



THE ESSENTIAL JANIS IAN

**31-TRACK CAREER OVERVIEW SPANS “HAIR OF SPUN GOLD”
AND “SOCIETY’S CHILD” – TO ALBUM AND SINGLE VERSIONS
OF GRAMMING-WINNING “AT SEVENTEEN” – THROUGH
TRACKS FROM 2006’S FOLK IS THE NEW BLACK**

**MULTI-LABEL PACKAGE SPANS 1964 TO 2008 ON VERVE/FORECAST,
COLUMBIA, MORGAN CREEK, BEACON, WINDHAM HILL,
HER SELF-OWNED INDIE RUDE GIRL LABEL, AND OTHERS**

**Available at both physical and digital retail outlets
starting September 8, 2009, through Columbia/Legacy**

**Coincides with September 3rd release of softcover edition
of Janis Ian’s *Society’s Child: My Autobiography***

North American tour dates announced – August 2009 through April 2010

From her recording debut at age 15 with “Society’s Child” (1966), Top 40’s first nod to interracial teen dating in the heat of the Civil Rights and Black Power era – to her wistful reflections on those years a decade later with “At Seventeen” (1975) – to coming out as a gay woman nearly two decades after that on her *Breaking Silence* album (1993) – culminating with the July 2008 publication of her autobiography *Society’s Child: My Autobiography* (Tarcher/Penguin Books) – singer-songwriter **Janis Ian** (b. 1951) has never shied away from controversy and the real-life issues that have shaped her world.

In conjunction with the book publication last year, a new double-CD anthology was issued on Janis’ self-owned indie Rude Girl Records label (via its affiliate Cooking Vinyl), entitled *Best of Janis Ian: The Autobiography Collection*. Contained were 31 [non-chronological] tracks ranging from a 1963 demo (“Hair of Spun Gold”) and her self-titled 1966 debut LP (with “Society’s Child”) all the way to a pair of songs newly re-recorded in 2008, from *Breaking Silence*. The 2008 *Autobiography Collection* featured several new as well as vintage tracks which, at the time, were all **previously unreleased** (“Hair Of Spun Gold” demo, “I Long For You,” “Today You’re Mine”).

One year later, in conjunction with the softcover publication of *Society’s Child: My Autobiography* and the announcement of new North American tour dates extending

into 2010, Janis joins Legacy Recordings' best-selling *Essential* series – as *Autobiography Collection* now becomes **THE ESSENTIAL JANIS IAN**. The double-CD, including a personal introduction written by Janis, will be available at all physical and digital retail outlets starting September 8th through Columbia/Legacy, a division of SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT. The softcover release of *Society's Child: My Autobiography* is set for September 3rd.

THE ESSENTIAL JANIS IAN represents every nook and cranny of her career, with tracks that were originally issued on a host of labels, including Verve/Forecast, Columbia, Morgan Creek, Beacon, Windham Hill, and, of course, Rude Girl (formed in 1992), which now distributes some 30 Janis Ian album titles, new and old.

Apropos, **THE ESSENTIAL JANIS IAN** begins with “Hair of Spun Gold,” from her Verve/Forecast debut LP, produced by Shadow Morton (of Shangri-La's fame). The song was written when Janis was 12, and was published in the venerable *Broadside* magazine, where the early writings of Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Eric Andersen, Buffy Ste. Marie, and many others first appeared. The track was recorded when Janis was 15 years old and still attending New York's High School of Music & Art. The antique-sounding demo for “Hair of Spun Gold” is reprised on disc two.

“Society's Child” (from that same LP) is part '60s folk protest, and part classic girl-group yearning. Released three times as a single, it (and the album) went unnoticed until 1967 when a tv producer for Leonard Bernstein saw Janis at the Gaslight Café on MacDougal Street in Greenwich Village. Bernstein had her perform the song on the CBS-TV News special, *Inside Pop: The Rock Revolution* (in the company of Frank Zappa, Brian Wilson, Roger McGuinn, Tim Buckley, and others). “Society's Child” finally took off, hitting #14 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 that summer, with notorious fallout – many radio stations blacklisted the song; and according to Janis' autobiography, a station in Atlanta was torched for playing it. “Society's Child” was named to the Grammy Hall Of Fame in 2001.

It is equally appropriate that **THE ESSENTIAL JANIS IAN** is released under the Columbia/Legacy imprint, since she spent such a significant chunk of her career at the label. She was signed to Columbia in 1972, at age 21, after recording three albums for Verve and one for Capitol. Janis stayed with Columbia for a decade, releasing seven LPs through 1981, starting with *Stars* in 1974 (“Jesse,” “Stars,” “Thankyous”). The album was not an immediate hit, but “Jesse” was famously recorded by Roberta Flack (a Top 30 hit single from *Killing Me Softly*, 1973), Joan Baez (*Diamonds and Rust*, 1975), and saxophonist Phil Woods (*Floresta Canto*, 1976).

The stage was set for Janis Ian's greatest commercial breakthrough when “At Seventeen” broke out of *Between The Lines* in the summer of 1975. The album hit #1 and was certified platinum by the RIAA. “At Seventeen” went to #3 on the Hot 100 (and #1 AC) and Janis performed it on the premiere of NBC's *Saturday Night Live* in October. The following year, *Between The Lines* earned Grammy nominations for Album of the Year and Best Engineered Non-Classical Recording (winning for engineer), and “At Seventeen” earned nominations for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, Song of the Year, and Record of the Year (winning Best Female Pop Vocal Performance). Since then, “At Seventeen” has taken on a life of its own. In 1997, it was heard in a Simpsons episode titled “A Streetcar Named Marge.” In the 2004 film *Mean Girls*, the song was heard and a character named ‘Janis Ian’ was featured. In 2008, “At Seventeen” was used

in the director's cut DVD of the film *Zodiac*. "At Seventeen" was named to the Grammy Hall Of Fame in 2008.

THE ESSENTIAL JANIS IAN presents two takes of "At Seventeen," the 4:42 LP version and the 3:55 single edit. The collection then makes room for two more high points from the Columbia discography: "Love Is Blind" from *Aftertones* (1976), which solidified her popularity in Japan as a #1 single (for six months) and #1 album, respectively; and "Fly Too High" from *Night Rains*, co-written by Ian and Giorgio Moroder, a song that was used as the theme to the soundtrack of director Adrian Lyne's *Foxes*, starring Jodie Foster.

Janis Ian parted ways with Columbia in 1982 – but not before lending her talent to the *Sesame Street: In Harmony II* benefit album ("Ginny The Flying Girl"), in the company of James Taylor, Billy Joel, Carly and Lucy Simon, and Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band's "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" (to name a few contributors).

Like her friend Joan Baez, Janis spent the next decade or so without a major label record deal, though she kept busy as a songwriter, acting student (with the great Stella Adler in New York until Adler's death in 1992), and performing artist around the world. By the time Janis re-emerged in 1993, she had relocated to Nashville, started a record label (Rude Girl), come out as a gay woman, and recorded one of her greatest albums, the Grammy-nominated *Breaking Silence* ("His Hands," "Some People's Lives," "Through The Years"). She had also acquired a new co-writer, Kye Fleming (leading to the provocative 'Ian-Fleming' song credit on their many compositions).

Revenge followed in 1995 ("When Angels Cry," "Stolen Fire"). Two years later, Janis released the first of two albums on the New Age-tinged Windham Hill label, *Hunger*, followed in 2000 by *god & the fbi* ("Days Like These"). The latter showcased her prodigious guitar skills, which had won many Music City devotees and opened up a side career for Janis on the busy studio session circuit.

At the same time, Janis had begun to utilize Rude Girl as a means of releasing tracks from her personal archive of studio and live recordings – several decades worth. *Unreleased 1: Mary's Eyes* was issued in 1998; then *Unreleased 2: Take No Prisoners* in 2000 ("Arms Around My Life"), and *Unreleased 3: Society's Child* in 2001 ("Every Love"). *Janis Ian Live: Working Without A Net* (2003) was a double-CD compilation of 24 live performances from around the world, spanning 1990 to 2003. "Tattoo," for example, was recorded at the Schouwburg Concordia in Holland, while "God And The FBI" was recorded live at the Birchmere outside Washington, DC in 2000. All royalties from the *Unreleased* series go to The Pearl Foundation, a non-profit organization named for Ian's mother that supports scholarship funding.

Her next studio album, 2004's *Billie's Bones* (whose title alluded to a long-time fascination with Billie Holiday) boasted a guest appearance by Dolly Parton on "My Tennessee Hills." Janis accessed the Woody Guthrie archive for the unpublished poem, "I Hear You Sing Again," which benefited from a lovely melody by one of Woody's biggest fans. The most recent studio album by Janis Ian is 2006's *Folk Is The New Black*, a co-venture on the Rude Girl imprint ("Haven't I Got Eyes," "Joy," "My Autobiography"). In 2007, Janis contributed the traditional anti-war ballad "Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye," to *Song of America*, the comprehensive historical 3-CD box set, executive produced by former Attorney General Janet Reno.

THE ESSENTIAL JANIS IAN
(Columbia/Legacy CK 756196)

Disc 1

| Title | Rec. | From album (or detail) | Orig. label | Rel. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hair of Spun Gold | 1966 | <i>Janis Ian</i> | Verve/Forecast | 1967 |
| 2. God And The FBI | 2000 | live @ Birchmere, Alexandria, VA | Rude Girl | 2008 |
| 3. Silly Habits | 1991 | <i>Live: Working Without A Net</i> | Rude Girl | 2003 |
| 4. Society's Child | 1966 | <i>Janis Ian</i> | Verve/Forecast | 1967 |
| 5. Haven't I Got Eyes | - | <i>Folk Is The New Black</i> | Rude Girl | 2006 |
| 6. Jesse | 1973 | <i>Stars</i> | Columbia | 1974 |
| 7. Stars | 1973 | <i>Stars</i> | Columbia | 1974 |
| 8. Thankyous | 1973 | <i>Stars</i> | Columbia | 1974 |
| 9. This Train Still Runs | 1995 | <i>Live: Working Without A Net</i> | Rude Girl | 2003 |
| 10. At Seventeen (LP version) | 1974 | <i>Between The Lines</i> | Columbia | 1975 |
| 11. Love Is Blind | 1975 | <i>Afertonnes</i> | Columbia | 1975 |
| 12. Fly Too High | 1979 | <i>Night Rains</i> (from movie, <i>Foxes</i>) | Columbia | 1979 |
| 13. Arms Around My Life | - | <i>Unreleased 2: Take No Prisoners</i> | Rude Girl | 2006 |
| 14. His Hands | - | <i>Breaking Silence</i> | Morgan Creek | 1993 |
| 15. When Angels Cry | - | <i>Revenge</i> | Beacon | 1995 |

Disc 2

| Title | Rec. | From album (or detail) | Label | Rel. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|--------------|-------------|
| 1. My Tennessee Hills | - | <i>Billie's Bones</i> | - | 2004 |
| 2. Every Love | 1986 | <i>Unreleased 3: Society's Child</i> | Rude Girl | 2001 |
| 3. Some People's Lives | 2008 | <i>Breaking Silence</i> | Morgan Creek | 1993 |
| 4. Stolen Fire | - | <i>Revenge</i> | Beacon | 1995 |
| 5. Days Like These | 2008 | <i>god & the fbi</i> | Windham Hill | 2000 |
| 6. Tatoo | 1991 | <i>Live: Working Without A Net</i> | Rude Girl | 2003 |
| 7. Through The Years | 2008 | <i>Breaking Silence</i> | Morgan Creek | 1993 |
| 8. I Hear You Sing Again | - | <i>Billie's Bones</i> | - | 2004 |
| 9. Joy | - | <i>Folk Is The New Black</i> | Rude Girl | 2006 |
| 10. My Autobiography | - | <i>Folk Is The New Black</i> | Rude Girl | 2006 |
| 11. Hair Of Spun Gold | 64/65 | demo – bonus track | - | - |
| 12. I Long For You | 1978 | bonus track – previously unreleased | - | - |
| 13. Ginny The Flying Girl | 1981 | <i>Sesame Street: In Harmony II</i> | Columbia | 1981 |
| 14. Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye | 2005 | <i>Song of America</i> , Janet Reno project | 31 Tigers | 2007 |
| 15. Today You're Mine | 2008 | previously unreleased | - | - |
| 16. At Seventeen | 1974 | single version | Columbia | 1975 |

Note: The following titles (and many others) are now available through the Rude Girl Records catalog:

Night Rains (1979)

Breaking Silence (1993)

Revenge (1995)

god & the fbi (2000)

Billie's Bones (2004)

Working Without a Net: Live (2003)

Folk Is The New Black (2006)

JANIS IAN ON TOUR

For the latest info visit www.janisian.com

| <u>Date</u> | <u>City</u> | <u>Venue</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| Sept. 23 | New York, NY | City Winery |
| Oct. 3 | Nashville, TN | The Bluebird Café |
| 9 | Newberry, SC | Newberry Opera House |
| 11 | Savannah, GA | Savannah Folk Festival - Grayson Stad. |
| 22 | Dallas, TX | Fairmont Hotel/Venetian Room |
| 23 | Woodlands, TX | Dosey Does |
| 24 | La Grange, TX | The Bugle Boy |
| 30 | Oakland, CA | World Institute on Disability |
| Nov. 6 | Glen Allen, VA | The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen |
| 7 | Vienna, VA | The Barns at Wolftrap |
| 8 | Chapel Hill, NC | Community Church Concerts |
| 9 | High Point, NC | High Point Theater |
| 18 | Larchmont, NY | Watercolor Café |
| 19 | Paramus, NJ | Cicccone Theater - Bergen Comm. College |
| 20 | Reading PA | Miller Center for the Performing Arts |
| Dec. 10 | Elyria, OH | Stocker Art Center - with Susan Werner |
| 11 | Kent, OH | Kent Stage - with Gretchen Peters |
| 12 | Ann Arbor, MI | The Ark – with Gretchen Peters |
| 13 | Wilmette, IL | Wilmette Theater - with Gretchen Peters |
| <u>2010:</u> | | |
| Mar. 3-4 | Las Cruces, NM | NMSU Music Recital Hall |
| 19 | Sanibel Island, FL | Schein Hall |
| 20 | Palm Bch Grdns, FL | Borland Center Theater |
| 21 | Stuart, FL | Lyric Theatre |
| 27 | Sherwood Park, Alb. | Festival Place |
| Apr. 4-9 | Boston, MA | Berklee College |
| 15 | Woodstock, VT | Woodstock Town Hall |
| 16 | Keene, NH | Colonial Theater - with Karla Bonoff |
| 17 | Pittsfield MA | Colonial Theater - with Karla Bonoff |
| 18 | Albany, NY | Swyer Theater – with Karla Bonoff |
| 24 | W. Milford, NJ | W. Milford Presbyterian Church |

**For further information on JANIS IAN contact:
Tom Cording at Legacy Media Relations, 212.833.4448, or
Randy Haecker at Legacy Media Relations, 212.833.4101
Email: LegacyMediaRelations@sonymusic.com**

ADDRESS TEARSHEETS TO:

Tom Cording or Randy Haecker
SONY MUSIC / LEGACY
550 Madison Avenue, 17th floor
New York, NY 10022-3211

**janisian.com
legacyrecordings.com**