

Laid Back

REVIEWS by *Joe Park*

Folkster retrospective amazing

If I ever make it up to Twin Oaks Cemetery in Turner, Oregon, I'm going to pause at the stone of Tim Hardin. It's a simple marker I'm told that simply says "He sang from his heart." His is another sad tale for someone else to tell - he died of a heroin overdose in 1980 — just 39 years old.

Maybe it was the war that changed him. He dropped out of school in Oregon when he was 18, joined the Marine Corps and was shipped off to Vietnam. Anyway it was in this easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula that he first experimented with the drug.

After he was discharged he moved to New York City. In 1961, he began attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts but they dismissed him because he missed so many classes.

In the mid-60s, he split his time between Greenwich Village and Los Angeles. During this time frame he wrote two of his most popular songs "If I Were A Carpenter" and "Reason to Believe." Many people covered these including Joan Baez, Bobby Darin, Johnny Cash, Ramblin' Jack Elliot, Robert Plant and Rod Stewart. In fact, "Reason to Believe" was supposed to be the A side of one of Rod's most successful 45s. The other side was accidentally played by DJs - "Maggie May."

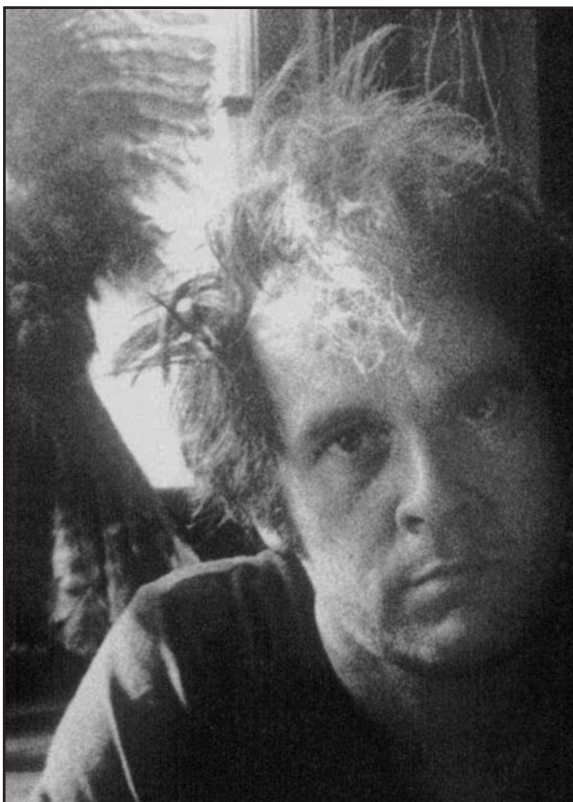
Some of Tim's other better songs were "Bird on the Wire," "Don't Make Promises" and "How Can We Hang On to a Dream."

My buddy, Ian McFarlane, with *Raven Records* has just released a CD which features two of Tim's best albums - *Tim Hardin 1* and *Time Hardin 2*.

Some forget that Tim also appeared at Woodstock.

He also appeared with the late great Harry Chapin as part of Chapin's concert in Potsdam, N.Y. The two got into a blues jam which lasted over seven minutes covering lyrics about what it's like to be a troubadour on the road. It says a bootleg recording is out there of this but I haven't found it yet.

For more, go to www.ravenrecords.com.au



Tim Hardin



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Rich Del Grosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson

If you happen to be in Houston, Texas, on Jan. 22 lumber on over to *The Big Easy Social & Pleasure Club*. That's the day friends Rich Delgrosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson will have a release party for their new CD *Time Slips On By*.

My friend, Mark Pucci, of *Mark Pucci Media* is always helping me to discover fringe talent that I can pass on to *Laid Back* in Lee readers.

Part of the duo unique sound comes from Rich's mandolin playing. People don't normally associate the mandolin with blues but you'd be surprised how natural the blending of it, guitars and horns sounds.

I'm told it was Scott Joplin and W.C. Handy who added the mandolin and helped to shape the music that would gradually evolve into rock and jazz and their descendants.

Whoever did it ... it was a great idea.

The other half of the pair, Jonn Del Toro, is a blues guitarist who defines the Texas Blues.

Time Slips On By is 14 original songs full of vinegar and energy, with Sonny Boy Terry adding harmonica on two songs and Finoa Boyes adding a little soul to "A Gig Is A Gig."

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