

## One of Those Times in a Life

For me this is "One of Those Times in a Life"

A moment when the past, present and future feel equally vibrant-vital and significant-feeding off one another while each nurturing the other two-the balance among them precarious-in part because I know this time cannot and will not last-age-illness-an accident-or circumstance unforeseen-will change the balance soon enough-but that's for another time-now-at 64-I'm aware that so much of my life and career is behind me-and yet believe the best may still be waiting-appreciating-no matter what happens-nothing is more precious then this moment-

It's one of Those Times in a Life...

When I was in the 4th grade-my class chose to put a poem I wrote to music-I still remember it-"I'm glad I live in a country that's free from sea to sea-it beganshe's gone through many needless wars to prove that she is free-a country that is bountiful, plentiful and free-I'm glad I live in a country that's free from sea to sea"-and together the class wrote music and then the words and the music got written out poster size and hung in the classroom-and then later I took that poster home and my mom hung it up in our basement for a few months-and though it would be years before I would write another song-the songwriter in me was born-

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When I was 14 I got my first guitar-and not long afterwards made my solo performing debut playing a pretty basic rendition of Maleguena on that \$15 steel string Silvertone guitar for an audience at my church-an inauspicious start-and I had no idea that standing or sitting alone with a guitar or a banjo in front of a group of people would continue to be part of my life for the rest of my life

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When I met Mike McCoy at the University of Washington in the fall of 1965-we became fraternity brothers-we played freshman football together-and it wasn't too many Saturday night after meeting him that he came into a room where I was singing with some other guys-and he added his voice-his amazing harmony-it was magic-but we could not predict that we'd continue to be friends, and make music, and be witnesses to each other's lives for more than 45 years now-

We all need a witness to the stories of our lives Wanted to tell you I am grateful you are mine

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When The Brothers Four asked me to join them in 1968-I couldn't have dreamed we would still be singing to appreciative audiences to this day-that McCoy would become a member in 2004-and that the four of us who are the group now would somehow recapture the spirit and the essence that made The Brothers Four so compelling when "Greenfields" became a hit song in 1960.

You can't be happy while your heart's on the roam You can't be home until you bring it home Home to the green fields and me once again

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This a moment where the different threads of my career are each represented by a recent recording-The Brothers Four the "Golden Anniversary"-and two albums of original music-"Between Old Friends" with Mike McCoy-and a solo album-"Following the Light"-it's a time when I'm able to appreciate each individual thread more than ever while understanding the connection and being able to weave those threads together like never before-in fact put together I'm taking the best of a lifetime of music that I'm calling the *Virtually Essentials* and selling them as a package on the website, MarkPearsonMusic.

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To celebrate-to look back from-to look forward, too-to share songs and storiesthe best songs perhaps yet to be written-the best stories still to be told-the best performances waiting to be shared-the best experiences waiting to happen

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