

## Holly Near – Bio

Holly was born 6<sup>th</sup> June 1949 in Ukiah, California and until she was aged ten she lived on a ranch in Potter Valley. Her family moved into Ukiah during her teenage years. Raised in a family environment where music was appreciated, her early years were filled with the sounds of folk and country artists and Broadway musicals. Near first performed in public at the age of eight, and in high school appeared in plays and musicals. Following graduation Holly scored a leading part in the Broadway production of *the sixties* musical “**Hair.**” She went on to appear in numerous television shows, including “**Room 222**” [1969], “**The Partridge Family**” [1970] and “**All In The Family**” [1971]. During that period, Holly appeared in the movies, “**Minnie & Moskowitz**” [1971] and “**Slaughterhouse Five**” [1972]. Later, she appeared in a number of documentaries and the first, “**F.T.A.**” [1972], was filmed when she participated in the controversial 1971 Jane Fonda produced review, “**Free The Army.**” The review toured Vietnam in an attempt to get the US government to withdraw its troops. Donald Sutherland took part in the tour. Holly later appeared in “**The Weavers : Wasn’t That A Time**” [1982] which was narrated by Lee Hays and climaxed with the quartets Carnegie Hall reunion show, and in “**In Our Hands**” [1984] an anti-nuclear protest film that featured her music. In more recent times, Near starred in the movies “**Dogfight**” [1991] and “**Heartwood**” [1998].

A fixture on the US folk clubs, college circuit and major summer festivals during the early seventies, working from a base in Ukiah, Near went on to establish her own record label, Redwood. Her debut solo album was titled “**Hang In There.**” Holly was awarded the “Album of the Year” NAIRD [National Association of Independent Record Distributors] for her 1978 recording “**Imagine My Surprise.**” Employing folk/country tinged material, along with Cris Williamson and Meg Christian, Near spearheaded the feminist/women’s music movement through the nineteen seventies and into the nineties. After releasing fifteen albums on her Redwood label, Near closed the organisation down in the mid-nineties. Near’s subsequent releases have appeared on the Abbe Alice label, her own *new* label – Calico Tracks Music, and as of last year Appleseed Records began issuing her Redwood catalogue on CD.

She joined Mary Travers on the track “Home Is Where The Heart Is” on the Peter, Paul and Mary album, “**Lifelines**” [1995] and performed Pete Seeger’s “Quiet Early Morning” on the Appleseed 2CD tribute collection “**Where Have All the Flowers Gone**” [1998]. A couple years earlier, Ronnie Gilbert and Holly released their third *duo* recording, “**This Train Still Runs!**” in celebration of Ronnie’s 70th birthday. In late 2001 Appleseed Recordings released “**Early Warnings.**” The collection includes tracks from Holly’s recordings, “**Skydances**” and “**Watch Out !**”, as well as Pete Seeger’s “Quiet Early Morning.” Holly Near’s most recent recording of new material, on Calico Tracks Music, was titled “**Edge**” [2000].

Over the years she has collaborated with a wide range of performers including Ronnie Gilbert, Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Mercedes Sosa, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Inti Illimani, Bonnie Raitt, Kenny Loggins, Cris Williamson, Jill Eikenberry, Michael Tucker and Linda Tillery. Holly Near’s autobiography “**Fire In The Rain.....Singer In The Storm**” [William Morrow] was published in 1990, and she later presented a one-woman show, based on her book in L.A., San Francisco and New York. In 1993 she produced a second book, aimed at young teenagers and titled “**The Great Peace March**” [Henry Holt].

Discography : “**Hang In There**” [1973] ; “**A Live Album**” [1975] ; “**You Can Know All I Am**” [1976] ; “**Imagine My Surprise**” [1978] ; “**Fire In the Rain**” [1981] ; “**Speed of Light**” [1982] ; “**Journeys : A Retrospective 1972 - 1983**” [1983] ; “**Lifeline**” with Ronnie Gilbert [1983] ; “**Watch Out!**” with John McCutcheon and Trapezoid [1984] ; “**Sing To Me The Dream**” with Inti Illimani [1984] ; “**H.A.R.P.**” with Arlo Guthrie, Ronnie Gilbert & Pete Seeger [1985] ; “**Singing With You**” with Ronnie Gilbert [1987] ; “**Don’t Hold Back**” [1987] ; “**Sky Dances**” [1989] ; “**Singer In The Storm**” [1990] ; “**Musical Highlights**” from the play “Fire In The Rain” [1993] ; “**This Train Still Runs**” with Ronnie Gilbert [1996] ; “**With a Song In My Heart**” [1997] ; “**Simply Love: The Women’s Music Collection**” [2000] ; “**Edge**” [2000] ; “**HARP: A Time To Sing**” Extended Version with Arlo Guthrie, Ronnie Gilbert & Pete Seeger [2001] ; “**Early Warnings**” featuring songs from “**Sky Dances**” and “**Watch Out**” [2001] ; “**Lifeline**” Extended Version with Ronnie Gilbert [2002] ; “**And Still We Sing: The Outspoken Collection**” Includes collaborations with Rhiannon, Inti Illimani, Ronnie Gilbert, HARP, Mercedes Sosa, and Brian Lane Green [2002] ; “**Crushed: The Love Song Collection**” [2002] :

## Arthur Wood

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