

# Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Billy Hinsche

In 1965, three friends appeared together on The Ed Sullivan Show. They had two hits during that year, "I'm A Fool" and "Not the Lovin' Kind". The music trio was known as Dino, Desi and Billy. Dino was the late Dean Martin, Jr., Desi is Desi Arnaz, Jr. and Billy Hinsche.



DINO DESI AND BILLY

"We all met in grade school," remembers Billy. "Desi's sister, Lucy was in my class and Desi was a few years younger. Dino and I were best friends since age seven. By the time we were a little older is when The Beach Boys and The Beatles came on the scene and we wanted to be a part of it. Dino and I started as a duo. We liked the British Invasion duos of Chad & Jeremy and Peter & Gordon. We then decided to go electric instead of acoustic which prompted Dino and I to get a drummer to make it complete. We knew Desi could play drums so we approached him about joining our band and he agreed. That's how it all got started. Dino, Desi and Billy were actively together as a group for about five years."

Growing up, Billy's musical influences were from a variety of sources. "I loved the great musicals, South Pacific, My Fair Lady, GiGi and all of those great shows," said Billy. "My sister and I also had piano lessons and we were influenced by Chopin and Mozart. When I was around seven years old, I started listening to AM radio a lot. I have always seemed to enjoy duos, the two part harmonies, like Jan & Dean."

Billy continues, "Actually, after I learned to play the piano, I wanted to learn to play the violin though I really couldn't tell you why. It was something I was drawn to. My parents were happy to oblige and I learned to play the violin at age seven. That was the beginning of learning to play the string instrument. From violin, then I played the ukulele and would play that on family vacations in Hawaii. After that, I realized it was more of a guitar world after listening to folk and rock music."

Since the early days, Billy has had close friendships with those who have influenced the music culture. "I first met The Beach Boys in 1965 when Dino, Desi and Billy opened for them at the Hollywood Bowl. From that point on, they took us under their wing, so to speak and brought us out on the

road with them. We became friends and eventually family when Carl Wilson married my sister."

Over the years, Billy has taken a lot of film footage of concerts, traveling and interviews. "Film making was my major at UCLA and I always wanted to get back into it again," he said. "I studied motion pictures and television and received a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Working on documentaries incorporates everything I love to do. It has music plus the visuals."



Billy with Brian Wilson

footage had languished in a closet for 30 or 40 years, so it was time to get it all out and do something. The documentaries have also been updated with recent footage and interviews as well. Trailers for each DVD are available on my web site along with testimonials and descriptions."

Songwriting inspiration for Billy can click at any time. "Tell Someone You Love Them" is a song I wrote about Dino, Desi and that time of the 60s when we were together. In a sense,

Billy has put together several documentaries, Dennis Wilson Forever, The Beach Boys 1974, Carl Wilson Here and Now and 24 Hours. "24 Hours is my most recent release," said Billy. "It's about life on the road with The Beach Boys and how much is packed in only 24 hours. It shows a fun day on the road. I felt it was time to put the documentaries together. A lot of the

we are all still together if you think about it but in a different way. The 60s generation inspired that song with the whole peace and love thing. My songs are from direct life experiences or that of others. "Lady Love" is a song I co-wrote with Brian Wilson. There is so much you can say about love, being in love, and unrequited love...all of it."

Billy is currently the Tour Manager and Music Director for Al Jardine of The Beach Boys. "I've been doing this since about 1998. I select the set list for the shows and also play with the band," he said.

When time permits, Billy offers guitar lessons. "As I like to say, I teach kids from 6 to 60. Classes are available on skype, too."

A lasting career has been a wonderful journey for Billy. "It still feels great to be part of this and when people still want to see you play or talk with you, then you know you're still relevant. The 60s was a time that was light and breezy. There were great songs, great lyrics and real music was made. The musical landscape then was so much richer."

For more information about Billy Hinsche including his DVD documentaries, please visit: [www.billyhinsche.com](http://www.billyhinsche.com)

Billy Hinsche is on Facebook.

Photos courtesy of Billy Hinsche.





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