

Joni Mitchell



Lived: November 7 1943
Alberta, Canada
Fame: singer, songwriter, painter

Mitchell contracted polio at a young age. This caused her to create dozens of alternate tunings on guitar, allowing her later to break free of standard approaches to harmony and structure in her music.

AllMusic has stated, "When the dust settles, Joni Mitchell may stand as the most important and influential female recording artist of the late 20th century."

"I left the church because I loved the stories from an early age, but I liked them to have some logic. And the story Adam and Eve didn't make any sense, so I contested it. Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. And Cain killed Abel, and then he married. Who did he marry? Eve? My Sunday School teacher's response was to hurt my feelings in some way, and I took on a pouty attitude, and said 'I'm not going back there.'" (Quoted in the book *Joni Mitchell*, by Mark Bego, 2005)

"I'm interested in the prophets of all religions, but the religions themselves don't make any sense to me."

She did not respond well to formal education, preferring a freethinking outlook. One unconventional teacher did manage to make an impact on her, inspiring her to write poetry. Her first album includes a dedication to that teacher.

Mitchell has written folk, pop, rock, and jazz music within 23 albums.