

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, Houston. It's Jimmy with the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, heard every week on After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. Yes, that's the QMZ, queer music for and by openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender artists.

And I've got a bunch of new stuff tonight. Something you heard last week for the first time here on the QMZ, a local group, Violent Blue with a queer band member, Michael, who was here, and they're going to-- I'm going to start it out with them. And then we're going to have a whole bunch of new stuff.

We got Pansy Division. We've got the Williams Brothers. And you're going to say, who the hell is that? The Williams Brothers are twins who happen to be the nephews of Andy Williams. And one of the guys came out of the closet. So they've got this great new album. We're going to be playing something from it.

I've got something listenable from One Dove. I've been listening to that this week. They've got a queer band member, Ian. And something new from Kitchens of Distinction. And hey, how about some of your requests for queer music? Give us a call at 526-5738. Matt's here. He's waiting for your call.

Until then, how about some Violent Blue? And it's called "Shadow Fall."

[MUSIC- VIOLENT BLUE, "SHADOW FALL"]

Yes, Violent Blue. That's a local group with a with a gay band member, Michael, and that was "Shadow Fall." And hey, thanks for your requests. I want to bring you One Dove and the Williams Brothers and Pansy Division, but hey, I'd rather play your requests for queer music.

We've had requests for Faith No More with the drummer-- the keyboardist, yes, Roddy Bottum, who came out of the closet. And we've got some Melissa coming up. Right now, Faith No More by request. And then let's see. What was it? Leslie. Leslie was the one who called and requested the Melissa. OK. So right now, "Be Aggressive."

[MUSIC - FAITH NO MORE, "BE AGGRESSIVE"]

[MUSIC - MELISSA ETHERIDGE, "I'M THE ONLY ONE"]

Oh, yeah. Melissa Etheridge with "The Only One" and you're hearing it on the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, heard right here on After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston. We've been getting your calls and requests and dedications, and we love it.

One of those was for some Depeche Mode. Sorry, guys. We didn't have any, but they want to make a dedication to all the people, the folks, the guys on the Helix BBS. I hope you all are having a good time tonight.

I've got a new group that I want to play instead of that. And it's called One Dove, with openly gay keyboarder Ian Carmichael. And along with that, we've got a little note here. And I'm going to read it just as it was written down.

Hello, Andrea, my best friend. I love you, from Kelsey. And here's a little One Dove with "Why Don't You Take Me."

[MUSIC - ONE DOVE, "WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME"]

And for the guy who called up and wanted something with revolution in it, this is a very revolutionary song. And it was turned on to me by the originator of this show, Buddy Johnston. And it's by an artist that I'm never going to let you forget, kids, because he's a very important man. Still is in death, Michael Callen and "Living in Wartime."

[MUSIC - MICHAEL CALLEN, "LIVING IN WARTIME"]

Yeah, that was the Williams Brothers with-- with what? With "Don't Look Now." New music right here on the QMZ. And I've got one more to go. We're going to close out the QMZ with one more, and we did have a request for Smiths, but I didn't bring any Smiths. I only have Smiths on records, and I don't like to schlep records around because you know what happens to them. But I do have Kitchens of Distinction with "4 Men."

[MUSIC - KITCHENS OF DISTINCTION, "4 MEN"]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JEWEL GRAY: I'm always ready.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. There we are. That was the QMZ.

JEWEL GRAY: And you're back with After Hours.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: Jewel Gray and Jimmy Carper here.

JIMMY CARPER: Continuing tradition.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. We say After Hours, a continuing tradition. And now we've been saying After Hours, the most popular gay and lesbian radio show that no one knows about.

JEWEL GRAY: That no one knows about. That's right. That's right. Our phones have been lit up tonight. Somebody knows we're here.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Man.

JEWEL GRAY: Somebody knows we're here. People are listening all over.

JIMMY CARPER: Great.

JEWEL GRAY: And I wanted to mention to the guy who called earlier looking for Michael, afraid we can't find anybody by that name.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: We've come close to a couple of people, but we've eliminated them by the description that you gave us, so unfortunately--

JIMMY CARPER: I knew a guy named Lewis once.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah. So we're just-- we're really sad that we couldn't help you find your friend. But we'd be glad to help look for another friend if you want.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, you know.

JEWEL GRAY: I was going to tell you something. What was it? Oh, something was interesting. Oh, yeah. This was it. Did you guys know that the lesbian in North Carolina, no, Virginia--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: --whose mother took away her two-year-old son because she was a homosexual was given back--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: --her three-year-old son now because the court there said-- and it was unanimous-- said that her being a lesbian had no bearing on whether she was a good parent or not. Precedent, precedent, president.

JIMMY CARPER: Cool. And what state was this?

JEWEL GRAY: That was in Richmond, Virginia. And that's not going to last long if the next Virginia governor is Ollie North. So there's some thought for you. That kind of thing will not last long because Ollie North, of course, as most people know, is bought and paid for by the religious right.

And he's running against Charles Robb, who's a little shady character anyway, but when you come down to it, I would rather have the shady character than the one who told me he's lying to Congress and that he's broken the law and that he expects to get away with it.

So at least Charles Robb's little slimy stuff is just the normal, everyday slime. I heard this comedian the other day--

JIMMY CARPER: What a choice for those poor folks in Virginia, you know?

JEWEL GRAY: Really. I heard a comedian the other day on, of course, here we go again, with the Comedy Central channel, the comedy channel. I listen to it a lot. And he was talking about the Duh Channel.

JIMMY CARPER: The Duh--

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, the Duh Channel, where things that-- he said he's tired of seeing news that's duh news, like stuff we already know. It's junk we already know. Don't give us that. Give us the stuff we don't know. He said he doesn't want to hear that Michael Jackson's father's possessed by demons and mistreated and sexually molested his child and now Michael Jackson is suspected of molesting children. Duh, he said.

He didn't want to hear about this governor so-and-so who was ripping off the state payroll. He said, duh. He wants to hear the kind of stuff that we don't know. I thought that was pretty clever.

JIMMY CARPER: That's pretty clever.

JEWEL GRAY: His Duh Channel for the people who want duh news. I'm telling you, I have seen some hilarious stuff on Comedy Central lately. And one thing that I've been seeing a lot of, and I'm a little disappointed I'm not seeing more of, is the lesbian comic-- can't remember her name-- blonde woman.

JIMMY CARPER: Westenhoefer.

JEWEL GRAY: Yes, that's it. Westenhoefer. That's it. And I saw her on Comedy Central in an hour special that Lea DeLaria hosted. And then I saw her in an HBO special, half-hour special, sometime last week, maybe Saturday night. I think they do it on Saturday nights late.

And I'm wondering why we're seeing more of her than Lea DeLaria. Could it be because this girl could pass for straight and Lea couldn't get away with it? Is that maybe-- you know?

JIMMY CARPER: That might have something to do with-- now Suzanne--

JEWEL GRAY: This girl fits the stereotype. She's pretty.

JIMMY CARPER: Suzanne Westenhoefer is funny. She is funny.

JEWEL GRAY: She's-- yes. I don't want to take away from that.

JIMMY CARPER: But she doesn't come out and say, I'm a big dyke.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. And she doesn't threaten anybody's--

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

JEWEL GRAY: She doesn't--

JIMMY CARPER: Or make comments about what she'd like to do with the First Lady.

JEWEL GRAY: Lady, right. And I was thinking that we need to get more of this gay comedy. I saw another gay comedian on last night, on VH1.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah?

JEWEL GRAY: Who came out and stood in front of the audience. He was obviously gay. He stood there a moment uncomfortable. He looked around the audience. He said, yes, I'm gay. Let's get it over with. I don't want you spending the whole time I'm talking to you wondering whether I'm gay and missing what I'm saying.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

JEWEL GRAY: So let's just get it out right now. I'm gay. Let's get it over with. I thought, how clever.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that's great.

JEWEL GRAY: How clever. He was funny. He was funny. But I like seeing this on TV. I like seeing the comedy. And it's not gay comedians doing straight comedy, which I like. It's not the lesbian doing straight comedy.

I mean, this lesbian did lesbian comedy. She was in the mold of Kate Clinton every inch of the way. Not saying that they duplicate or anything, but Kate is very aggressively and very pushily, I guess, pushy about lesbian comedy.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure. Sure.

JEWEL GRAY: And she talks about all kinds of things that you wouldn't normally find in--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, the thing of it is when we stop laughing at ourselves, there's something wrong here. You know it?

JEWEL GRAY: That's true. And when we can start laughing at ourselves, we get more-- oh, I hate to say this because it's one of Michael's pet peeves. We get more assimilated to the mainstream.

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

JEWEL GRAY: But--

JIMMY CARPER: I just happen to think that, psychologically, it's a whole lot healthier if you can laugh at yourself.

JEWEL GRAY: That's true. And I told you some time ago, my favorite joke that this lesbian tells is the one about sending straight people off to war. Well, that's OK. We'll stay home. We'll stay home and take care of your wives while you're there. She said she didn't understand this thing about the military. Why should we want to go? Let's stay home and take care of the wives.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh huh.

JEWEL GRAY: But she was hilarious. And I think I spoke last time I was on the air about Bill Hicks, who had passed away recently.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: And I saw that special that was on, Bill Hicks again the other night. And I managed to tape it. And I was really [? impressed. ?]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, good. Good.

JEWEL GRAY: He's very-- this is a man who would not ever be on the Duh Channel. Let me put it to you that way. He's not the kind of guy who feeds you the American Gladiators so you don't notice that millions are dying in Africa.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: So he was the guy who would talk to you about what's going on in Africa rather than-- what's her name-- Star or Comet or whatever their names are, American Gladiator show. But there are a lot of things that-- getting back to this thing--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, let me just interject.

JEWEL GRAY: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: I don't watch TV very often, but I was kind of flipping through doing the surfing bit and came across-- oh, God what's that horrible game show? Family Feud thing?

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And it was-- they had the male gladiators against the female gladiators.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, God. Imagine the stereotype stuff was just sickening.

JIMMY CARPER: What was funny to me was the questions [LAUGHS] and the responses. It was really dub.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah. Bright, bright people. Bright people.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well.

JEWEL GRAY: diana was telling me that Nancy, one of our favorite people, Nancy Ford--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah?

JEWEL GRAY: --has a great article in the back of *OutSmart* about those Date Expectation people that call you on the phone. And Diana and I have both been called on the phone by this company, local company in town--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that--

JEWEL GRAY: --trying to get you involved in their dating service.

JIMMY CARPER: I've seen the billboards, yes. And I've received mailings. Yeah?

JEWEL GRAY: His routine about--

SPEAKER: Well, it was about his childhood, whatever--

JIMMY CARPER: Who? He, who?

JEWEL GRAY: Bob Smith.

SPEAKER: Bob Smith.

JEWEL GRAY: Openly gay on Jay Leno did his routine about--

SPEAKER: About his childhood and being gay.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding.

SPEAKER: It was his first time on TV. And Jay Leno gave him his opening.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

JEWEL GRAY: Great. When they start on *The Late*-- I mean *The Tonight Show*-- I want to make sure I didn't say *The Late Tonight Show*-- *The Tonight Show*-- that's been the starting point for people like Jay Leno--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Tim Allen, Conan O'Brien. David Letterman started on *Tonight Show*.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

JEWEL GRAY: So that's a good thing, that somebody is opening-- well, that's cool. We're getting more comedians out there.

SPEAKER: Well, not just that. I was reading something recently about Jay Leno in the anti-defamation-- gay and lesbian anti-defamation--

JIMMY CARPER: GLAAD, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: GLAAD, yeah.

SPEAKER: GLAAD, and they were talking about people sending him letters of appreciation because he is pointing out the hypocrisy of some people that are attacking gay people.

JIMMY CARPER: Maybe we should start watching *The Tonight Show* a little more often.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Exactly.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Exactly. All of a sudden I like Jay Leno.

JEWEL GRAY: All of a sudden. Yeah. I've always liked Jay. He's kind of a funny guy.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: But this article is about-- is Nancy responding to one of these people calling, asking if she wants to be part of the dating service. And I just wanted to, with some liberties, read a piece of this.

"The gentleman introduced himself and said that he had a special invitation for me. Seems like the yentas over at the Date Expectations--" she changed the name a little bit.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: "--were throwing a big soiree that weekend and would give me the opportunity to-- well, it would give me the opportunity to do whatever it is people do at gatherings of this nature. You are single, aren't you, Ms. Ford? Well, yes, as a matter of fact I am, she said."

Of course, Nancy is single this week.

JIMMY CARPER: I see.

JEWEL GRAY: "Generally, this would have been a moment I would have said, I'm not interested in your service but thank you for calling and hung up. But *Seinfeld* was a rerun, and something kept me on the line. But let me save us both some time. I am single, but I'm a single lesbian.

Excuse me? He said. I'm a lesbian. I'm a gay woman. He said, what does that mean? That you're happy all the time?"

[LAUGHTER]

"I'm serious. This is truly how he responded. It seems to me that the personnel department of this company needs to pay more attention to the social awareness level of the people they hire to perform the function of professional dance-card filler uppers."

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: "No, that means I form my romantic relationships with people of my same sex, she answered, so unless your company has a division that links up with members of the gay and lesbian community, I would have no need of your service.

Wait a minute, he said. You mean that you don't date? Yes, she said, I date. But when I date, I date women. That's what lesbians do.

[LAUGHTER]

He said, well, if you've never dated a man, how do you know you're-- you're--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no.

JEWEL GRAY: He couldn't even say the word. OK. That's your choice." She goes on talking about blah, blah, blah, blah. "He says, but haven't you ever thought about getting married? We're not just a dating service, you know. People get married a lot for a lot of different reasons." Here he can't get her to go a date, but maybe he can get her to get married. Anyway, the reason--