

the Everly Brothers

CHILDHOOD
FAMILY HOME



Everly Brothers Shenandoah, Iowa History

Welcome to Shenandoah, childhood home of the rock 'n roll pioneers the Everly Brothers. From humble beginnings the Everly Brothers rose to world fame by connecting with the world through their music.

It began with the influence of Everly Brother's Father Ike Everly, he was a coal miner in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. He would play music after work with his brothers. A local guitarist named Arnold Schultz helped Ike master a unique and pioneering thumb-picking guitar style. Ike and his wife Margaret had their first son Isaac Donald Everly on February 1st of 1937 in Brownie, Kentucky. Ike became a full-time musician and by the time Don was 2 they moved to Chicago where Ike performed. In Chicago on January 19th, 1939 Phillip Everly was born.

In 1945 the family moved to Shenandoah, Iowa to accept a job offer at KMA radio station to perform live. Ike instilled in his sons his love for music, from country and western to blues. He encouraged the boys to sing and he taught them to play guitar. At the ages of 8 and 6, sons Don and Phil began to perform on their parents live radio shows on KMA and KFNF. At KMA the brothers were introduced to listeners as "Little Donnie and "Baby Boy Phil". Mother Margaret would read the

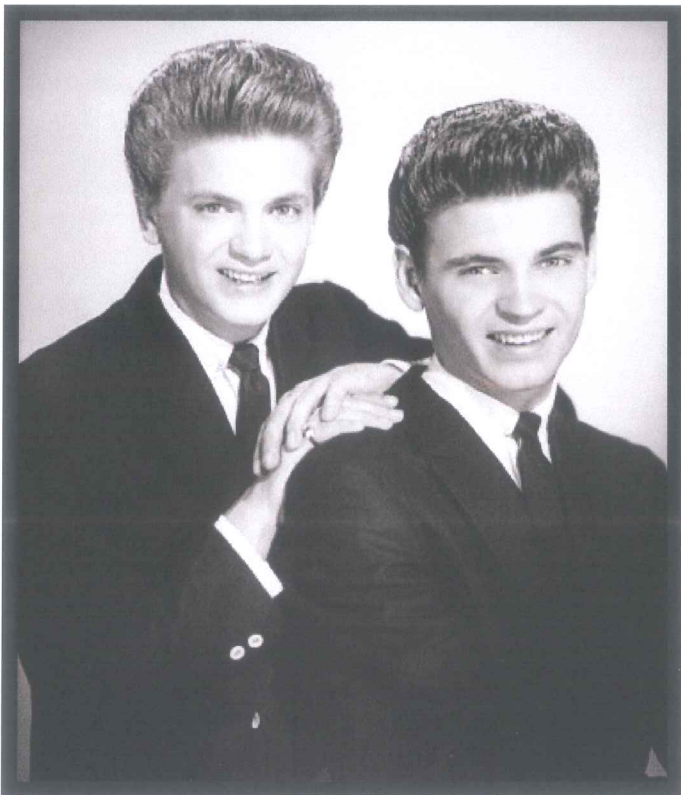
commercials and often join Ike and the boys in four-part harmonies. By 1950 the radio show was known as "The Everly Family Show".

Singing on the show gave the brothers their first exposure to the music industry. The family sang together and traveled in the area singing as the Everly Family. They stayed in Shenandoah until early high school.

The family moved to Knoxville, Tennessee in September 1953. They were offered a job on the Cas Walker radio show for \$90 a week. There they caught the attention of Chet Atkins. They transitioned into a duo act and Atkins engineered a chance for the Everly Brothers to record for Columbia Records in early 1956. This was their 1st and only single for the label "Keep A' Lovin' Me". Unfortunately the song was a flop and they were quickly dropped from Columbia records. Atkins still encouraged the Everly Brother's to continue and introduced them to Wesley Rose of Acuff-Rose music publishers. Impressed with the duo's writing talents, Rose told them if they signed as Acuff-Rose song writers, he would get them a recording deal.

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After a 22 week run on the charts the song peaked at No. 2 on the pop charts behind Presley's "Let Me Be Your Teddy Bear". Bye Bye Love written by the husband wife writing team of Felice and Boudleaux Bryant became the Everly's first million-seller. A string of hits in the U.S. and the United Kingdom followed all penned by the Bryants. A 78 city tour ran from Sept. 6th through Nov. 24th of 1957 playing alongside rock 'n roll greats Chuck Berry, Buddy Knox, The Drifters, Paul Anka, Fats Domino, The Crickets, and Eddie Cochran. Their hit "Walk Up Little Susie" hit #1 during the week of Oct. 14th and stayed number 1 for four weeks.

They were Connecting with the World with that hit as "All I have to do is Dream" hit No. 1 in spring of 1958 in the U.S., UK and Canada. Chet Atkins played guitar on the record. The song is ranked #142 on the Rolling stone magazine's list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time. It was the only single

ever to be at #1 on all of Billboard's singles charts simultaneously, on June 2, 1958 including Hot 100, R & B, Country, and Most played by Jockeys. On the B side of the record was Claudette, the first major songwriting success by Roy Orbison.

The next Bryant song hit No. 1 on the Billboard Country charts and No. 2 on the U.S. Hot 100 and R & B charts, "Bird Dog".

The Everly Brothers left Cadence Records in 1960 over a royalty dispute and signed with Warner Brothers for a million-dollar, ten-year contract. This meant they lost their song writing team, the Bryants. Everything went well at first. Don Everly wrote "Cathy's Clown". This became their biggest selling single. It sold 8 million copies worldwide, spending 5 weeks at number 1. It was their 3rd and final U.S. number one record, "Cathy's Clown".

Phil wrote several songs that did well in 1960 and 61 including "Walk Right Back", "Ebony Eyes" and "When will I Be Loved" which went to No. 8 on the charts in summer of 1960. The song was even more successful when it was recorded by Linda Ronstadt in 1974, "When Will I be Loved". The stress of stardom began to take it's toll and it was reported that Don was addicted to Ritalin. After treatment for the addiction the pair was likely to be drafted for two years into the Army in 1961. Instead the Everlys joined the Marine Corp Reserves for six months. While in the Corps they had a Top Ten hit with "Crying in the Rain".

On February 13, 1962, Don in his Marine dress uniform married movie starlet, Venetia Stevenson in a chapel at Camp Pendleton, CA. Five days later while still honeymooning in New York City, the boys made an appearance on TV's Ed Sullivan Show in their dress uniforms. They were released from the Marines May 1962. Three weeks earlier Warner Brothers issued "That's Old Fashioned" which became their second Top Ten single in a row. It was also their last.





Their career slowed in the mid 1960's in the U.S. plagued by health problems, additions and a dispute with their manager who also administered the Acuff-Rose music publishing company which prevented them from recording any of their written by themselves. They continued to have success in the UK in through the late sixties. In 1973 the pair split.

In 1983 they made peace and reunited as a singing duo at the Royal Albert Hall in England. In 1986 The Everly Brothers were among the 1st ten artists inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. That same year on July 5th they returned to their boyhood home in Shenandoah and played to a crowd of 8,500 in a home coming concert at the Depot, a parade, street dedication, and class reunion. Concert fees were donated to the Everly Family Scholarship Fund which gives scholarships to middle and high school students in Shenandoah every year. In 2005 their childhood home was removed from its original site, renovated, restored and 2010 Shenfest dedicated the house in its present location downtown.

In all the Everly Brother's had 35 Billboard Top 100 singles, 26 in the top 40. They hold the record for the most Top 100 singles by any duo, and trail only Hall & Oates for the most Top 40 singles by a duo. In 1997 the brothers are awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, they were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2001 and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2004. They have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and in 2001 were charter members of the Iowa Walk of Fame here in Shenandoah. In 2004 Rolling Stone Magazine ranked the Everly Brothers No. 33 on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Times. They are also No. 43 on the list of UK Best selling singles artists of all time.

They Connected with the World touring world wide and performed hundreds of times in Great Britain, Holland, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium, Australia, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Norway Austria, and Finland.

They had two television shows of their own, Don & Phil Give Us a Thrill and Johnny Cash Presents The Everly Brothers Show and performances on the Perry Como Show, Ed Sullivan Show, Dick Clark Show, Bob Hope Show, Vic Damone Show, Roy Rogers Show, Julius LaRosa Show, Bob Crosby Show, Dinah Shore Show, Arthur Murray Dance Party, Patti Page Show, Where the Action Is, Hullabaloo, Shindig, Hollywood A Go Go, Jimmie Rodgers Show, Mike Douglas Show, Merv Griffin Show, Craft Music Hall, Carrier Enterprise, Kraft Country Fair, Glen Campbell Show, Smothers Brothers Show, Hollywood Palace, Music Scene, Johnny Cash Show, David Frost Show, Lennon Sisters Show, Petula Clark Show, Chet Atkins and Friends, A Prairie Home Companion, Disney World, Nashville Now and many others in the U.S. Canada, UK, Europe and Australasia.

The Everly Brothers humble, pure, innocent, harmonistic style influenced many great predecessors in the music industry including the Beatles, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, The Byrds, and The Beach Boys just to name a few. In 2003 & 04 they were part of Simon And Garfunkel's Old Friends Reunion tour.





1986 Homecoming concert in Shenandoah

1986 Everly Brothers visiting the childhood home on 5th Avenue in Shenandoah.

