Timeline

Compiled by Janna Jalkanen Greenhill Edited by Mary Katherine Aldin

NEW YORK

1916 Birth of Manuel A. "Manny" Greenhill, born Mendel Greenberg, New York City.



Manny and Leona, early 1940's.

1940 Manny meets Leona Wechsler at a May Day event. They marry that December.

"I think it was Alan Lomax who said that as far as he was concerned the folk song revival began when Pete Seeger met Woody Guthrie in 1940 and they shook hands and that was the

beginning of what we call the folk song revival – and I think he's got a point. (And) I sort of relate to that too. "[Manny Greenhill, interviewed by Jim Rooney, author of *Boss Men* and, with Eric von Schmidt, *Baby Let Me Follow You Down*.]

1944 Birth of Mitchell Greenhill, New York City, while Manny is serving in the army, stationed in Honolulu.



Mitch and Manny, 1945.



Mitch, the future booking agent, already on the phone, 1945.

1945 Manny honorably discharged from the army as second lieutenant.

1948 Birth of Deborah Greenhill, New York City.

1952 Greenhill family moves to Boston.

Pete Seeger questioned by congressional committee, cited for contempt of Congress 1956, indicted 1957, tried and convicted 1961. Acquitted on appeal in 1962 on the basis of improper instructions given by the judge. *"He is the Johnny Appleseed of the folk song revival. [...] I'm one of his seeds."* [Manny Greenhill, interviewed by Jim Rooney]



Deborah Greenhill.

1956 FBI begins surveillance of Manny Greenhill. Continues until 1973. [FBI documents obtained through Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts.]

(summer) The Weavers concert in Tanglewood.
(fall) The first Folklore Concert Series at Jordan Hall: Josh White, Tony Saletan and Shep Ginandez, and Pete Seeger with Sonny Terry.
Manny establishes Folklore Productions. Office at 176 Federal Street, Boston.

"Manny was our man in Boston." [Seeger's manager Harold Leventhal, interview 2002]



Mitch learning guitar.

1958 or 1959

Manny meets jazz impresario George Wein (Storyville, Newport Folk Festival)

"I met Manny at that time, because Josh White was working Storyville... Manny and I never had a problem... Your father was a beautiful man. He was a very rare person. [Interview with George Wein, 2002]

1959 First Newport Folk Festival.

Joan Baez's first appearance there.

"Wein, who was the foremost entrepreneur in this kind of thing, ... had the first Newport Folk Festival idea which was run in 1959 and 1960 by the Newport Jazz Festival...and it failed. ... George called me in the summer of '62 ... and said he wanted to revive the idea because he still thought there was a market for a Newport Folk Festival. I agreed that there was a market but I said you have to do it in a different way. You



Toshi Seeger, Manny at Newport.

can't do it the way you do the jazz festival. There just isn't that kind of money involved, and there's whole different approach to this sort of thing." [Manny Greenhill, interviewed by Jim Rooney]

1959 or 1960

Manny and George Wein create The Ballad Room, Boston nightclub that presented Joan Baez, the New Lost City Ramblers, Ed McCurdy, Keith and Rooney, Rolf Cahn, Eric von Schmidt, Memphis Slim, Willie Dixon.

"Joanie didn't want to work The Ballad Room, because she and Manny didn't get along. He didn't want to give her the money, a difference of five dollars. Typical for those days. And I talked Joanie into doing it, I told Manny give her the five dollars. And they used to hang out every night. Next thing we know, Joanie went with Manny as manager." [Interview with George Wein, 2002]

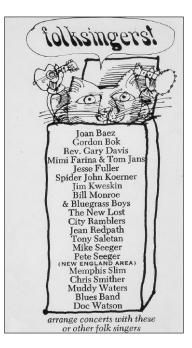
1960 Albert Baez asks Manny to "take care" of Joan, then nineteen. Manny adds booking agent and personal manager to his role as concert presenter. In 1960, Folklore's initial artist roster included Joan Baez, Josh White, Pete Seeger (in New England), Ted Alevizos, and Tony Saletan. During the years from 1960-1965, Folklore also represented Oscar Brand, Rolf Cahn, the Chambers Brothers, the Charles River Valley Boys, Elizabeth Cotton, Rev. Gary Davis, Bonnie Dobson, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Flatt & Scruggs, Jesse "Lone Cat" Fuller, Mitch Greenhill, Johnny Hammond, Lightnin' Hopkins, Keith & Rooney, the Jim Kweskin Jug Band, the Lilly Brothers & Don Stover, Taj Mahal, the New Lost City Ramblers, Ray Pong, Jean Ritchie, Tom Rush, Sonny Terry, Dave Van Ronk, Jackie Washington, the Weavers, and Josh White.



Eric von Schmidt, Mitch at Newport, 1980's. Eric's graphic skills, as well as his music, enriched Folklore's early days.

1962 Peter Paul & Mary record Rev. Gary Davis's "Samson" ("If I Had My Way"), published by Chandos Music.

1962-1963 Folklore Concert Series: Joan Baez; Theodore Bikel; Judy Collins; Alfred Deller & Desmond Dupre; Bonnie Dobson; Ramblin' Jack Elliott; the Greenbriar Boys; Lightnin' Hopkins; Inbal Dance Troupe of Israel; Jose Molina and the Bailes Espanoles; the New Lost City Ramblers; Odetta; Tony Saletan; Pete Seeger; Eric von Schmidt; Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee; Jackie Washington. Around this time Folklore presented Joan Baez and Flatt & Scruggs at Jordan Hall, one of the bluegrass group's early exposures to northern college audiences. *Louise Scruggs, Earl's wife/manager, ran into Joan in the ladies room. Joan: "That Earl Scruggs, he's so good looking. I just love him so much." Louise: "Oh really?" Set her straight.* [Interview with Earl and Louise Scruggs, 2002]



1962 Joan Baez on the cover of *Time* magazine.

1962 Grammy nomination, Best Folk Recording, Joan Baez for Joan Baez in Concert.

1963 President Kennedy assassinated.

"Manny Greenhill, the local promoter, called to consult with me what to do about the concert. Should we cancel and if we did, how could we notify patrons in such a short time?...I told Manny that I would go through with the concert if he would agree to turn over all the proceeds to the civil rights movement, as I would do with my portion.....When the audience was in their seats, I spoke briefly of the tragedy and said that the reason we decided to perform was that we could all share something this evening. I told them that all the money would go to the cause of which our murdered president had been such a champion. Then I proceeded to sing songs not

from my regular repertoire, many of which I had to dredge up from memory. It was my way, I told the audience, of saying kaddish. [The Autobiography of Theodore Bikel, Harper Collins, 1994]

1963-1966 Folklore Concert Series: Theodore Bikel; the Clancy Brother & Tommy Makem; Barbara Dane; Reverend Gary Davis; Alfred Deller & the Deller Consort; Bob Dylan; The Establishment; Flatt & Scruggs and the Foggy Mountain Boys with Grandpa Jones; Johnny Hammond; Mahalia Jackson; Ewan MacColl & Peggy Seeger; Miriam Makeba; Chad Mitchell Trio; New York Pro Musica; Sabícas; Pete Seeger; Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee; Eric von Schmidt; Jackie Washington; Josh White; Narcisco Yépes.



Concert flyer for Baez, Flatt & Scruggs.

Early 1960's

New York record labels discover the Boston folk music scene. Among the albums released are Mitch Greenhill's *Pickin' the City Blues* and *Shepherd Of the Highways*, on Prestige.

1963 Rosalie Sorrels presents Joan Baez in Salt Lake City and thus begins a four-decade relationship with Productions and several generations of Greenhills, who at various times serve as her manager, booking agent, presenter, presented artist, musical accompanist, and record producer.

1963-1964

The Southern Colleges Tour with Joan Baez, including Tuscaloosa and Birmingham.

- **1963** The March On Washington. Manny attends with Joan, who performs. Leona and Deborah join a bus caravan from Boston's Roxbury neighborhood. Mitch hitchhikes.
- **1964** Folklore Productions, incorporated in Boston, with Manuel Greenhill, Leona Greenhill and Arthur Gabel as partners.
- **1964** Manny starts managing Doc Watson.

"Merle and I could never have found a more straightforward honest representative than Folklore Productions, Manny and Mitch Greenhill." [Doc Watson]

And Rev. Gary Davis. *"Better I owe you money than you owe me money."* [Rev. Gary Davis]



Manny and Bob Dylan backstage.

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Rosalie Sorrels, Freija, 2006.

And Jesse Fuller. *"When you get this letter, don't tell us over the phone about any money that you are going to send, because all the people around us hear what been said over the phone. Just send it in a letter."* [Gertrude Fuller]

And Taj Mahal. *"This is a small business. You can count on one hand the people who have a certain level of integrity. I was really lucky to get a leg up in the business with people on the up-and-up. That's helped distinguish my career."* [Taj Mahal]

1964 Joan Baez at Constitution Hall. Controversy over her political views.

1965-1970 or '71

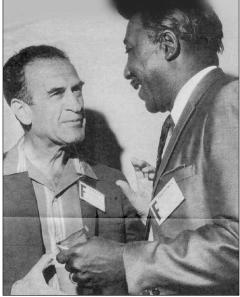
Nancy Kubo (later Nancy Dawson) working at Folklore as Manny's assistant. "One thing I learned from Manny, you could have a company and be very caring about your employees. ... I think he was a good businessman. But he was also very fair. And there would be times, even when he would deal with a promoter who had lost money, and he would go ahead and make adjustments to compensate for that. And I really liked that about Manny. On the other hand, he could be hard when he had to be hard, in terms of pressing a fee or whatever. I learned a lot from Manny about not just business, but what it meant to be a good person." [Nancy Kubo Dawson Interview, 2002]



1966 With Nancy Kubo's guidance, future Broadway producer Jack Viertel, a student at Pomfret School in Connecticut, brings Rev. Gary Davis to campus.

"I've been producing for almost 40 years now, and it all started because Folklore Productions took a call from a nervous prep school kid seriously when he said he loved Reverend Gary Davis. Happy birthday, Folklore." [Jack Viertel, via e-mail]

1966 Mitch Greenhill performs at Newport Folk Festival, New Folks concert, hosted by future associate Peter Yarrow. Also accompanies Rosalie Sorrels on her set, same venue. Later that summer, accompanies Rosalie on her album *If I Could Be the Rain*.



Manny and Muddy Waters, 1969.

1966 "Bell Telephone Presents

The Blues," CBC-TV. Manny Greenhill functions as talent coordinator, bringing Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, and Jesse Fuller, among others.

1966 The Grateful Dead begin performing Jesse Fuller's "Beat It On Down the Line," published by Hillgreen Music. The song stays in their repertoire for decades, including on several recordings.

Between 1966 and 1970

Folklore represented Joan Baez, the Chambers Brothers, the Charles River Valley Boys, Michael Cooney, Rev. Gary Davis, Ramblin' Jack Elliot, John Fahey, Mimi & Richard Fariña, Flatt & Scruggs, Jesse Fuller, Mitch Greenhill, John Hammond, Son House, Louis Killen, Spider John Koerner, the Jim Kweskin Jug Band, Bill Monroe & the Blue Grass Boys, the New Lost City Ramblers, Jean Redpath, Tom Rush, Tony Saletan, Pete Seeger, Chris Smither, Mark Spoelstra, the Staples Singers, Dave Van Ronk, Doc Watson, Jackie Washington, and the Muddy Waters Blues Band.



Mitch and Rosalie.

1966-1969

Folklore Concert Series: Theodore Bikel; Judy Collins; the Deller Consort; Arlo Guthrie; the Irish Rovers; the Little Angels (Korean folk ballet for children); the Lords of Boston; Enrico Macias; the New Lost City Ramblers; Olaeta Basque Festival of Bilbao; Tom Paxton; Sabícas; the Salzburg Marionettes; Pete Seeger; the Stockholm Marionette Theatre of Fantasy; Jackie Washington;

Doc Watson.

1966 or 1967

Presenting the Jefferson Airplane in concert – "dabbling in rock & roll". *"The Airplane did very well. It was also Manny's first venture into using radio ads.... I think after that he started doing more things. I mean, he presented the Doors. The Doors and Iron Butterfly at the old Boston Arena. He did the Byrds at Boston College. Sly and the Family Stone – and that was awful, because they were late – everybody was tearing their hair about that one. Tim Buckley. Manny was the only promoter in town who could get rock shows into Symphony Hall."* [Nancy Kubo Dawson interview, 2002]

Dabbling in the sound reinforcement business with Dinky Dawson, who eventually marries Nancy Kubo.

Presenting Simon and Garfunkel in concert.

1969 A very pregnant Joan Baez, escorted by Manny Greenhill, sings at Woodstock. Her husband David Harris is serving time for draft evasion.





Joan Baez, David Harris.

1969-1970

The final Folklore Concert Series: Judy Collins; Arlo Guthrie; the Irish Rovers; Enrico Macias; A Program of Jazz Dance with Al Minns and Leon James; Nana Mouskouri; Osipov Balalaika Orchestra of Moscow; Pete Seeger.

1970's

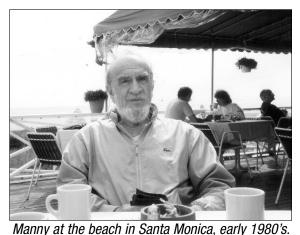
Between 1970 and 1980 Folklore represented Joan Baez, Leon Bibb, the Charles River Valley Boys, Michael Cooney, Rev. Gary Davis, Dawson Sound, Mimi Fariña & Tom Jans, Jesse Fuller, Mitch Greenhill, Stefan Grossman, John Hammond, Bessie Jones & the Georgia Sea Island Singers, Spider John Koerner & Willie Murphy, Jim Kweskin, Ewan MacColl & Peggy Seeger, Brownie McGhee & Sonny Terry, Geoff Muldaur, the New Lost City Ramblers, Jean Redpath, Tony Saletan, Pete Seeger, Chris Smither, Rosalie Sorrels, Mercedes Sosa, Happy & Artie Traum, Eric von Schmidt, Jackie Washington, the Muddy Waters Blues Band, and Doc Watson.

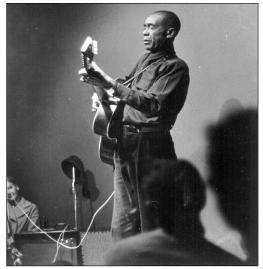
- **1970** Hot Tuna records Rev. Gary Davis's "Death Don't Have No Mercy," published by Chandos Music.
- **1970** The Rolling Stones record "You Got To Move," written in part by Rev. Gary Davis and published in part by Chandos Music.
- **1971** Grammy nomination (Best Female Vocal Performance, Pop, Rock and Folk Field) Joan Baez for *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down*. Song spends 13 weeks on Billboard charts, reaching #3.

1971 Santa Monica office opens.

"Then after a while [Manny] left Boston and went to Santa Monica, where life was easier and he was a semi-hippy". [Family friend Steve Gardner, interview, 2002]

- Reverend Gary Davis dies (May 5).
- Doc joins the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and a host of country music legends to record the classic *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*.
- Grammy (Best Ethnic or Traditional Recording) for *Then and Now* by Doc and Merle Watson.
- Grammy (Best Ethnic or Traditional Recording) for *Two Days in November* by Doc and Merle Watson.





Joan Baez leaves Folklore.

Mitch joins the business.

"One of the reasons I showed up in 1976 was that I wanted to help out my dad. And from his point of view, he was trying to help me out. Except for Doc, the thing could have probably just died a natural death [after Joan left]." [Mitch Greenhill, in Nancy Dawson interview]

- Jesse Fuller dies (Jan 29).
- Jackson Browne records Rev. Gary Davis's "Cocaine," published by Chandos Music, on the album *Running On Empty*.

Jesse Fuller.

- **1977** Doc Watson, Clint Howard and Fred Price release *Old Timey Concert*, produced by Manny Greenhill.
- **1978** Bob Dylan performs Rev. Gary Davis's "Baby Let Me Follow You Down," published by Chandos Music, in Martin Scorcese's film *The Last Waltz*. Dylan had previously recorded the song on his first album, along with an anecdote about learning it from contributing writer Eric von Schmidt.
- **1979** Bay Records releases Mitch Greenhill and Mayne Smith's *Storm Coming*.
- **1979** Grammy Award (Best Country Instrumental Performance) for "Big Sandy/Leather Britches" by Doc and Merle Watson, produced by Mitch Greenhill.

1980's

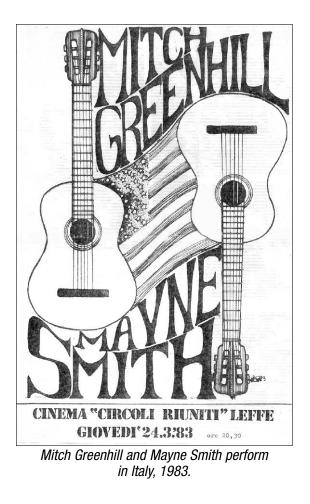
Artists who graced Folklore's roster from 1980-1990 included Frankie Armstrong, Keola Beamer, Beausoleil, Pierre Bensusan, Berline/Crary/Hickman, Ted Bogan & Howard Armstrong, the Bonedaddys, Henry Butler, the Chambers Brothers, Bonnie Dobson, Jack Elliott, John Fahey, Mitch Greenhill & Mayne Smith, David Grisman, Stefan Grossman, Bert Jansch, Santiago Jimenez Jr., Taj Mahal, Mary McCaslin, Memphis Slim, Mark O'Connor, Odetta, Pentangle, Queen Ida, John Renbourn, Rotondi, Sabia, Buffy Saint-Marie, the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Moacir Santos, Savoy Cajun Band, Rosalie Sorrels, Alan Stivell, Jorge Strunz, Paul Ubana Jones, Dave Van Ronk, Doc Watson, Katie Webster, and Robin Williamson.

1980 Doc Watson collaborates with Chet Atkins on *Reflections*.



Richard Greene, Fritz Richmond, Maria Muldaur, Mitch, Geoff Muldaur at Newport Folk Festival, mid-1980's.

- Mitch Greenhill appears on screen and on soundtrack album of *The Long Riders,* directed by Walter Hill, music by Ry Cooder.
- Grammy nomination for the Best Country Instrumental Performance, Chet Atkins and Doc Watson, *Reflections*.
- Grammy nomination, the John Renbourn Group, *Live in America*, produced by Mitch Greenhill.
- Doc & Merle Watson join the Texas Playboys to provide musical soundtrack to the film *Places In the Heart*, directed by Robert Benton and starring Sally Field, John Malkovich and Danny Glover.
- 1985 Merle Watson dies.
- Grammy (Best Traditional Folk Recording) for *Riding the Midnight Train* by Doc Watson.



1990's

During the 1990s, Folklore represented Arthur Adams, Frankie Armstrong, Mike Auldridge, Bad Boys Zydeco, Balafon Marimba Ensemble, the Battlefield Band, Keola Beamer, Jones Benally Family Dancers, Berline/Crary/Hickman, Eric Bibb, Brave Old World, Henry Butler, the Campbell Brothers, Martin Carthy, Karan Casey, Chesapeake, Robert Tree Cody, Dervish, Toumani Diabate, the Dillards, Floyd Dixon, John Fahey, Archie Fisher, Michael Flatley, Frifot, Hassan Hakmoun, Dan Hicks, Bert Jansch, Santiago Jimenez Jr., Paddy Keenan, Spider John Koerner, Jack Lawrence, Lúnasa, Donal Lunny's Coolfin, Taj Mahal, Mary McCaslin, Geoff Muldaur, Pentangle, John Renbourn & Stefan Grossman, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band, Sharon Shannon Band, Rosalie Sorrels, Alan Stivell, Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir, Paul Ubana Jones, Dave Van Ronk, Waterson:Carthy, Doc Watson, Katie Webster, and Robin Williamson.

1990 Grammy (Best Traditional Folk Recording) for *On Praying Ground* by Doc Watson.

- **1990** Grammy nomination (Best Recording For Children) for *Doc Watson Sings Songs For Little Pickers*, produced by Mark Greenberg and Mitch Greenhill.
- **1991** Taj Mahal composes music for Lincoln Center Theater's Broadway production of *Mule Bone*, by Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston.
- **1992** Eric Clapton performs Jesse Fuller's "San Francisco Bay Blues" on his *Unplugged* album and video.

"I gave the check to Mrs. Fuller, who couldn't see so good. She squinted and asked her daughter, 'Does that say six thousand dollars?' Alice said, 'No Mama. It says sixty thousand dollars.'" [Manny Greenhill]

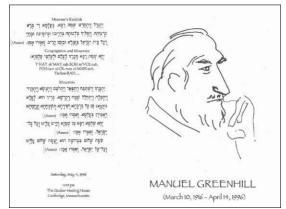


Battlefield Band.

- **1993** Grammy nomination, John Renbourn and Robin Williamson, *Wheel of Fortune*, produced by Mitch Greenhill.
- 1996 Manny Greenhill dies.
- **1997** Harold Leventhal honors Manny with a commemorative dinner at his New York home.
- **1997** President Clinton awards Doc Watson the National Medal of Arts. "There may not be a serious, committed baby boomer alive," says the President, "who didn't at some point in his or her youth try to spend a few minutes at least trying to learn to pick a guitar like Doc Watson."
- **1997** Matt Greenhill starts working at Folklore.

2000

Folklore's artists in the new century have included Rahim AlHaj, Balfa Toujours, Battlefield Band, Pierre Bensusan, Bethany & Rufus, Buílle, Karan Casey Band, Lila Downs, Eric Bibb, the Campbell Brothers, Martin Carthy, Dervish, Floyd Dixon, Hamza El Din, Tim Eriksen, Flook, Frifot, Hassan Hakmoun, Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill, David Holt, Yungchen Lhamo, the Lovell Sisters, Lúnasa, Donal Lunny's Coolfin, Geoff Muldaur, the Pine Leaf Boys, Dirk Powell Band, John Renbourn & Jacqui McShee, Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali, Salamat Sadikova, The Savoy Cajun Band, Mike Seeger, Sharon Shannon Band, Rosalie Sorrels, Otis Taylor, Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir, the Vallely Brothers, Doc Watson, Robin Williamson, Peter Yarrow.



Program from Manny's memorial service.



Matt, Mitch, circa 1970, Sonoma County coast.

2000 Karan Casey releases children's album *The Seal Maiden*. Matt Greenhill is executive producer.

- **2001** John Fahey dies.
- **2002** Dave Van Ronk dies.
- **2002** Doc Watson and David Holt share the Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album, *Legacy*.
- 2002 Rosalie Sorrels' Farewell Concert at Sanders Theater, Harvard.
- **2002** Otis Taylor wins the Handy Award for Best New Artist.
- **2002** Campbell Brothers play the Bonnaroo Festival in Manchester, TN. Gospel meets jam band.
- 2002 Campbell Brothers win Indie Award for the best gospel album (Pass Me Not).



Cathy Jordan of Dervish.

- 2002 Pierre Bensusan wins Indie Award for best acoustic album (Intuite).
- **2002** Hassan Hakmoun wins Indie Award for best world music album (*The Gift*).
- **2002** Mitch composes music for the Broadway play *An Almost Holy Picture*, directed by Michael Mayer and starring Kevin Bacon.



Mitch's Broadway moment.

- Paul McCartney performs Jesse Fuller's "San Francisco Bay Blues" as a special feature on his *Back In the US* concert DVD.
- Lúnasa wins the Prix Miroir for their performance at the Festival d'Été de Québec, Québec City.
- *The Three Pickers* (Earl Scruggs, Doc Watson, Ricky Skaggs) is nominated for a Grammy. Mitch Greenhill is associate producer of the PBS "Great Performances" video, directed by Jim Brown.



John Renbourn, Matt.

Dirk Powell, Riley Baugus and Tim Eriksen contribute to the soundtrack of *Cold Mountain*, directed by Anthony Minghella.



Lúnasa and Ina, Sonoma County, 2001.

- City of New York proclaims Dave Van Ronk Day on his birthday, June 30.
- City of New York dedicates Dave Van Ronk Street in Greenwich Village.
- Doc Watson receives a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement.
- Rosalie Sorrels' *My Last Go Round* (produced by Roma Baran and Mitch Greenhill) and Dave Van Ronk's posthumous *And the Tin Pan Bended and the Story Ended...* nominated for Grammys.



Andrea Vuocolo and Dave Van Ronk at home in Greenwich Village.

- 2005 The Campbell Brothers release *Can You Feel It*, produced by John Medeski of jam band favorites Medeski Martin & Woods.
- Dave Van Ronk's voice and image are prominent in Martin 2005 Scorcese's film on Bob Dylan, No Direction Home.
- 2005 Publication of Dave Van Ronk's posthumous memoir *Mayor of MacDougal Street*, written with Elijah Wald.

Album of the Year in LiveIreland's annual Livies Awards.



At the annual conference of 2006 Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Peter Yarrow hosts a party to honor Folklore Productions, and to celebrate his joining the roster, along with Bethany & Rufus.

2006 Hamza El Din dies.

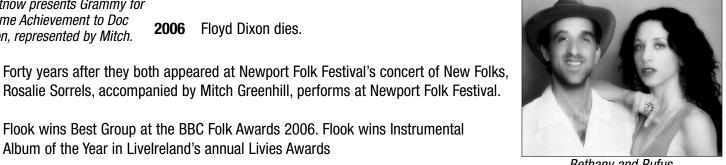
Neil Portnow presents Grammy for Lifetime Achievement to Doc Watson, represented by Mitch.

2006

2006

2006 Flovd Dixon dies.

Flook wins Best Group at the BBC Folk Awards 2006. Flook wins Instrumental



Bethany and Rufus.



Darick, Phil and Chuck Campbell.

- **2006** Dervish chosen to represent Ireland at the Eurovision song contest 2007.
- **2007** Folklore Productions celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.
- **2007** Folk Alliance honors Manny Greenhill with Lifetime Achievement Award.



Peter Yarrow, Mitch at the office in Santa Monica, 2005.



New members of the family: the Pine Leaf Boys, the Lovell Sisters.

