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Under the Covers: The Ladies of Led Zeppelin, Part 2

Posted by Mike Zilm on June 17, 2008



This is part 2 of an interview with **Lez Zeppelin**. Part 1 can be found [here](#)...

(Helen has the clear blue eyes of a child, but plays with the drive of a mature musician. When she was in middle school her family cleared out the master bedroom to make room for her drum kit.

Her touch is powerful, without losing the subtle 'flutter beats' John Bonham layered underneath Zepp's rhythm section. While listening or speaking, she looked directly at me.)

MZ: What would you say to someone who says, "Why are they playing Zepp's music? They don't play it exactly like **Led Zeppelin!**"

Helen: That's not really our intention. We play this music because we love it. Nobody asks Yo Yo Ma why he plays Mozart. We're all students of Zeppelin's music. This is our interpretation of their catalog. In the beginning, while you're learning, you try to play it note for note, as close as you can. And then you build from there. When you have four different musicians on stage 'comping' off one another, it just changes a little. It has to.

MZ: Is that the difference between what you ladies are doing and what a 'cover band' or 'tribute band' is traditionally guilty of, the difference between *imitation* and *interpretation*?

Helen: People know they're not going to get a carbon copy of Led Zeppelin. We're committed to staying faithful to the music, but they want to see what we're going to do with it. The best part about playing this music, in this band, is that while listening to one another, musically speaking to each other on stage, the music goes someplace else. It's inevitable. Sometimes we're not even sure where it's going to go! (laughing..)

Lisa: We're not impersonating. We don't do the hair and makeup, and we're not trying to be a substitute. We love this music. Zeppelin's catalog is full of different styles, tempos, and harmonic language. I don't think even they knew how brilliant they were when they were making it. We're four different musicians trying to bring something of ourselves to it.

Sarah: It's hard not to sound full of yourself when you say you're not a "cover band", but we hope the people at our shows can feel the difference.

MZ: What would you say to the fan who's upset that you missed a few notes? I heard some mistakes out there.

Steph: I would say... (She makes a fist as if to hit me, and laughs)...those are the fans that are interested in imitation. Besides, I'm often accused of making Jimmy's mistakes!

MZ: In the interest of my safety, let's talk about the album you made. You got a chance to work with Eddie Kramer and George Marino (legendary producers and engineers who worked with Led Zeppelin and Hendrix, among others). How

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