

## Anthony da Costa – Bio

Anthony da Costa was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1991 and currently lives in Pleasantville, New York. The second of three siblings, sister Kristen is one year older, while brother Gianni is four years younger. Young Anthony first sat at a piano at the age of three, and began taking lessons soon afterwards. While attending elementary school Anthony played trombone, and aged nine picked up his first guitar. These days the range of instruments that this musical wunderkind can play includes guitar, bass, cello, mandolin, harmonica, piano, drums, djembe and trombone. Initially he played his father's old acoustic guitar. As for listening to music, as he grew up, da Costa recalls hearing recordings by Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry and The Beatles. While attending Fordham University, Anthony's father, Dennis, had been a DJ on the college radio station WFUV. Delving onto his father's aging record collection the youngster discovered the music of British rock bands such as The Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin, but the day he listened to Bob Dylan's Greatest Hits and heard "Blowin' In The Wind" was pivotal. Having learned to play the song on guitar, a couple of years ago Anthony began performing at local open-mics. - his first being at the Circle of Friends coffeehouse in Pleasantville. Initially he performed cover songs, but soon began writing his own songs.

da Costa currently attends Pleasantville High School, but over each weekend he performs most nights and also on week days during school breaks. On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at Tarrytown's Coffee Lab with a SRO crowd present, da Costa performed his first solo show. Anthony's debut release "**Already There**," a five song EP – featuring four da Costa originals and a bonus track - was recorded on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at JR Studios in Yorktown, N.Y. On the album Anthony played acoustic guitar and harmonica, and sang the lead and backing vocals. "**Gary And Anthony**," recorded between November 2005 and April 2006, was a collection of nine songs most co-written by Anthony and his friend Gary Bierman. Recorded in the basement studio in the da Costa home, Oliver Hill played violin on the track "Just Fine." A six song EP, "**Eclectic Basement Abnormalities**" was recorded on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and featured Oliver Hill [violin], Gary Bierman [bass], David Maine [drums] and da Costa [guitar, harmonica, and lead vocals].

"**Rearrange**" is a fourteen song recording that included titles such as "Matters of the Heart," "If It's True" and "Remembrance." The latter song was later featured on the Discovery Channel show "**Dr. G: Medical Examiner**." Musically speaking the recording ran the gamut from folk to rock to alternative to country and some sessions took place in Anthony's basement studio, the remainder at fishBIT with Nicolas Pesce and with G.W. Duncanson at Gingersound Studios. In February 2007 performed a number of showcases during the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis, where he also debuted his album "**Quality Time**." Late the following month da Costa played the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival in Nashville. Selected by Folk Alliance, at 12th and Porter in Nashville, Anthony appeared 'in the round' with Jonathan Edwards, Marshall Crenshaw and Wendy Waldman.

Impressed when he saw da Costa perform at an open mic. and later in a solo concert, in recent times, Hudson Valley performer Fred Gillen Jr., has become something of a mentor to the youngster. "**Quality Time**," produced by Gillen, was recorded at his studio, Woody's House, in Croton-on-Hudson. da Costa's voice and guitar on his twelve songs were cut live in one session, and the tracks were subsequently overdubbed with contributions from Gillen and the trio Red Molly [Laurie MacAllister, Abbie Gardner and Carolann Solebello].

To date venues da Costa has performed at include Towne Crier Café, Peekskill Coffee House, Tarrytown's Coffee Labs, Dragonfly Caffè, Golden Apple Coffeehouse, Common Ground Coffee House, Starving Artist Café and the Chthonic Clash. He also has performed at the Paramount Center for the Arts, the Postcrypt Coffeehouse at Columbia University, and at the Pleasantville Music Festival, and in Nashville at 12th and Porter and The Bluebird Café. Anthony has shared stages with Hope Machine [Fred Gillen Jr. & Steve Kirkman], Red Molly, David Massengill, Anais Mitchell and Jonathan Byrd. da Costa is currently the youngest member of the Hudson Valley folk music collective, Tribes Hill [[www.tribeshill.com](http://www.tribeshill.com)] which is based in Hawthorne. In late May 2007 Anthony da Costa, at the age of 16, became the youngest person ever to be one of the half dozen winners of the annual Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk Songwriting Contest.

Released in January, Fred Gillen Jr. also produced the eleven-song "**Typical American Tragedy**." Early in 2007 da Costa was profiled in The New York Times, and also received a 2007 Folk Alliance Emerging Artist of the Year nomination. April saw the release of "**Bad Nights / Better Days**" a duo

album recorded in just three days featuring Anthony and Abbie Gardner, the dobro/guitar playing vocalist from the trio Red Molly. Gardner also contributed to **“Typical American Tragedy.”**

Discography :

with Gary Bierman - **“Gary And Anthony”** [2006] ;

with Abbie Gardner – **“Bad Nights / Better Days”** [2008] :

Solo - **“Already There”** [2005] ; **“Eclectic Basement Abnormalities”** [2006] ; **“Rearrange”** [2006] ;

**“Quality Time”** [2007] ; **“Typical American Tragedy”** [2008] :

### **Arthur Wood**

Kerrville Kronikles 07/07 & 04/08

[835 words]