

The Wayfaring Strangers - Bio

An *all-star* septet when their debut album was released, The Wayfaring Strangers, at that time, was composed of Matt Glaser [musical director, violin, viola], Jennifer Kimball [vocals], Andy Statman [clarinet, mandolin], Tony Trischka [banjo], John McGann [guitar, mandolin], Bruce Barth [piano] and Jim Whitney [bass]. In the three years [1999/2001], The Wayfaring Strangers only played three live shows, and while some members continue to hold *real day jobs* they have endeavoured to increase the number of their annual appearances of late. As such, they are more akin to an *evolving music project* than a unit that performs and tours regularly. The Boston Herald called them "*the most potent supergroup in folk music.*"

Glaser is head of the Music String Department at Boston's prestigious Berklee College, a post he initiated and has held for more than two decades. Jennifer Kimball first rose to prominence as half of The Story, which also featured Jonatha Brooke. The duo recorded a pair of early nineties albums for Elektra, which exclusively featured Brooke's compositions. Kimball's solo debut recording "**Veering From The Wave**" [1998] on Will Ackerman's Imaginary Road label, marked her emergence as a fine songwriter in her own right. These days she is in much demand as a recording session backing vocalist, and a member of the group Maybe Baby, a pop/country influenced duo, with Ry Cavanaugh [ED. NOTE. There is also a Nashville based, hit songwriter named Jennifer Kimball. To avoid confusion, the Stranger's vocalist is Jennifer D. Kimball].

Andy Statman was a student of Dave Tarras, the klezmer and Jewish master clarinetist. Statman has a number of solo recordings available, as well as one with his Klezmer Orchestra. He has toured and recorded with Itzhak Perlman. Tony Trischka has been a performing musician and recording artist in his own right for nearly three decades. Apart from recording and touring with the Tony Trischka Band, he has performed in bands such as *the ["other"] supergroup* – Psychograss and Country Cooking. In 1985 John McGann won the National Mandolin Championship in Winfield, Kansas. He also plays acoustic and electric guitars, pedal-steel guitar, dobro, mandola and mandocello. His most recent solo album was titled "**Upslide**" [1995] and he performs and records with Chris Moore in the duo Rust Farm. Bruce Barth was born in Pasadena, California in 1958, and started piano lessons at age five. Growing up in the New York area, he fell in love with jazz. During the early eighties he studied with Norman Simmons, Jaki Byard and Fred Hersch at the New England Conservatory in Boston. While there, he worked extensively in that city's jazz scene. He made his first recording, "**The African Game**," with composer George Russell, in 1983. Following a move to Brooklyn in the fall of 1988, he was soon working with Nat Adderley and Stanley Turrentine. 1990 saw Bruce join Terence Blanchard's Quintet for the ensuing four years. A solo act and freelance sideman since the mid-nineties, Barth has a number of solo recordings available. He made a cameo appearance in Spike Lee's "**Malcolm X**."

Jim Whitney has worked extensively with John McGann and is also part of NY band Brock Mumford. According to Glaser, he first came up with the idea for the Wayfaring Strangers when he heard Lucy Kaplansky perform the traditional song "Wayfaring Stranger" some twenty years ago [circa 1980]. The music that the band performs is a mix of jazz, bluegrass, folk, klezmer, celtic, and chamber music. Upon its release The Herald described their 2001 debut recording "**Shifting Sands of Time**" as "*an audacious, genre-bending experiment, full of joy, sorrow, and beauty.*"

With the appearance of "**This Train**," and following the departure of Kimball, the Wandering Strangers line-up has been augmented by three female vocalists. They are Ruth Ungar [also a member of The Mammals], Aoife O'Donovan [also a member of Boston's, Crooked Still] and Tracy Bonham. Bonham, a one time Berklee student, made a cameo vocal appearance on "**Shifting Sands of Time**." In addition, Statman and Barth have departed, and been replaced by Jamey Haddad [percussion] and Laszlo Gardony [piano]. Haddad, who was born in Cleveland Ohio, has in the past worked with The Paul Winter Consort and Carly Simon, and is currently on the 2003 Simon & Garfunkel reunion tour. Laszlo Gardony was born in Hungary, and has been living in Boston for the past twenty years, where he is a Professor of Piano at the Berklee College of Music.

Discography

Albums : "**Shifting Sands of Time**" [2001] ; "**This Train**" [2003] :

Arthur Wood

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