

The Hollies

Yesterday and Today

2010 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees



By Helen Marketti

In March of this year, The Hollies will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Ceremonies will be held in New York City. The Hollies were part of the British Invasion tidal wave that swept America during the 60s with their contemporaries, The Beatles leading the charge. The Hollies have many hits in their catalog that include *Bus Stop*, *Look Through Any Window*, *Carrie Anne*, *On A Carousel*, *Stop Stop Stop*, *He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother*, *The Air That I Breathe*, *Pay You Back With Interest* and *Long Cool Woman (In A Black Dress)* among many more.

Tony Hicks, original member of The Hollies and still active with the group to this day shares his thoughts about being inducted this year, "Being inducted never really concerned me. It was one of those things that finally got there. I am pleased that it's there but I haven't spent a lot of time worrying about it. It is a top honor."

The Hollies have kept active as a group for over 40 years and even though the lineup has changed over time, they are able to still deliver what the fans want to hear. "Bobby

Elliott (drummer) and myself are still with the band. We are still the original members," explains Tony. "Graham Nash had left after he spent time in America. We had been on tour with The Hollies and Graham liked what he saw; he liked the life style in America. He wanted a clean break and that's when he left The Hollies and joined up with David Crosby and Stephen Stills. He had great success with them but has always been a staunch supporter of The Hollies. I think Graham was very much behind this award being given to us. Alan Clarke was with us until about ten years ago. Very sadly through wear and tear, I suppose, his voice just deteriorated so much that he couldn't go on. The members that we do have now are long standing with us."

Tony continues, "We had not set out in life to be professional musicians. We started out very slowly, auditioning at Abbey Road Studios. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We didn't burn ourselves out like a lot of bands did. It wasn't in our nature to do all of that. We always wanted to give the fans a strong, live performance and I would like to think it's one of the main reasons that we are

still around today. We are more than happy to keep playing the hits we are noted for and fans like to hear."

In regards to song writing, inspiration and putting the melodies together, Tony said, "I'm not a deep thinker to put lyrics down. What we would see around at the time could influence a song. That is what it was like with Alan Clarke and Graham Nash. When we toured America on a Greyhound bus, we would be strumming away and many of our songs came out of that period. Our song, *Stop Stop Stop* was a song that was influenced by our first tour to New York City. We went to a Turkish style nightclub so I played Turkish style on the banjo, which I still do to this day. We like to write our own songs but if a song is written by someone else and it fits us, then we will record them too. This was the case for *He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother*, *Bus Stop* and *The Air That I Breathe* which to a large extent that is why we are still here today."

He continues, "We do work on new material and use some of that in our performance as well as the original hits that people want to hear. Some of the songs are played exactly like the original recording and some of them are changed just a little to keep things exciting for ourselves. The audiences seem to like it. We get an unbelievably wide range of people at our shows. We do see young kids. They may or may not come back and that's fine. They might feel the younger bands are more to their liking."

When asked about programs today such as American Idol, Tony said, "I am glad not to be starting out in music now. I don't like programs that manufacture music. We started out in small clubs and built our way up. That is the way it should go but you don't see any of that with these types of programs. The person may have only one hit and they're trying to fill stadiums. You can't do that. It's all merchandised and packaged a certain way." Tony does like some bands of today, "I do like Snow Patrol and Coldplay. They have songs that are strong that I like."

Spending some time to look back, Tony said, "I remember going through Greenwich Village in New York City and stopping at a club that probably didn't have any more than 100 people in it and seeing the Lovin' Spoonful on stage before they became famous. They were singing *Do You Believe In Magic* and *What a Day for a Day Dream* before they were hits. We also saw The Byrds when David Crosby was still with them. In Los Angeles, I remember going to the Whiskey A Go Go and The Troubadour. It was great fun in those days. I also remember a young Bruce Springsteen who wasn't yet famous and coming to our show. He took us around to other places. Those sorts of things don't happen these days. It was very exciting. You have to understand that we became famous by doing what was really our hobby."

For more information about The Hollies: www.hollies.co.uk



Steelhead Fishing on the Big Screen

Steelhead, Salmon & Trout Fishing Films will be featured
6:30 - 9:30pm March 14th, 2010
at The Cedar Lee Theater in Cleveland Heights, Ohio

This event, sponsored by The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake in conjunction with Kype Fishing Magazine, features a fantastic showing of Ohio's world class river fishing on the Conneaut, Grand and other Steelhead Alley Rivers.

Speakers will include Montana and Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Guide and outdoor writer, Eric Stroup talking about proven fly fishing techniques along with a book signing for his new book, *Common Sense Fly Fishing*.

Tickets for the show are \$20 each. Food, beer (micro brews and domestics) and wine will also be available for purchase during the event. Early Bird tickets are available for \$15 on SteelheadSalmonTroutFishing.com.

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