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Janis Joplin - *Pearl*

Columbia - January 11, 1971

By: Jessica Maxwell

On this day in music in 1971, rock legend Janis Joplin's sophomore solo album, *Pearl*, was released posthumously.

Prior to the release of the iconic album, Joplin spent the early part of her career playing in multiple bands. In 1966, Joplin joined the psychedelic acid-rock group, Big Brother and the Holding Company, which was based out of San Francisco's famed Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. The band found success on Columbia Records with their major label debut, *Cheap Thrills* however, in the fall of 1968 Joplin left the band to go solo and pursue a more soul-based sound with The Kozmic Blues Band. Comprised of a number of session musicians, Joplin recorded her debut solo album, *I Got Dem Ol' Kozmic Blues Again Mama!*, with the band and went on to perform at Woodstock and at Madison Square Gardens. Despite her efforts, Kozmic lacked the success that Joplin had hoped for, so she again left in search of a new backing band. Shortly after, Joplin came to front the Full Tilt Boogie, a band that would stay with through the recording of *Pearl*.

Together with producer Paul A. Rothchild, whose most notable production was with The Doors, Joplin was for the first time able to craft work that really showcased her raw talents as a vocalist, giving *Pearl* a much more cohesive sound. Each and every one of the arrangements on the album received Joplin's personal seal of approval, a roll she had longed to play. The only song on she does not appear on is "Buried Alive in the Blues." Joplin was actually scheduled to record vocals for the track, which became an instrumental, the day she was found dead in her room at the Hollywood Landmark Motor Hotel.