

Called "The Singing Storyteller" Gary Paul Hermus brings a poet's ear for words, a cinematic eye for detail & an actor's insight into character to his songs; melding intricate finger style guitar work & intelligently crafted lyrics. Not blown sideways by life; but rather "laterally enhanced," his colorful musical journey winds through his songs. **Winner of the 2006 Xtreme Folk Scene's Song Contest for, "The Man In the Black Chapeau,"** he also holds degrees in Psychology, Public Administration & Computer Science.

A recent immigrant to New Mexico, Gary was born 1950 in the slums of Brownsville, Brooklyn, NY, where he grew up poor, but surrounded by music, theater & poetry. Piano studies at age 5 taught him a love for melody. Summers on his grandparent's farm taught him to love bucolic settings & bluegrass music. But it was around Boy Scout council fires that he grew to love storytelling.

An acoustic player now, Gary played rock guitar in his teens, concurrently studying acting at NYC's High School of Performing Arts, It was drama by day & music by night at the Peppermint Lounge, the Purple Onion, the Cheetah & other NY hot spots. He moved on to acting Off-Off Broadway while playing folk music throughout NYC's Greenwich Village, appearing at The Bitter End, The Village Gaslight, Folk City & elsewhere. However to make ends meet, Gary played bass guitar on club dates, learning the American songbook, & discovering authentic Latin music. Gary studied bass with Latin bassist, Victor Venegas & studied ragtime guitar & banjo with Jack Baker.

Short stints followed with "Bill Jeffcott & the Swamprockers," & "The New York Frets." before beginning a long love affair with Brazilian jazz, playing bass with "Satie," a Brazilo-Cuban fusion band. Satie eventually moved into World Music as "The North American Udu Band," but separated shortly thereafter. He then played with "Shotgun Wedding," and "Joined @ the Head" before dropping out to write original music.

In 2002 he began playing original songs at small clubs & open mikes. By 2003, he was playing coffeehouses & Folk Festivals throughout the Northeast, appearing on Ralph Litwin's cable TV show, "Horses Sing None of it," & on line as part of blowupradio.com's "Folk You!" & their Hurricane Katrina benefit. Then came the Xtreme Folk Scene Song Contest win & a triumphant appearance at XFest. His debut CD, "Sid's Gaseteria," was released in 2007 on the Big Moose Music label. Most recently he's added lap slide to his arsenal after studying with lap guitarist Pat Wictor. He is in preproduction on his Sophomore CD.