

OVERCLOCKED

jim allchin



"I'm talking you walk into a bar, hear this cat playing and get blown away."

- dj at kdhx in st louis

Summary

Jim grew up in a one-room house on a dirt farm in the Deep South. After living the life of a starving musician, he left to earn Masters/Doctorate degrees from Stanford University and Georgia Institute of Technology. He went on to become a world recognized leader in Computer Science and software. Today he codes for fun and he plays guitar for love.

Overview

F. Scott Fitzgerald famously wrote, "There are no second acts in American lives." Had he met Jim Allchin, he might have re-thought the statement. The Seattle-based musician has lived a self-made life, and no matter what the vocation, he has tackled everything with an unyielding passion.

Jim grew up in Florida in the middle of an orange grove. Florida was much more rural then, and there was no town near the Allchins' home. As Jim says, "It was just poor people, farm land and phosphate mines." Living in a house that his father built with his own hands, the house didn't have enough space for doors inside, so the family's rooms were divided with sheetrock. Jim went to work in the fields at an early age, occasionally missing school to do whatever needed to be done. And with all that, Jim says, "We may have had essentially nothing, but I had a fantastic childhood."

It was Jimi Hendrix's music that inspired Jim to pick up a guitar, and he followed the path set by bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers – white southern boys who took a left turn toward the blues and rock. Jim worked his way through school by touring with his band. "But I was starving as a musician, so I went back to school for computer science" Jim remembers.

Jim fell in love with computer science, and his newfound path led to degrees at Stanford and Georgia Tech and, in 1990, to Microsoft, where he rose through the ranks to become co-President of the Platforms & Services Division and a recognized leader in the world of computer science and software. Bill Gates said of Jim, "He's a brilliant technologist, visionary and a strong leader."

In 2003, Jim faced a health issue, and the experience was life-changing. "It forced me to re-examine my life." He continues, "When you look out over the abyss, you say, 'Hmmm...better make sure I do all the things I want to do.' Had that not happened, I probably would have written software until I was 90." Jim recovered fully and immersed himself in what he calls "woodshedding" guitar and music in general. And that's what he's been doing every day since. Throughout his life, Jim has proven his tenacity, his desire for excellence and his devotion to what he loves.

New Album: Overclocked

Jim's contemporary blues-rock style has a uniquely modern feel with contemporary lyrics and explosive guitar lines, but it respectfully bows to the core soul that has been embodied in the blues throughout the ages. It is Jim's dream to help foster the blues to a larger audience. His newest album, Overclocked, is an ambitious, perfectly crafted 13-song set of original blistering blues, sophisticated jazz, heavy rock and tender pop ballads spotlighting his virtuoso guitar chops, creative lyrics and mellifluous vocals.

"He almost smokes the strings off his guitar in a shocking display of electric fretboard mayhem."

-Dave Rubin, 2005 KBA Winner in Journalism

Website: www.jimallchin.com

PR: Betsie Brown
Blind Raccoon LLC
O: 901.278.6850
M: 901.268.6065
E: betsie@blindraccoon.com

Track Listing: 1. Overclocked 2. Willow Tree 3. Back in the Swamp 4. Don't Tell Me What to Do 5. One for the Money 6. Fall 7. Dr. J 8. Mr. Unknown 9. Flirt 10. Just Playin with Me 11. Perfect Game 12. The One 13. Opening My Eyes to Love