

The Kennedys – Bio

Pete Kennedy was born in Arlington, Virginia on February 9th 1952, and Maura Kennedy [nee Boudreau] was born in Syracuse, New York on October 25th 1963. Pete, who had been raised on a diet of fifties rock' n' roll [Buddy Holly, The Everly Brothers] and sixties Brit pop [The Beatles], went on to play in a series of garage bands, for a number of years attended Boston College, and later, during the late '70s and early '80s, studied with guitar legends Joe Pass and Johnny Smith. The pair met in the Continental Club on Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas during June 1992 where Pete was playing a solo gig. At the time Kennedy already had a number of solo albums to his name, although his current "*day job*" was lead guitarist in Nanci Griffiths' Blue Moon Orchestra. Previous to that, Pete had worked with the late Kate Wolf and with Mary Chapin Carpenter. Based initially in Central New York, early in her musical career Boudreau had been a member of Sparse Frontiers [an early 80's band inspired by Fairport Convention] and later that decade the country/pop sounding Delta Rays. Within 24 hours of meeting, the pair had written the song "Day In And Day Out." Boudreau, at the time, was still in the Delta Rays, who had relocated to Austin. Well, two original members had, after they played a showcase during the late '80's at the annual springtime music conference/showcase South-by-Southwest. Leaving Austin to play the Telluride Festival in Colorado with Griffith, but already smitten, within days Pete called Maura in Austin and the pair agreed to meet 'on hallowed ground' at the halfway point - the graveside of one of their mutual musical heroes, Buddy Holly.

The pair corresponded for the following year, and after Griffith completed the American leg of her "**Other Voices, Other Rooms**" tour, support act Iris DeMent left the tour to pursue her solo career. Griffith invited Pete and Maura to open for her on the English leg of the tour. The nascent Kennedys played their first gig in Liverpool, England while also performing with the Blue Moon Orchestra. Pete and Maura were married on October 22nd 1994 and the following year the independent folk label, Green Linnet, released their debut set "**River Of Fallen Stars**." Most of the material featured on the disc had been written during the aforementioned British tour. The following year their sophomore disc "**Life Is Large**" appeared, which had been recorded on a portable studio as they toured the nation's listening clubs. Roger McGuinn [Byrds], Nils Lofgren [Bruce Springsteen], Kelly Willis, John Gorka and Steve Earle contributed to those "tour" sessions, but the duo eventually decided to leave Green Linnet. Both recordings were nominated for Best Adult Contemporary Album awards by the National Association of Independent Record Distributors [now Association for Independent Music] and "**River of Falling Stars**" picked up the 1995 award. Over the years, The Kennedys have also collected a number of Wammies [Washington Area Music Awards]. Varese Saraband reissued The Kennedys first and second albums in October 2003, and both featured extra tracks relative to the original releases.

In 1998, The Kennedys contributed to their old boss Griffiths' folk retrospective "**Other Voices Too**." Moving to Rounder Records they cut two albums for that imprint, namely "**Angel Fire**" [1998] and "**Evolver**" [2000]. Early in the new millennium the duo self-released the discs "**Positively Live**" [2001] and "**Get It Right**" [2002] on their Jiffyjam label. In 2002 the duo were presented with the World Folk Music Association's annual Kate Wolf Award. The following year, the Koch label released "**Stand**." The album featured a track titled "Dharma Café," and The Kennedys currently present a show of the same name on the SIRIUS Satellite Radio folk channel. In early 2005 the Kennedys were involved in a serious accident on the New Jersey Turnpike, their third touring van being the main victim. Purchasing a new vehicle, they were soon on the road again. Their latest offering "**Half A Million Miles**" was an Appleseed Recordings release in late August 2005, and found them celebrating 10 years of marriage, over 1000 gigs, and the 500,000 road miles they travelled to get to those gigs.

Discography : "**River Of Fallen Stars**" [1995] "**Life Is Large**" [1996] ; "**Angel Fire**" [1998] ; "**Evolver**" [2000] ; "**Positively Live**" [2001] ; "**Get It Right**" [2002] ; "**Stand**" [2003] ; "**Half A Million Miles**" [2005] :

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