

Elegiac Pop Culture Persona

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Jimi Hendrix Experience

I miss playing my guitar
in my own Electric Lady studio.
I could be free to compose
experiment and record all I wanted
when I wanted in any clothes I chose.

I miss my hippie clothes
explosions of color
flying about like a big bird
flapping to the beat
before gigantic, shrieking crowds.

I miss my bands
playing with the white boys
and my homies before civil rights.
regardless of what racists felt.
I liked my women in all colors
and wish I could have been a father
to my children.

I miss most my music.
I expressed myself in music.
I lost track of time.
At Woodstock jamming the Star Spangled Banner
I was in another dimension.
When people said I was the best guitar player ever,
I felt uncomfortable for I always strived to be better.

I knew I would never live to thirty.
I had other arenas to perform in.
Now I strum with the angels
and diverse defunct bands
with even more freedom
with my celestial guitar
glittering with stardust
getting highs on high.

Elegaic Pop Culture Persona:

1. From Stephanie Lenox workshop on Public Acts of Poetry.
2. Write an elegy in the first person voice of a pop culture icon, either classic or contemporary.
3. Whomever you choose must speak seriously about mortality without mentioning death or dying.
4. The title contains the name of the person you chose.
5. The name must not appear in the poem
6. The voice of your icon should reveal who is speaking through choice of details.
7. What will your choice miss about the world?
8. In what ways do the icon's feelings connect to what we all feel about death?