

# Tom Hanford

Thomas Hooker Hanford is a visual artist, musician, children's performer and teacher.

Born in Norwalk, Connecticut in 1952 he received a B.S., 1974, and an M.S., 1978, in Art Education from Southern Connecticut State University. Under the tutelage of his teachers, especially painter, Howard Fussiner and sculptor, Michael Skop, his years at Southern were a time of tremendous spiritual and artistic development.

He has shown his drawings, paintings, and pastels at many galleries including P.S. 122 and 22 WOOSTER GALLERY in New York City, SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY GALLERY, and in recent years at ARTWELL GALLERY and INSIDER/OUTSIDER GALLERY in Connecticut and THE CHISHOLM GALLERY in Pine Plains, NY.

In the 1980s he created a number of stage sets for small scale theater pieces including " The Heavy Anchor" by English playwright, Steve Bellwood, and "A Song On The Harp" by Loren Mazzacane (a.k.a. Loren MazzaCane Connors) who has since garnered great recognition as an avant garde guitarist. Both plays were staged at THE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS in New Haven in 1986.

Tom's lifelong attraction to the visual arts is matched by a natural affinity for music. As a child he often sang with his grandmother, a fine singer and devotee of the popular songs of the music halls and vaudeville theaters of her youth in New York City. He also enjoyed hearing his father strum the guitar and sing cowboy songs at the end of a hard work day. His brother, Clark, a designer and artist, played on the piano as well. Nurtured by public schools that had strong arts programs, he learned to play the violin and later the guitar.

In the early 80s he collaborated with Kath Bloom and Loren Mazzacane on an album of traditional spirituals, blues, and original songs called "Hanford, Bloom, and Mazzacane". The album was praised highly by the well known music critic, Nat Hentoff. The trio made a number of appearances in Connecticut and New York City including as an opening act for Robin Williamson of The Incredible String Band at the legendary Greenwich Village club, FOLK CITY. They also ran a small performing space and gallery in New Haven called THE CHAPEL ARTS CENTER.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s Tom held a weekly slot in Stan Edwards' Showcase at THE VILLAGE GATE in New York City. Other music clubs where he has been featured include THE TOWNE CRIER in Pawling, NY and THE FREIGHT AND SALVAGE in Berkeley, CA. He has made two solo albums. "If You Would Be Mine" is an album of original love songs and "Musical Menagerie" is an album of animal songs for children. Currently he is at work on a new CD, "Fiddle Dee Dee, Children's Folk Songs of Old New England".

In recent years Tom has taken his interactive shows for children to OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE and THE BERKSHIRE MUSEUM in Massachusetts, CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE, THE FARMER'S MUSEUM, OLANA, and ERIE CANAL VILLAGE in New York State, and many other museums, historic sites, festivals, schools and libraries. His programs combine music, story telling, and Tom's colorful painted masks. Tom is currently listed in The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism's Directory of Performing Artists.

He performs with Kath Bloom, Stan Bronski, and Fran Patnaude in The Love at Work Band which has released three CDs. With the band and as an accompanist for acclaimed songwriter, Kath Bloom, he has appeared recently at TONIC, THE CAKE SHOPPE, and UNION POOL in New York City. Tom and Kath recently opened for Mark Kozelek at THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH in Philadelphia and in August, 2008, they will play three nights at Cafe Oto in London.

Tom has devoted a great deal of his life to teaching children. From 1988 to 1999 he worked with disabled children as art teacher and unofficial music teacher at The Institutes of Applied Human Dynamics schools in The Bronx and Tarrytown, New York. Currently he is a certified teacher of Music Together, a nationwide music program for preschoolers and their grownups. He has been teaching Music Together in Fairfield and Litchfield Counties for over ten years. He also teaches mask making for children in libraries, schools, and through After School Arts Programs in New Preston, CT.

Tom lives in bucolic Goshen, Connecticut with four cats and a lawn tractor.