

Bram Morrison, a brief biography.

In the late 50s, Bram Morrison began playing the tenor guitar. (The first song he learned was "Don't Be Cruel.") He enjoyed Frank Sinatra's version of "Good Night Irene," and when a cousin said, "I have a record of that song by another group, wanna hear it?," he said, "Sure." "She played me The Weavers at Carnegie Hall—changed my life." Typically, he began listening to American singers: Odetta, Leadbelly, Pete Seeger, Harry Belafonte, and Theo Bikel, "who inspired me to 'sing in tongues.'"

By the early 60s, he was playing in coffeehouses and hearing Canadian singers, traditional and contemporary. He met many performers and scholars and began working with Alan Mills. Inspired by Mills's concerts for children, Morrison went back to school to get teacher's certification; he taught until 1975. Working with

Mariposa in the Schools and Prologue to the Performing Arts, he performed for children throughout Ontario. In 1978, he began working with two other Mariposa in the Schools performers, Sharon Hampson and Lois Lilienstein. "The rest, as they say, is a mystery.

"I still feel rooted in folk music and mourn the passing of Tom Kines, Stan Rogers, Edith Fowke, and especially Alan Mills (died too young—smoked himself to death). Last I heard, Ed McCurdy was still hanging in there in Halifax. Guess I'm on the front line now—plan to stick around for a while, though!

"One of my greatest regrets is that Al died in 1977, one year too early to have known anything that I have done with Sharon and Lois—not that he would have loved everything we did, but I hope he would have appreciated the parts of his legacy which I have been able to pass on."



Sharon, Lois & Bram