



Judy Collins 1999

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Music has been a major part of my life since the age of twelve. Growing up in a home where my father was a musician and also opening a retail music as well. I was surrounded with all kinds of music at a young age. Working everyday after school and on weekends at my father's store, I soon found myself leaning toward the "Beach Music" as my favorite sound. Working in the music business also gave me access to some wonderful people that I knew loved the music and also really knew how to do the dance called "the shag." I asked the one person that I felt would be kind enough to teach me. With no hesitation, Norman Holiday taught me the basics and Wanda came along and continued to polish what I had learned. I knew my dancing was improving when experienced dancers started asking me to dance. I knew I had reached some kind of level when Donnie Chrisenberry actually asked me to dance. That's when I felt I could call myself a shagger.

Later on, I taught lessons with partner Jeppy McDowell, a great dancer in his own right. We competed together in contest and continued to teach adults and young students.

DeeJaying was also a love of mine. I used to DeeJay on the back deck of Fat Jacks on Saturday afternoons because I was too young to go inside. One of my highlights was the induction into the Dee Jay Hall of Fame in 1991 and now the honor of Shaggers Hall of Fame. I truly do consider myself lucky and I am so honored. I would like to thank the Board and members that had the belief to bestow this great honor on me. Whatever form it may be, my life will always include the music, the dance and the people I have met in this wonderful dance community.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Judy Collins