

PLAINFOLK BIOGRAPHY

A Brief History of Worcester County's Favorite Folk Band

Worcester, MA

April 2006

www.plainfolk.com

Little Did They Know

Worcester, MA - the year was 1978. Jimmy Carter was president. Disco was king. Elvis had only recently left the building. Folk music was in retreat.



Undaunted, three Worcester friends with a passion for folk music, Charlie Ball, Dennis Costello and Barry Sullivan, became Plain Folk. They cut their musical teeth at the local Irish pubs

with two guitars and rich three-part harmony, holding forth into the wee hours of the morning celebrating the successes and mourning the failures of everyman. It was music for its own sake and it was great fun.

The eighties brought change: another band member, more and diverse instruments, a much broader repertoire and many more venues. Dennis discovered the banjo and his brother John Costello joined the band, adding vocals and a bass guitar. Still later, Tom Porzuc joined adding vocals and mandolin.



And the band played on. They took their show to clubs and pubs, festivals and colleges, and eventually to concert halls. They marked their eighth year together with a concert at the acoustically renowned Mechanics Hall in Worcester. It was recorded and released as their debut album "Plain Folk: Live at Mechanics Hall."

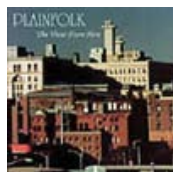


And still they played on. The nineties arrived bringing more changes. Charlie finally figured out how to get a piano on stage.

They released another recording to celebrate their fifteenth anniversary. Entitled "Plain Folk: Under the Influence," it is a tribute to their folk roots and

influences. Tom retired after 15 years with the band.

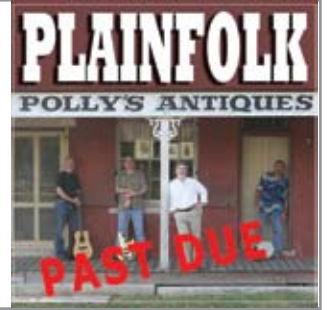
Dave Poland's name was



Plainfolk's PAST DUE
Now AVAILABLE

order your copy online at www.plainfolk.com

Plainfolks latest CD release features songs of local connections including: Blackstone Valley, Last Waltz at Enfield, Union Station, Skinner Mountain, Spirit and more. Plainfolk - better than ever and better late than never.



added to the roster. Dave is a fiddle player by trade, nationally ranked and simply amazing. Barry started commuting to the shows by airplane, the band created a web site (www.plainfolk.com) and, somewhere along the fuzzy continuum of time; "Plainfolk" became one word.

On it went. In November, 1996 they released their third recording, "Plainfolk: The View From Here." This effort, a powerful and compelling collection of original

songs, is certain to play for this and future generations. Indeed, one of their songs, "Fireman's Prayer", has found an international audience in the fire fighting community. Their performance resume now includes a place on the Artist Roster at the JFK Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. They released a CD single "The

Smiley Face Song: The Ballad of Harvey Ball" telling the story of the creation of the most famous icon the world has ever known. That CD has aired on local radio and television, CBS National News, National Public Radio, the BBC and The History Channel. They continue to write and record folk music in a traditional style, singing the songs that tell the stories of New England and well beyond. A new CD will be ready for release in early 2006.



So here it is twenty-eight years later, at the dawn of a new millennium and Plainfolk is still together. That's a long time. During that time they went from the local pubs and clubs to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC and on into cyberspace. That's a long way. But the instruments are still good; the harmonies still sweet and the voices still honest. As ever, it is music for its own sake and it's still great fun.

You'll see.