

Musical Profile

Jimi Dougans



It was part of the culture for young black men in the 60's. You got together with your buddies and sang on the street corners, in the gym and at parties. You sang doo-wop, those rhythm and blues hits full of vocal harmonies. You dreamed of hitting the big time like your musical idols, wearing the fancy suits, performing your hit songs and meeting your fans. For one blessed young man, D.C.'s own **Jimi Dougans**, he saw his dreams come true. He hit the big time in the 70's. He performed at **The Apollo Theatre, Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall and The Greek Theatre**, just to name a few places. He has appeared on **The Midnight Special, In Concert, Soul Train and The Mike Douglas Show**, just to name a few television programs.

One of the great pleasures of being involved in this wonderful exciting world of entertainment is the truly outstanding people you get to meet and know. Once in a lifetime, God brings someone into your life that makes it full and rewarding. The late great **Eddie Kendrick** was that someone who had touched Jimi's life. *"Not only was he my musical mentor,"* said Jimi, *"but became a good friend and one of the world's kindest and nicest guys to know and work with."* Back in the mid-sixties, Jimi patterned his voice after Kendrick and never dreamed of the day that he would one day meet his musical mentor and record and tour with him. **Jimi** first met Kendrick in the late 60's, thru an associate, Carolyn Washington while Kendrick was still a member of the legendary **"Temptations."** Says **Jimi**, *"Eddie called me and said that he was going to leave the group, I talked him out of quitting the group. As the months passed, I talk him out of quitting the group two more times."* It was after this time in musical history, that the two would join forces. *"Our very first engagement was at the world famous, Apollo Theatre in New York, City, and our reception was phenomenal,"* says Jimi. *"Kendrick broke the attendance records. It was like a dream come true, New York City loved him. Kendrick passed the test as a solo artist."* Jimi sings in a falsetto that's eerily similar to Kendrick, that was used most effectively on recordings and during **Kendrick**' live performances. According to Kendrick's former producer, the late Frank Wilson, *"I wanted to move away from the Motown sound and get closer to what the people were hearing when Eddie and The Young Senators live,"* said Wilson. *"We got that feeling with "Girl You Need a Change of Mind."* Wilson pushed The Young Senators into musical history by making them the very first band to ever record with a Motown act.

Jimi recorded and tour with **Kendrick** for over some nine years and maintained a close working relationship with him until his tragic death to lung cancer on October 5, 1992. Also, through Jimi's hard work, city government councils in Baltimore, Atlanta, Birmingham, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Columbia, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and the Nation's Capital have all issued proclamations declaring June 11 as **"Eddie Kendrick Day"** as a part of **"Black Music Month."** *"I still say that it was God that brought our paths together,"* *"When I sing his songs, I feel his spirit in my heart, and I truly thank God for the gift of the master tenor of all time, the late great Eddie James Kendrick."*

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