

## Bittersweets – Bio

The Bittersweets are a duo that was formed in San Francisco during 2004, by vocalist Hannah Prater and songwriter Chris Meyers [vocals, guitar, piano]. A neighbour suggested that they perform at a local open mic. after hearing them practicing. Later that year, in September, they went into the studio with Jolie Holland bassist Daniel Schacht and American Music Club drummer Tim Mooney, plus pedal steel player David Phillips [Norah Jones, Tom Waits], to cut their debut EP, which was released by the Poor Valley Recording Co. When Mooney couldn't undertake the band's tour dates, former Counting Crows [and Third Eye Blind] drummer Steve Bowman was recruited. Bowman then brought his guitarist/pianist friend Jerry Becker [Pat Monahan, Train] aboard, and The Bittersweets became a fully fledged folk/pop band.

Massachusetts born and bred, Meyers isn't given to extensive editing of his working, preferring to leave most creations precisely as each arrived. Already an accomplished piano player, in his late teens Chris picked up his first guitar. While attending an Ohio college as a Sociology major, Meyers studied country music from the period prior to the genre becoming infested by pop commercialization, and it's from that foundation that he writes, injecting each song with his own unique and contemporary roots twist. Chris' senior year thesis was a dissertation on The Carter Family, and following graduation he departed Ohio for San Francisco. Prater was raised in a musical environment, both her parents being music teachers. Having enrolled in college Hannah was bound for a career as a music teacher, when her singing voice was noticed by the college's tutors and students alike. In college she performed with a jazz combo, and following graduation settled in Berkeley, California. In Shaky Town she worked with Matt Easton [ex The Jenny Thing] and also a young songwriter from Ohio – Chris Meyers. In time they became The Bittersweets.

In 2006 the Seattle based Virt Records label released the band's first full album "**The Life You Always Wanted.**" The eleven songs were penned by Meyers, and the album was produced by Meyers, Schacht and Becker. David Henry [REM, Josh Rouse, Guster, Vienna Teng] mixed the album. "Long Day" the first single from "**The Life You Always Wanted**" was later included on the compilation "**KFOG Local Scene: Volume 3.**" The local radio station KFOG having been staunch supporters of the band's music from the outset.

The eleven song live set "**Long Way From Home**" and the three song "**Bittersweet Christmas**" are available as web downloads from the band's web site. Reduced to a trio – Prater, Meyers and Bowman – relocated to Nashville and subsequently signed with local imprint Compass Records, who released the Lex Price [Mindy Smith, Glenn Phillips, Toad The Wet Sprocket, Melissa Etheridge] produced "**Goodnight, San Francisco**" during early September 2008. Bowman apart, the session players included steel guitarist Russ Pahl [Don Williams], bassist Dave Jacques [John Prine], guitarist Doug Lancio [Patty Griffin], cellist David Henry [Ben Folds] and organist John Deaderick [Emmylou Harris].

These days The Bittersweets tour as an acoustic duo as well as a trio and have shared stages with Train, Rosanne Cash and Cowboy Junkies, and their music has been used on the soundtrack to prime-time television series such as "**Men In Trees**" and "**Saving Grace.**"

Discography : "**The Bittersweets EP**" [2005] ; "**The Life You Always Wanted**" [2006] ; "**Long Way From Home**" web download live album [2007] ; "**Bittersweet Christmas**" web download EP [2007] ; "**Goodnight, San Francisco**" [2008] :

### Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 11/08.  
[540 words]