare, they just did it. They never toured with artists either, they stayed in the studio. Plus, The Wrecking Crew guys were an older generation. My father did not "hang out" with music artists in the 60s. He played on their records and that was basically the extent of "their relationship". During the 70s, things started changing and recording music became a recording project where you could take more time in the studio. The Immediate Family were younger too so they became friends with the artists. The entire music catalog from the 60s and 70s is a book mark in our lives for those who remember. That music brings back memories. That's why tribute bands are so successful."

"It took three years to make this documentary. Right now, it is being shown at Film Festivals around the country. It would be wonderful if it comes to Cleveland! My questions to the artists were never about their own careers, it's about their time with The Immediate Family and what those guys meant to them."

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