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MAGAZINE

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Ashley Jordan



**Blackstone Valley
Bluegrass**



**The Death of A Legend
Ronnie James Dio**



Ashley Jordan

by Brian M. Owens

were you doing musically when you were ten years old? Never mind musically, what were you doing, period? Of all the artists interviewed, Ashley Jordan is one of the focused people I've had the pleasure of talking to. This young lady is only a junior in high school, but she's already released a CD and is building a future in the music business. I'm excited to see her succeed. She is a talented upstart one beautiful spring and she outlined her musical goals. If there is any indication of her drive and determination, we can all plan on buying her CD in the near future...

OMETRONE: What made you want to be a songwriter?

Jordan: I started out singing when I was young and started playing with a family friend who played guitar and that really inspired me to have my own instrument so I could write music and sing my own songs. It's not just to try and collaborate or perform with other people and depend on the instrument that they are playing. I wanted to be more independent and took off with the guitar.

OMETRONE: How old were you when you started playing all this stuff?

Jordan: I started getting serious with music when I was ten.

OMETRONE: Were you taking music lessons in school?

Jordan: I had taken voice lessons.

OMETRONE: Who did you study with?

Jordan: I studied with Conley at Paula Meola Dance and Music Arts in Sterling. I started taking formal music lessons too, but for me it was too formal. I'm more of a free spirit with things. I was coming in with a book and saying these things you're going to play really threw me off. What I could do from that and taught me the rest of the way using YouTube and other musicians play.

OMETRONE: Did you mention to me that you're still in high school?

Jordan: I'm a junior in high school. I plan on moving forward with my music so what I'm going to do is get my enrollment. I will still be a part of my school, but I'll be taking classes outside of school that count towards college courses as well as school courses. It's been hard trying to go to school, performing and having late nights. I think it will work out better for my music.

OMETRONE: Is that like being home?

Jordan: There are different classes at Middlesex and at the college. There are on-line courses that I could take during the day and at different times during the day so I could spread things out a little bit.

OMETRONE: You sound very ambitious?

Jordan: Yeah.

OMETRONE: When did you start writing?

Jordan: I would say at thirteen. I wasn't playing guitar at that time, but I was still writing music. It was a lot harder without having an instrument.

OMETRONE: Was it more like poetry at that time?

Jordan: I would say so.

OMETRONE: Did any of your early poems make it on your new album *Simple Love*?

Jordan: Yes. One of my songs called, "Simple Love Song" was the first song I ever



wrote. I was about fourteen or fifteen.

METRONE: When did you start feeling comfortable playing the guitar?

Jordan: I think when I had performed for a big audience playing my guitar and singing at the same time. That was a big step for me. Having that process pushed me forward on guitar to keep going with it.

METRONE: Is *Simple Love* your first CD release?

Jordan: Yes.

METRONE: When did you say to yourself, "I have enough songs, it's time for me to release my own CD, or, who prompted you to record?"

Jordan: There had been a lot of times where I had wanted to perform at a certain place and they would ask, "Can you send us a CD?" At that time I only had my demo. I wasn't exactly happy with the demo and it wasn't really finished. I just wanted to have a CD and have all the songs I had written so far. Actually there were two songs on the CD that I hadn't even finished when I was recording. They were the two songs that I ended up loving the most, "Simple Love" and "Why Can't

You." Those were the ones that were pretty new to me.

METRONE: Did you finish both songs while you were in the studio?

Jordan: After recording and having the songs that I had, I thought, you know, these should really get finished and put on the CD. That's what I ended up doing. It worked out pretty well.

METRONE: Did Steve Rapson record this project with you?

Jordan: Yes. He is the producer.

METRONE: How long did it take you to record the album?

Jordan: It went pretty quickly. I was at his studio maybe three or four times for very long sessions. We would go from 8 am to 4 or 5 pm each time. It was a full day thing.

METRONE: How did you meet Steve?

Jordan: Through one of my guitar mentor/teachers who I met at a coffeehouse named John Gerard. He's a very talented artist/musician. I really admired him when I saw him perform. I went up to him and said, "I would love it if you would work with me. He's been really helpful. His producer was Steve Rapson. He introduced me and that's

how I got connected with Steve." **METRONE:** How was the coffeehouse being on stage?

Jordan: (laughs) I had a full-on band to go to and my parents. They love music, thank you. Sometimes I would be confused. My dad would be like, "I would love to be on the list?" And someone would be like to be on the list? And I was performing. They would be confused expression. I was as a young girl going up on stage.

METRONE: You sound quite different though!

Jordan: Yeah (laughs). **METRONE:** When you were in the studio was it basic and then Steve's production around it?

Jordan: Yeah. I would say just me and my guitar songs where he added