Tuesday 17th November

Jeff Buckley was born on this day 1966, he was raised by his mother and step-father. He only spent a few days with his father, the musician Tim Buckley when he was 8 years old, then his father died of a drug overdose a few months later in 1975.

Jeff got his first guitar when he was 5 years old, but his first public performance didn't come until he was 24 when he was invited to perform at a tribute concert to his father in New York in 1991 where he played three songs and impressed the crowd with his extraordinary vocal range.

He released his debut album, *Grace* in 1994 which mixed rock, folk and jazz influences. It had 7 original songs (such as *Grace* & *Last Goodbye*) and 3 covers, including a medieval carol. It received critical acclaim, but Jeff was a relative unknown and sales were slow. He was preparing a second album and touring in 1997 when he went for a swim in Wolf River Harbor, Memphis. A passing boat's wake swept him under and he was accidentally drowned. He was just 30.

In death, his music became more popular and his premature death and limited recordings only added to his **mystique**. Sales of *Grace* soared and in 2008 his cover of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, used in many emotionally manipulative TV scenes reached #2 in UK charts, eleven years after his death.



- How do you think Jeff felt performing for the first time at a concert for a father he barely knew?
- Why do some musicians become more famous and popular after their death?
- What makes a good cover version? Is it possible for a cover to become the definitive version of a song?

Tuesday 17th November

Jeff Buckley was born on this day 1966. His father was musician Tim Buckley but he only met him once when he was 8 years old. His father died in 1975.

Jeff's breakthrough public performance was at a tribute concert to his father in 1991. He played three songs and impressed the crowd with his voice.

His debut album, *Grace* released in 1994 had 7 original songs and 3 covers including his version of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. It was critically acclaimed but did not sell well. Sales grew and his **mystique** increased when he was accidentally drowned in 1997 before finishing a 2nd album. He was just 30.



- How do you think Jeff felt performing for the first time at a concert for a father he barely knew?
- Why do some musicians become more popular after their death?