

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you started off a little ugly.

HOST: Why?

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Barnes and Skott Free. Yeah.

HOST: That's a great song.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's Skott Free. Yeah. He's just got different music, different--

HOST: Even within the same CD, he has different--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. That's true. That's true.

HOST: And this is the second one. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: This is from the living dead.

HOST: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: And it's got a very provocative cover.

HOST: Cover of a mummy.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. It's a man wrapped up in rope, especially seems an appendage has a lot of rope wrapped around it.

HOST: Oh, well, some will take more.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I guess. My, my, my.

HOST: But he's just a sweetheart if you ever met him.

JIMMY CARPER: No. I haven't.

HOST: He's like 6'5.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

HOST: And just so nice.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow. Is that him? The picture.

HOST: It is. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: He doesn't look very nice in that picture.

HOST: He is. He is very nice.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm. And before that we had Barnes.

HOST: Barnes doing Boy With the Secret.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. OK. And we're used to that one.

HOST: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. What do we have next?

HOST: You haven't queued it up yet.

JIMMY CARPER: I haven't queued it. Oh, yes.

HOST: Indigo Etheridge.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST: We had the pleasure of seeing them do this live in New York at the basement of CBGB's.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

HOST: They have a downstairs performance area.

JIMMY CARPER: Wait, you're not supposed to do that. Not supposed to do that.

HOST: What?

JIMMY CARPER: Well, the play started playing. I wasn't ready for it to do that. I didn't hit the button yet.

HOST: The lead singer whose real name is Julie Goldman is also a standup comedian. So you can probably not be surprised at that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

HOST: And they they introduced a new song called Gay for Baseball, which is not on on the CD. And it's about how straight guys are really queer but they're queer for baseball. Yeah. So they shouldn't deny it.

JIMMY CARPER: That's good. That's good. She's good. She's fun.

HOST: Yes, she's very fun.

JIMMY CARPER: Let's get to it.

HOST: Monogamous slut.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) Say, I have cramps.

That was estrogen.

JIMMY CARPER: Estrogen. Well, what a surprise? I can't imagine. That was lesbian moment. Whoa. That's off of their CD, Tales from Lesbianville.

HOST: Very out.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST: Out recording.

JIMMY CARPER: How did you find these folks?

HOST: They're members of out music.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. Boy, out music is doing a lot of stuff lately, aren't they?

HOST: They're doing a lot of stuff. They are growing a lot last year. I'm very pleased with them. I joined a couple of years ago just because I wanted to be supportive. And I've kind of been able to watch them grow. And I think they have like 80 members now.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

HOST: And what's exciting is that they're having an award show in June. And they've opened it up to all the artists, any artists, to enter.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, not just the members.

HOST: Not just the members.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

HOST: Last year, they had a very contained affair. Only OUTMUSIC members could enter for the different categories.

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

HOST: And they were just kind of feeling their way around.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST: They've open it up to anybody-- any artist, any out artist, can join. The categories, for example are-- I should have brought a list. Male and female, male and female debut, group, out song.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh good.

HOST: And maybe a couple more. They didn't overdo it with categories because they're still growing. So this will be kind of nice.

JIMMY CARPER: Do you think this is a response to the demise of GLAMMA. Now, GLAMMA being Gay and Lesbian American Music Associately.

HOST: Partially responsible. And they're not trying to do the same thing. They're not trying to replace it. And they're certainly not--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, because GLAMMA is not around anymore.

HOST: Well, they're not trying to say, well, we're going to do it better or anything like that. A lot of people still, myself included, still honor the work GLAMMA did.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, absolutely. But maybe they expanded too quickly.

HOST: Perhaps. And OUTMUSIC is trying to just watch how they're growing. And that's good. I was in New York last weekend. And I was invited to the board meeting.

And so I was able to kind of sit back and kind of watch how they were doing. And I really respect the way they're running it.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, was this organization started by Dean McBride?

HOST: No.

JIMMY CARPER: Or was he-- is he just--

HOST: He was a recent president.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

HOST: It's about a 10-year-old organization.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I had no idea.

HOST: Yes. And Dan Martin was one of the original founders.

JIMMY CARPER: Dan Martin?

HOST: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

HOST: And he kind of stepped back for a number of years. And now he's come back to try and get things on a different path.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. OK.

HOST: And I respect Dan a lot. I've known him for a while.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Yeah, he's been out there with the music for a long time.

HOST: Singing and producing.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

HOST: He produced he produced things for Grant King and Tom McCormick. And he's quite good.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Well, it's good to hear that we're going to have our own recognition again. I certainly was very upset when the GLAMMAs went out of business.

HOST: They're going to go one step better. And kind of it's my idea. So they're going to have a OUTMUSIC Heritage Award.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really?

HOST: To honor a pioneer of the gay music past.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my god, that's wonderful. Yes.

HOST: And I kind of got that moving and working with one of the board members. And we kind of presented it to them. And they said, yes, we want to do that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that is a wonderful idea.

HOST: So I became the committee. And I got Chris Wilson, my co-producer for Audiophile, to also give some balance to that. And I researched a number of people, did bios, and presented the board a list of 10 nominees--

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

HOST: --in order of the preferences that Chris and I agreed to. And I can't tell you who was picked yet because it hasn't been announced. But I'm pleased that the board picked our number one choice.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

HOST: And that person has already agreed to be there to accept.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

HOST: And perform.

JIMMY CARPER: And I'm sure that the other nine are just as worthy.

HOST: Any of them I would have been pleased with.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

HOST: So I'm real satisfied with that.

JIMMY CARPER: That's nice. It's good that we can honor our own. And especially, like you said, people from the past because they came up in a world that was much different than the queer music businesses today. They really had to fight to get any recognition.

HOST: Yeah. And I can give an example of like-- I've interviewed several artists in the past year who when I've asked them what artists influence them or did they respect, they named Romanovsky and Phillips. Now, they're not the people that were picked for the award-- but as an example of pioneers that were out there on the in the trenches--

JIMMY CARPER: They were.

HOST: --when people weren't really ready for out music, they pulled it off with politics and humor and flair and showed that it could be done.

JIMMY CARPER: Not only that, but they would do things like instead of going to Los Angeles and being in their Gay Pride Day, they would go to, like, Boise, Idaho, and be in that Gay Pride Day parade because they thought it was more important to be in Boise than to be in Los Angeles.

HOST: Yeah, and it was.

JIMMY CARPER: And it really was. So I mean, they do have that pioneering spirit.

HOST: There's a number of people that I hope in the future years we can get around to honoring.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely. What have we got next?

HOST: Next is a-- this group is called Wishing Chair.

JIMMY CARPER: I need to remind folks that they're listening to KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. That's right. We're having a good time here on *After Hours*. At the bottom of the hour, we're going to have a call in from Dean Becker. And he's going to be talking about the drug war news, actually.

He started this last week. And it came up because of medical marijuana and how important marijuana can be for AIDS patients to help appetite and stuff like that. And so he's going to be giving us weekly updates, three- or four-minute updates on what's going on there. So he'll be calling in at the bottom of the hour. So what do we have in the meantime?

HOST: We have the group Wishing Chair. This is their, oh, fourth or fifth album.

JIMMY CARPER: I don't have anything by them.

HOST: They're pretty good. And in fact, one of them has a couple of albums on her own. I can't--

JIMMY CARPER: These are women?

HOST: Yeah, they're women. I can't think of their individual names at the moment. Kiya is one of them. I can't--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Kiya?

HOST: Uh huh.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, she's big in the punk music world.

HOST: No. No. Not the same one.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, not the same one.

HOST: No. Anyway, they do very nice kind of--

JIMMY CARPER: Sorry.

HOST: Folk country with lots of harmonies.

JIMMY CARPER: Miriam Davidson.

HOST: Uh huh.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

HOST: And the particular song I just love off the new one is called "She's Everything to Me."

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, and that's the one we're going to hear right now.

HOST: Yep.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

That nice?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that is very nice. I have to get this.

HOST: That's one of my favorite tracks from that. That's a various artist CD called *Forever Dusty*. And a number of lesbian artists contributed tracks to this-- Dusty being Dusty Springfield tributes.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, yeah.

HOST: And I like Sonia's version of that song because she put more of her own style into it than some of the other artists did.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, she did. She did.

HOST: For example, Zrazy-- I love Zrazy. But they didn't really do anything to the song they did, which I think was "How Can I Be Sure." They didn't add their own style to it.

JIMMY CARPER: They just kind of copied it.

HOST: They just kind of did it.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

HOST: But it's a good CD.

JIMMY CARPER: But we've got The Butchies, Indigo Girls, Jill Sobule, Zrazy, Michelle Malone with Karyn Folmar Malone. That must be your sister, huh?

HOST: Maybe.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, down to Carole Pope.

HOST: Mm-hmm.

JIMMY CARPER: Who was--

HOST: Who was Dusty's Lover.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes. And she was--

HOST: Rough Trade.

JIMMY CARPER: In a group called Rough Trade. She and some big queen-- because I have the album. She's on one side. He's on the other. And that's why I bought it. It's like, I didn't know anything about that music.

And I thought, oh my god, look at this. It's got to be a gay man. And she's got to be a big dyke. And--

HOST: By golly, you're right.

JIMMY CARPER: You're right. Also, it's got Lord Douglas Phillips. They don't have a whole lot of recorded material, do they?

HOST: Mm-mm.

JIMMY CARPER: No, not at all. And so this is the group from Austin with Gretchen Phillips in it. And they did "Yesterday When I Was Young." Oh gosh.

HOST: It's a nice little collection. And I'm sure that's available at--

JIMMY CARPER: Where did you get it?

HOST: Well, I either got it at Goldenrod or Lady Slipper. Those are both women's websites.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it came out in 2000. Yeah, called *Forever Dusty, Homage to an Icon*. Wow, that is so cool. Thank you. Thank you for bringing that. Now, where are we going after that?

HOST: We're going to go back in time just a little bit. I want to go back to 1992. This artist's name is Ted Fox. That I don't know a lot about him. I just had this one cassette.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I have that too. And that's it.

HOST: And I've tried searching the net for him. And I can't find out anything about him or if he did anything later. I think he's out of Arizona or someplace. But the cassette was very nice. It was called *One of Us*. And the song I liked was track one on the song, "Tell Me Why". Here we go.

TED FOX: One, two, one, two, three, go.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) Well, I just don't know what to do.

JIMMY CARPER: I remember this song too. But it's not the song we told you we're going to play because I put in number three. And I should have put in number two, which is the real song. And the title of that is--

HOST: "Tell Me Why."

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Yes, Bill Folk. That's a that's a name I haven't heard in a very, very long time.

HOST: Of course, that was "Looking for Mr. Right."

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, off of his CD of the same name.

HOST: He has such an upbeat way of singing.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, he does. He does. He's not the most talented man in the world. But there's real joy in his voice. He likes what he's doing.

HOST: You like it even though you find fault with it. You still find yourself liking it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, exactly. Exactly. And you said that he died recently.

HOST: I came across something on the internet about that. And I printed it. And I don't remember the details. But it seems like he did die several years ago of AIDS.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. But we still have this music to remember him by. That's great. That's wonderful. Thank you.

Thanks for bringing it because I've played it on the air. But it's been years. And I had forgotten the tune. These days, I'm just so over overwhelmed that we have so much really good gay and lesbian queer music that you forget the oldies.

HOST: That's why I brought Ted Fox.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Yeah. Thanks. What do we got next?

HOST: Another oldie of sorts. This was on Michael Callen's first album.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

HOST: Had the voice of an angel.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, no kidding. And he did-- this one is-- the *Purple Heart* album. He just is all over the place because he's got all kinds of different types of music and some very serious, some very activist music.

HOST: Oh yes.

JIMMY CARPER: And some very camp music. And this is one of the fun ones.

HOST: I tend to overlook this CD because I usually I'm playing things from his legacy collection.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST: And I say, well, I'll bring this one. And this is very camp.

JIMMY CARPER: But this whole CD is good. It's really, really good. It would be on my top 10 of all time. Great.

HOST: We're going to hear him do, as nobody else can, "Where the Boys Are."

JIMMY CARPER: Great. Eat your heart out, Barbra Streisand. That was the song that Michael wanted to be able to hold a note longer than Streisand did. And he made it. And this was a man with AIDS.

HOST: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. So yeah, I-- halfway through the song, I remembered that this note was coming up. Yeah. Yeah. And he does it beautifully. Right in the middle of all of this, we're going to go to the phone. And we've got Dean Becker.

DEAN BECKER: Well, thanks, Jimmy. How are you doing tonight?

JIMMY CARPER: Fine. How are you doing, Dean?

DEAN BECKER: I'm doing well, listening to the show. That was quite a note.

JIMMY CARPER: Wasn't that incredible? Yeah. What have we got from the world of medical marijuana?

DEAN BECKER: Well, I have several stories of the unvarnished drug war news. I try to dabble in all of it. There's just so much insanity. It's reaching a new crescendo as well.

JIMMY CARPER: Unvarnished drug. I couldn't read the note that they handed me. The unvarnished drug war news.

DEAN BECKER: Yes. A little take from *Doonesbury* as well on the--

JIMMY CARPER: You bet, you bet.

DEAN BECKER: For instance, in Great Britain, I think I mentioned to you guys they're already building cannabis clubs.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DEAN BECKER: They're calling it a miracle medicine. But yet in Colombia, there's more coca growing now than before they started poisoning the crops and the people and the kids and the animals. And yet the war rages on. There's more villages being destroyed by bombs now. There's more peasants being hacked to pieces with machetes. And yet, there's more oil companies whose pipelines are being protected as well.

In Scotland, addict prisoners are being given methadone treatments before they're released from prison so they will not overdose on heroin when they return to society. Now, that's a pragmatic-- that's a practical approach to life. It's saving lives. It's saving harms. And which, the United States, it's just a different story. We kick senior citizens out of public housing because a grandchild smoked a joint.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

DEAN BECKER: We're making our children expose their genitals and provide offerings of urine to the alpha leaders of our wolfpack society. Marijuana growers in the US can be subject to a life sentence without parole for gardening.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN BECKER: Now, just recently, a federal judge Washington, DC, overturned a law prohibiting the residents of that town from circulating or voting on a ballot initiative to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. The *Times*, *New York Times*, reported this, I think, just today. And as a result, a measure that would legalize the cultivation, possession, use, and distribution of marijuana for seriously ill patients whose doctors recommend it could be put on the ballot as early as November.