

Terence Martin – Bio

Terence Martin was born in London, England circa 1947. At the age of six, his family moved to the States and Terence was raised in Los Angeles, California, where his father worked in the aerospace industry. Martin relocated to his current home in 1994, and teaches English Literature at The French American School of New York. His interest in music began at the age of 8, and his first instrument was an accordion, which his parents picked for him. Terence went on to have formal lessons for 6 years. He also picked up the harmonica. Following High School he was drafted, and served as a medic & ambulance driver in the U.S. Army in Germany. Upon his return home, Terence became a member of a number of rock bands including Surface Tension [where he met long time, co-writer Gregory Hicks], White Noise & Homegrown with whom he toured the west coast. About this time, Martin also was the double bass player in the Burbank Symphony Orchestra. He eventually graduated with an English degree from California State Northridge, and went on to teach high school and community college.

Published in October 1990, Martin's poems appeared in the compilation **"Four Valley Poets"** [ISBN : 0962703109 Stone And Scott] alongside the work of Michael Marth, Ann Stanton and William Wallis. The publisher describes the collection as, *"The poets — two students and two teachers at Los Angeles Valley College — are remarkable."* In 1992, at a songwriting workshop, Martin met the late and legendary album producer Nik Venet [d. 1998], whom he credits with helping him to find his *"true singing voice."* Many of Venet's 300 odd production credits were for Capitol Records, including releases by The Kingston Trio, John Stewart and Linda Ronstadt. In 1994 Terence Martin resigned as head of the English department at L.A.'s Valley College, and moved to Fairfield, Connecticut where he set about composing songs on a serious basis – the intention being to record and release them.

At the 1997-98 Songwriter's Contest in New York sponsored by Fast Folk Musical Magazine, Martin's songs received a honourable mention. He was also invited to perform at the New Artists Showcase at the 1999 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival. Consisting of a dozen original compositions, including three Hicks co-writes, Terence released his debut solo CD, **"Division Street"** the same year. One major reason for Martin's move to the East Coast in the mid nineteen-nineties, was in order pursue playing acoustic music.

Co-produced with Dennis Hrbek, **"Waterproof,"** a mix of ten originals and co-writes [five with Hicks], plus a cover of the Jackie DeShannon co-write "The Great Imposter," a # 7 pop single for The Fleetwoods in October 1961, this sophomore recording surfaced in Y2K. The front of the liner booklet featured a lithograph of two beached rowing boats by Martin's father, Glen. The closing track, "Familiar Mysteries," was subsequently chosen as the title of the second various artists compilation released by The Garland Appeal, a breast cancer research charity [<http://www.garlandappeal.com/>]. In April the following year, Terence was one of the winners of the New Folk songwriter contest at the New Jersey Folk Festival. Martin's third release, another twelve-song collection and Hrbek co-production titled, **"Sleeper,"** was released in early 2003. The collection only featured two songs co-written with Gregory Hicks.

In New England venues such the Bottom Line, Iron Horse Music Hall, Emelin Theatre and the Towne Crier Café, Martin has opened shows for Christine Lavin, Cheryl Wheeler, Richard Shindell, Richie Havens and Lucy Kaplansky. On the musician's web site there's a typical Lavin quote that runs *"Terence Martin is a deep and thoughtful writer, composes finely crafted songs, has a beautiful voice, plays a mean guitar... and it doesn't hurt that he looks like Harrison Ford !"*

Martin's fourth solo effort, **"Lost Hills,"** the third to be co-produced with Dennis Hrbek, was released in the summer of 2005, and featured five Gregory Hicks co-writes and one co-written with harmony vocalist Amy Berkson. Three years later **"Even Trade,"** another Hrbek/Martin co-production was released.

Discography : **"Division Street"** [1999] ; **"Waterproof"** [2000] ; **"Sleeper"** [2003] ; **"Lost Hills"** [2005] ; **"Even Trade"** [2008] :

Arthur Wood

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