

Jamie Thompson – the man behind “It’s Been So Long”



Born in 1958, Jamie Thompson grew up in the 1960's listening to The Beatles, Eric Clapton, CSNY, The Who, Led Zeppelin, The Grateful Dead, etc.

Looking for his "voice," Jamie took piano and drum lessons for a few years, but it was the songwriting of John Lennon & Paul McCartney and the spiritual/improvisational guitar playing of Eric Clapton that first fired his imagination with the dream of making music that could touch the human heart.

During the 1970's, Jamie entered adolescence and began the complex journey from child to adult. When words couldn't describe life's experiences, Jamie found meaning in the turbulent, emotional expressions of rock lead guitar playing. He studied the guitar work of Jerry Garcia, Duane Allman, Richard Betts, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Peter Frampton and Pete Townsend. After a year of "woodshedding" with a borrowed guitar he joined a local rock band and began performing at school dances and private parties.

As Jamie's ability improved, he became obsessed with guitar playing and practiced his new found art every chance he had. Not wishing to isolate himself, he borrowed an old DanElectro from a friend and took it everywhere he went so that he could practice while hanging out with his friends.

At the age of 15, Jamie started playing in local bars and for the next 5 years he played in several bar/cover bands.

At 16, Jamie realized that the musicians he respected the most didn't often play cover tunes but wrote their own music and developed their own unique styles of singing, playing and recording. Then he started hanging around with David Young, a guy from his neighborhood who played fingerstyle acoustic guitar and wrote his own songs. They started playing together regularly, blending their guitar sounds, singing harmonies, and challenging each other to write songs.

In 1977, Jamie became a Christian and soon thereafter was introduced to the guitar playing of Phil Keaggy and the songwriting of Canadian acoustic fingerstylist Bruce Cockburn. These powerful Christian artists challenged him to rise to a whole new level of songwriting and to break new ground in his acoustic and electric lead guitar playing styles.

Jamie is a fiercely independent musician. For the sake of preserving the integrity of his music he avoided getting involved with producers, managers, and record labels. Instead,

he dreamed of a day when he could produce his own work at home with no deadlines or bottom lines to worry about.

In the mid 1980's, Jamie acquired an eight track multi-track reel to reel tape deck and started recording. By the time his tracks were mastered onto cassette, though, he was dissatisfied with the quality of the sound and he dreamed of one day being able to master his work onto CD.

After all these years, the time of the independent musician has finally arrived as the latest technologies have placed digital recording and professional quality equipment within reach of regular people. The advent of the internet with sites like CDBaby.com has created an environment where artists like Jamie no longer need the backing of a major corporation in order to bring their work to the public. This is the time that Jamie has been dreaming of and waiting for ever since he saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show when he was five years old... It's Been So Long!!!

Recent career highlights :

Jamie performed original music at 6 Flags Great Adventure Theme Park for the Rejoice Festival weekend September 1, 2002.

Jamie scored a video called "Let's Pray Let's Roll" that honored the memory of 9/11 hero Todd Beamer. Jamie also wrote and recorded an original music score for the 9/11 video "Lost in New York" that was distributed nationally.

Jamie was the featured artist of the week on WZZD 990 AM and Word FM 89.9 in Philadelphia.

Music from the song "It's Been So Long" was selected as the theme song and bumper tracks for a Philadelphia based radio talk show called "House Mechanic" on WFIL 560 AM. The show is aired every Saturday morning at 8:00 AM.

Jamie plays guitar and writes original music on demand for regular services at Branch Creek Community Church in Harleysville, PA.

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