

Carl Cacho – Bio

Carl Cacho was born in 1969 and grew up in Queens, New York. Interested in music since childhood, he was already playing guitar, when, at the age of nineteen during a visit to his girlfriend who was studying at Boston College, he attended a songwriter's contest at Harvard Square's, Nameless Coffeehouse where he saw a young Ellis Paul perform. The contest was something of a revelation, since Cacho thought that contemporary songwriters, who penned songs that featured challenging lyrics, were *a breed apart* who had died out in the sixties. Prior to this, Carl had survived on a diet of his mother's Joni Mitchell and CSNY records. In time, Cacho discovered other writers such as John Gorka and Cliff Eberhardt. Pursuing his interest in songwriting, Carl was a finalist in the 1992 Telluride Troubadour contest and also a finalist in the Sierra Festival songwriting contest. Cacho attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he gained a Master's degree in Social Work. It was there that he met Ellis Paul for the second time, and Paul advised him to return to New England if he intended to pursue his interest in a career as a performing songwriter. While attending University, Carl's music came to the notice of Matt Wattroba, who ran the open mics at The Ark – Ann Arbor's songwriter club for national as well as local acts. Wattroba also hosted the "**Folks Like Us**" show on Detroit public radio. Cacho soon became a featured performer at The Ark and other venues in the area. To date, Cacho had lived in New York, Michigan, Colorado and Maine. Relocating to Massachusetts, in 1996 he won the fourth annual Rose Garden Coffeehouse Singer/Songwriter Competition, with performances of his songs "Tumbleweed's At The Fair" and "In This World." In 1997 Cacho was invited to attend the 5th annual Martha's Vineyard singer/songwriter retreat, an event originally launched by Christine Lavin. In 1998 Cacho released his debut CD, "**Blue Around The Edges**," and his compositions featured a mix of blues, folk, country and rock and roll influences. Many lyrics to his songs have been inspired by Cacho's experiences as a social worker. In 2000, Cacho was a Boston Music Award Nominee for Best New Singer/Songwriter. Carl's musical heroes include Townes Van Zandt, Bob Dylan, Lightning Hopkins, Joni Mitchell and Ellis Paul, while his songs have been covered by Jack Hardy, Kevin So and Jimmy LaFave. His sophomore solo album "**Spark**" was released in early 2002.

Discography : "**Blue Around The Edges**" [1999] ; "**Spark**" [2002].

Arthur Wood
Kerrville Kronikles 06/02
[400 words]