

## Storyhill – Bio

Storyhill are Chris Cunningham and John Hermanson, lifelong friends who were born and raised in Bozeman, Montana. Post high school the pair enrolled at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, by which time they were already performing as Chris and Johnny and had issued their self-titled debut recording. Three more recordings were credited on the liner artwork to Chris & Johnny. **“Miles And Means”** and **“Clearing”** saw it alter to Chris Cunningham and John Hermanson. In 1994 the duo scored a Minnesota Music Academy Award nomination for **“Miles And Means.”** With the appearance of **“This Side Of Lost,”** during the summer of 1996, the duo began calling themselves Storyhill. Storyhill went on to release the limited edition [initially promotional] EP **“Collage”** and followed with the ‘in concert’ recording **“Storyhill Live.”** **“Echoes,”** a 2CD set, featured the duo’s [at the time] June 1997 final show in Bozeman and was accompanied by a second disc featuring other live tracks from Storyhill’s [then] final tour.

The appearance of **“Echoes”** began what proved to be a four-year hiatus for Storyhill. Cunningham moved to Seattle and a few months later relocated to Bozeman and went on to perform and record as a solo singer/songwriter and with the band Sixth Sense. In addition to Chris, Sixth Sense featured Chad Langford [upright bass], Ken Glynn [drums] and Reeves Petroff [dobro, slide guitar]. In December 1998, Sixth Sense released a seven-song disc titled **“The First Snow.”** In September 1999 they issued **“Full Circle.”** The guest musicians on their sophomore effort included guitarist Craig Hall, national fiddle champ Nancy Padilla, plus members of the bluegrass band Deep River. The band split up toward the end of last century and Cunningham went on to tour in the Spring of 2000 with fellow solo acts Mark Whitsell and Justin Roth. That autumn Cunningham toured with Roth resulting in the live ‘duo’ recording **“2 Forms Of ID.”** Soon afterwards Chris issued his debut solo CD **“House Concert,”** and the following year he released **“Concierto!”** - a live EP of Spanish-language folk songs that Chris recorded back in 1994. In 2003 Cunningham released **“Madly Out The Cabin Door.”**

Hermanson, meantime, remained in Minnesota and in late 2000 became vocalist in local power-pop band Alva Star, and later performed with the Olympic Hopefuls. Alva Star took its name from a character, Alva Starr [note one ‘r’ has been dropped], in Tennessee Williams’ one-act play **“This Property Is Condemned”** [1946]. Hermanson apart, at various times, the line-up of Alva Star has included drummers Peter Anderson and Eric Fawcett and bassist Brian Roessler, plus current members guitarist Darren Jackson [Kid Dakota, Olympic Hopefuls], bassist Erik Appelwick [Vicious Vicious, Olympic Hopefuls, Kid Dakota] and drummer Ian Prince [Kid Dakota, Houston]. Alva Star has recorded albums titled **“Alligators In The Lobby”** [2001] and **“Escalator”** [2005]. Alva Star won Best New Band at the 2001 Minnesota Music Academy Awards.

With little or no publicity bar a fan-based e-mail, a July 20<sup>th</sup> 2001 reunion concert in Minneapolis by Storyhill sold out in five hours. A second date was added, on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and those shows yielded another 2CD live collection appropriately titled **“Reunion.”** The success of those initial and subsequent concerts led the pair to reassess their musical careers. They decided to reunite while concurrently working on solo/band projects. Hermanson also worked as a record producer and has supervised albums by Brenda Weiler [**“Fly Me Back”** [2000] and **“Cold Weather”** [2003]] and Justin Roth [**“Shine”** [2003]]. **“Dovetail”** was a collection of old, previously unreleased Storyhill songs, while **“Duotones”** found the pair paying tribute to songs made famous by 1970’s duos. Duo’s who had musically inspired Chris & Johnny.

**“Storyhill”** was recorded over a three-month period during 2006. A self-titled collection of eleven Storyhill composed originals the album was produced by Dan Wilson of the band Semisonic. In November 2006, Storyhill were signed by Minnesota based independent Red House Records and their fourteenth duo recording was issued the following February. The duo’s sound has been compared to that of Simon & Garfunkel and Loggins & Messina.

Discography : **“Chris and Johnny”** [1989] ; **“Shapeshifting”** [1991] ; **“Different Water”** [1992] ; **“Live At The Grand”** [1993] ; **“Miles And Means”** [1994] ; **“Clearing”** [1995] ; **“This Side Of Lost”** [1996] ; **“Collage”** [1996] ; **“Storyhill Live”** [1997] ; **“Echoes : The Final Show”** [1997] ; **“Reunion”** [2001] ; **“Dovetail”** [2002] ; **“Duotones”** [2004] ; **“Storyhill”** [2007] :

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