

Hello, and let me thank you in advance for taking the time out of your busy schedule to "talk" with us.

The interview process is pretty simple and straightforward. Just go through the following questions and answer them in a reply email. If there is anything you don't want to answer or if there is anything you want highlighted in particular, just let me know.

Once I get your reply, I'll edit for readability (in most cases this means I will adjust the question order and sometimes the wording in the questions - NOT your answers) and we'll post it on the website.

So here we go.

(1) I took a peek at your schedule and you two have been busy. What are the best and worst things about traveling so much?

JD: the best is meeting new friends and keeping in touch with old friends. I also love driving....and seeing new places. The worst....is being gone for more than 5 days....then I start to long for our wonderful home in the mountains and our king size bed!

Jan: I grew up in Colorado and I LOVE where we live now, in the heart of the mountains near Aspen. But winters get long.....it's a SKI area after all....so it's especially great traveling to warm green places during those cold snowy months. Plus JD and I both love singing and playing with new audiences, and exploring different parts of the country. And then it's always delicious to come home again and hang with friends and family.

(2) You are each a talented artist in your own right, what is special about your collaborative work?

JD: I love sharing the stage with Jan...she's an incredible entertainer with a big heart. And she has the gift of knowing what to say. It's more fun with two than with just one.

Jan: JD is a brilliant musician and songwriter. Also very cute. He makes me sound good. In live performances he holds down to fort so I can fly around vocally and improvise with the audience. Same with teaching our workshops. He is also the TECH man who has the patience and skill to engineer our recordings impeccably. We sometimes bark at each other when in the thick of writing, but in general he is a lovely sunny soul, very easy and fun to get along with. I like him a lot.

(3) Your music is uplifting, a life-affirming message that has touched many people's hearts. What do you do for your own spirit?

JD: Singing is a big part of my spiritual connection. Also spending time remembering to breathe!

Jan: I meditate and pray myself up, and am getting good at talking myself down off stupid mental/emotional/spiritual ledges. I try to practice being grateful. Laughing helps a LOT. JD and I have a steady practice of doing daily "Talking Staff" councils which we learned from Vision Questing. I recharge by spending time in the wilderness. We're so lucky to live in a place where I can get out into the red rock canyons and aspen groves every day, and be with the clear running rivers and starry night skies.

Writing music is also my great joy. It makes me shut up and listen.

I also love hanging out with my twin daughters (truly fabulous girls), watching great movies, reading poetry, and did I mention LAUGHING?

(4) Who have been your biggest influences/roll models/mentors?

JD: James Taylor, Michael McDonald, Marc Cohen, David Wilcox, and certainly my father, who was a Mennonite minister who worked to end war and racial discrimination.

Jan: Aretha, Judy Collins, early Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Raitt, Shawn Colvin, Ella Fitzgerald & all those classic jazz ladies, Lambert-Hendricks-&-Ross, Crosby Stills & Nash, The Band, Leon Russell, Delaney & Bonnie, James Taylor, Aaron Copland, Claude Debussy, Bach & Mozart, Renaissance Madrigals, and.....uh.....the list goes on. That's just the musical stuff.

I have also had the BEST spiritual teachers, ever. That's a very long and beautiful story.

(5) Your fans get a lot from your concerts, what do you get from performing?

JD: I get a lot of energy...even though I'm sometimes exhausted at the end of the day, I never feel that way at the end of a concert! It's very gratifying to look out and see people singing along on our songs....what a wonderful gift from them to us.

Jan: I just love playing music. Performing is like musical Satsang, the back & forth of inspired energy, where everybody wins. Each soul in the audience

is precious. Performing is just another way of relating, of appreciating who we all really are. What goes around comes around. It's a lovely loop. I encourage each of us to show up, and sing & play as much as possible.

(6) Jan is a certified laughing instructor. Would you tell us more about that?

JD: Here she is!!!

Jan: Look, I'm a goofball at heart. Everything works better with a sense of humor. For years I put "Certified Laughing Instructor" in my Bio just because I thought it was funny, and who would ever check? Then I found out that there really was such a thing, Laughter Yoga. So I went to Boulder for a VERY long and arduous weekend course, and got certified officially. It's a nice system. But I still like my free-form version better. It's funnier.

(7) JD, you've said that you write songs about going through the dark times and coming out more real on the other side. What gets you through your own dark times?

JD: Did I mention breathing? And knowing that the shadow side of my life is a very rich place for growth. Jan has a song about this. The third verse of "Tenderly Calling" gets to me every time she sings it:

SO DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARKNESS
AND DON'T RUN AWAY FROM THE STORM
STAND UP AND FACE YOUR REFLECTION
THE FEELINGS YOU'VE TRIED TO IGNORE
CAUSE AFTER THE TEMPEST IS OVER
AND YOU'VE LET YOURSELF COME ON THROUGH
YOU'LL HEAR A VOICE IN THE SILENCE
TENDERLY CALLING TO YOU

(8) Both of your careers have seen success, but what dreams are you still chasing?

JD: A tour of Europe and other wonderful places. A Grammy. An Academy Award. Mailbox money!!

Jan: I fully expect to have a hit Broadway musical. In fact I'm working on it now. I want to do what we are already doing, but for a LOT more people and a LOT more money, all over the world. Why not?

(9) Pivotal experiences shape who we are. Can you share a life defining moment with us?

JD: When I was fired from my last staff writer job in LA, I thought the world might have ended....and it did in some important ways. I ended up with this life, writing and singing my own songs rather than writing songs for others that often didn't get heard.

Jan: 1975. My band was traveling with a very famous singer (whom I will not name here) on a fancy 40-city tour. We were staying at the best hotels and flying on a private jet. The manager (I am NOT naming names) smoked expensive cigars and I'm pretty sure he had connections in the Jewish mafia. His sidekick (forget it, no names!) wore expensive gold chains, and spoke with an Italian mafia accent. Show biz kings. I was the only girl on the tour. They liked my musical style. Perhaps they smelled money.

One day, as we were flying at 30,000 ft. they called me into their wood-paneled office on the private jet and put the following question to me: "So whaddya want, Jan? Whaddya reeeeeaaaaally want?" I think I remember hearing all my personal angels file invisibly into the room. I thought for a moment, then answered, truthfully, "I want to realize God in this lifetime." That was the end of the interview. I wish it had been filmed. It was a great defining moment.

(10) What is the most negative experience you've dealt with professionally, and how did you handle it?

JD: Same situation as the last question....at first I just crumbled and read a lot of books and saw a lot of movies. Then gradually I saw the opportunity in it, started writing songs with my Beloved and recording them in our own studio....it's turned out not only for the best, but also much better than I could ever have imagined.

Jan: Many many years ago, when I was just out of college (this was in the early Pleistocene Era) I auditioned for a traveling singing group called the Serendipity Singers. I was fabulous. I also knew the director, so I figured I was a shoo-in. They rejected me. Unbelievable. I remember walking out into the autumn afternoon, vowing with every cell of my body that I would SHOW THEM! I would become rich and famous and play music for a living, forever. To my great delight it has come true. (I'm still working on the rich and famous part.)

(11) How would you define Posi-Music?

JD: Music to lift myself and other up....and I personally think that that includes very real songs that are not always "happy."

Jan: I have no idea.

(12) What accomplishment are you most proud of?

JD: I have been a co-writer of 5 Number One and 10 Top Ten country and pop hit singles. Also I love the awards that I've received from the New Thought (now Posi) Awards the past few years!

Jan: I am the mother of 2 lovely girls. I love the songs I've gotten to write and record all these years. You want to know who I really am? Listen to the music.

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Sometimes in the answers I find more questions, so I might send others later. Thank you again for the time you are taking to do this, I'm a fan of your work and am honored and blessed to be able to interview you.

THANK YOU, LORI! You sparked some wonderful answers. Blessings to you!
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Bless you both,
Lori Zwermann