

REVIEW

A 1970s music-world whirlwind

BY DAVID STEINBERG

Sure you're attracted to the juicy memoirs of celebrities, and not really to the recollections of personalities who toiled on the periphery. You should make an exception to that rule and read Pamela Windo's memoir *Him Through Me: Making Love and Music in the Sixties and Seventies*.

The "him" of the title is Pamela Windo's second husband, avant-garde British jazz (and punk, too) saxophonist Gary Windo. Gary and Pamela led a quasi-hippie-like life in the '70s. The memoir tracks Gary Windo's extraordinary passion for his music, his encounters with drug use, his jail time, his desire for an "open marriage." It also reveals how Pamela Windo — mother, wife, budding musician and sister of the women's lib movement — finds the emotional strength and deep sense of hope to cope with the whirlwind of their lives.

The memoir is Pamela Windo's story as much as it is Gary's, and it is told with honesty, insight and explained within the context of world events.

Pamela and Gary knew each other growing up in working-class families in Brighton, England. Gary re-entered Pamela's life years later, shortly after she became a divorced single mom with two boys. She writes about the reconstituted family with Gary and their lives in London. Pamela meets musicians who come home with Gary, gets to know musicians' wives/girlfriends, develops her own interest in piano, music composition and, later, writing.

So many people make cameo appearances in the book, among them a few famous folk, including Virgin Records owner Richard Branson, Pink

Floyd drummer Nick Mason and Scottish singer-songwriter Donovan.

One is left assured that Windo loved Gary (he died in 1992) and loved him for what he was — a "music-loving, freedom-loving husband," as she writes in the book's foreword. "He passed on to me the legacy of always being oneself; of taking hold of the life we are given."

Without a doubt, Pamela Windo grabbed hold. "Gary had an effect on many people. He left quite a legacy because of his playing, his personality and the way he looked at life," Windo said in a recent interview with *Local 10*. Windo, a Santa Fe resident, added, "I have led a rich life. I certainly didn't set out to do what I did."

Pamela Windo discusses Him Through Me at 7p on Wed., Sep. 17, at Bookworks (4022 Rio Grande NW) and at 2p on Thu., Sep. 25, at Moby Dickens Bookshop (124A Bent) in Taos.

Him Through Me: Making Love and Music in the Sixties and Seventies

By Pamela Windo

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