

Morton *from page 1*

felt embarrassed or shy about playing a particular song. As time passes it gets more comfortable. Ironically, with those specific songs people's reactions are, "Wow, you should play those more often".

Q: Do you worry about the audience's reaction?

A: Sometimes. I have a song about child abuse. It's called "Young Child's Story" and it was extremely hard to play. I wasn't sure how the audience would feel, if it would be triggering for some, or others would block it out, or people didn't want to hear about it. But I play it more often now. It will be on my first album.

Q: Would you like to perform for larger, more mainstream audiences?

A: Yes. I'm trying to be diverse. I want my music to be accessible to lots of different people, anyone and everyone. There are definitely specific songs endearing to certain groups. But for what I want to do, which is to be heard, share my music, I want to be accessible to large groups of people.

Q: Is it harder to play for the larger, more diverse audiences?

A: No. Growing up playing music I was playing for myself. I wrote songs for myself, to get through stuff, sort of like music therapy. Different people heard it and liked what they heard. I still write for myself, although now I take into consideration what's more listenable for the audience. My only struggle with this is that I feel like I need more diverse songs which I'm working towards and have been coming out with.

Q: Is there a message that you'd like to convey through your music?

A: The primary experience that I want to have and want to encourage the audience to have is just a connection- a connection between what I'm putting out, the music, the sounds they're hearing and the feelings

that they're having about the music. Music is something that brings people together in lots of different ways on a lot of different levels. I don't have a particular message. An offering of connection is what I'm doing, through some fun songs or some sad songs.

Q: How does being a lesbian fit in?

A: Since I'm a woman and a lesbian, these songs are coming out of me in terms of how I see the world and how I'm treated in the world. So that's the base. I really struggle with trying to let people know that that's not the focus. It is only one focus. It's part of me that's very important; but my music is very accessible. It's about a lot of different things. I've got lots of different kinds of love songs about lots of different people, songs about animals, political songs about different situations. That's one reason why I can't call my music Women's Music. But it's also a very big part because the music come from who I am. Also, using my music to make a political statement as far as lesbianism goes is a new possibility. Since I was just writing for me all these years, it never quite occurred to me that people were going to be listening as much as they have been. I'm cautious about it. It's difficult to know how involved I want to be in that way, musically.

Jaimé is presently in the process of working on her first album and expects it to be done by the end of January. The album, begun in May, will include four or five supporting musicians. With the project about halfway done, Jaimé and producer are investigating some major independent record labels as possible buyers for her album. Although hopeful, she is also realistic about the difficulty she will face in finding a label to support her album. Jaimé will be performing on January 7 at the Green Conference and on January 12 at the Daily Bread Bakery in Richmond.

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