

# Helen Marketti's Music Corner



By Helen R. Marketti



## Richie Furay

Richie Furay was an original member of 60s band Buffalo Springfield. One of their signature songs, "For What It's Worth", certainly resonates today as much as it did during the counter culture era. During the early 70s Richie formed a band called, POCO. As one listens to "A Good Feeling to Know", we hear the country rock sound and wish for more.

"I liked the Rockabilly sound when I was growing up. I would listen to Gene Vincent, Eddie Cochran and Buddy Holly. If I had to pick a specific music influence, it would be Rockabilly and I believe that sound came out in my music," said Richie. "I asked my parents for a guitar when I was eight years old. What really got me going back then was watching the TV show, The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet. I remember distinctly watching an episode where Ricky Nelson is singing Be Bop Baby in a high school auditorium. It was during that moment when I thought, if this guy can do it then I am going to do it, too. So that was the start of how I got going."



Originally from Yellow Springs, Ohio near Dayton, Richie shares how he ended up in the midst of the folk music scene in Greenwich Village. (New York) "After high school, I went to Otterbein College in Westerville. I joined the Acapella Choir. During my sophomore year I suffered a ruptured appendix. I had to drop out of school around the holidays. I knew there was going to be a school trip in the spring to New York City and I did my best to work my way into going. The staff agreed that I could go on the trip if I participated in the rehearsals. We had a little trio folk group at the time. When we got to New York, we went directly to The Village and actually sang in a couple of clubs such as Café Wah? and The Four Winds. The thing about these clubs was that they already had set entertainment booked. We were the ones who sang during set changes." (laughs) "Over the summer, we went back to New York and it was during that time that I met Stephen Stills who happened to be playing at The Four Winds."



It would be what some may consider the planets lining up to connect with Neil Young. "Stephen first met Neil in Canada. I first met him in New York. Neil came to California looking for Stephen and I. He never found us and of course those were the days without cell phones or the internet. As luck would have it, on the day Neil was going to leave LA and head out to San Francisco he was driving his 1953, green Pontiac hearse! He was on Sunset Boulevard. It just so happened at the same time, Stephen and I were on Sunset going in the opposite direction. Traffic came to a stand still as it often does on the Strip when we noticed a familiar looking hearse with Ontario Canada license plates. That is how we got together. It just happened. You can't plan that stuff." Richie and Stephen formed Buffalo Springfield.

After Buffalo Springfield, Richie was a member of POCO for four years before leaving. "My heart was broken to be honest. POCO had just released, "A Good Feeling to Know". I felt really good about it. This was the single that would push us forward. At the time, AM radio was big. We were getting air time on FM and our shows were well attended but we just couldn't crack the AM stations. Well, at the same time we released, "A Good Feeling to Know", The Eagles released, "Take It Easy" and when that song took off, I don't think our song even charted."

Richie has many current projects going on simultaneously, one of them being putting together a documentary about his life. He is also a retired pastor. "My manager (David Stone) and I were discussing putting a documentary together. We were trying to think of someone who could be the narrator or at least narrate the trailer. As luck would have it, I received a note from film director, Cameron Crowe on social media. He was popping in to say hello. I was skeptical at first because I thought it was someone playing a joke. I sent a private note that said if this was really him that I was going to be in Los Angeles for a show and would like for him to attend. He responded that it was really him and he planned on attending. Sure enough, he did and I have pictures to prove it! He agreed to narrate the trailer." What many may not realize is that at the age of fifteen, Cameron Crowe was writing articles for Rolling Stone Magazine. One of his first assignments was interviewing Richie and profiling the band, POCO. They first met in 1973. "I had not seen Cameron in at least forty years. I am happy he did the narrative for the documentary trailer. It would be great if he could narrate the entire documentary." [www.richiefuray.com](http://www.richiefuray.com)

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