

WHIRLED PEAS

ACOUSTICAL MUSICIANS

Whirled Peas is a group of musicians that come together on a regular basis to share our love of blues, bluegrass and folk music.

Our musical journey includes rock, oldies and show tunes based on the audience's support and enthusiasm. The core of our group focuses on guitar, harmonica, banjo and more. We often are complemented by an array of talented **guest** musicians.

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THE CAT'S IN THE CRADLE ... IN A TAXI... WITH 30,000 POUNDS OF BANANAS

What a sight but what great words written by this week's **HONORARY PEA**, Harry Chapin, singer-songwriter and philanthropist.

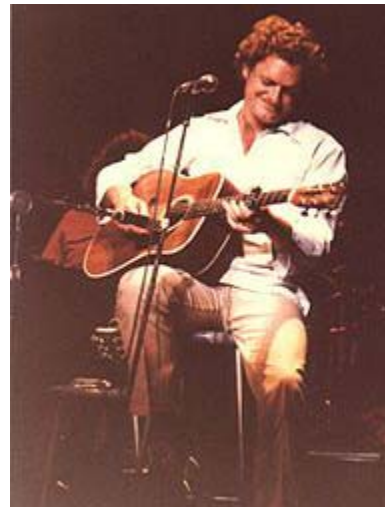
Second of 4 children, whose parents were Jim, a big band drummer, and Jeanne, Harry was born December 7, 1942 in Brooklyn.

His first introduction to music was singing in the Brooklyn Boys Choir. This led to his forming a band with his brothers and having his father occasionally join them on drums.

After graduating Brooklyn Technical High School, who inducted him into the school's Hall of Fame in 2000, he briefly attended the United States Air Force Academy and then became an intermittent student at Cornell. He never earned a degree.

His dreams of a career were centered on becoming a documentary film-maker. In 1968 he directed *Legendary Champions*, which was nominated for a documentary Academy Award, however, in 1971, his career goal changed to music.

Harry's 1972 debut album, *Heads and Tales*, brought him success primarily due to the single, *Taxi*. This led to a controversy which set a favorable precedent for other musicians. He agreed in principle to sign with Elektra Records, a small label, but Columbia Records was vying for his contract offering him more money. Harry finally agreed to sign with Elektra for less money but he was to receive FREE studio time, a stipulation completely unheard of at the time. This move saved Harry hundreds of thousands of dollars and gave leverage in negotiations for future



musicians.

His next album was less successful; his third was bolstered by the hit, *Cat's in the Cradle*, a song inspired by his wife Sandy's poem. It was this song's

sales that sky rocketed making him a millionaire.

He wrote and performed a Broadway musical *The Night That Made America Famous*; he wrote the music and lyric for the musical *Cotton Patch Gospel*.

He continued performing and recording but more importantly he became resolved in leaving an imprint on Long Island, the community in which he lived, as well as focusing on social activism particularly world hunger.

He served on many cultural boards in Long Island. Two of the institutions, Lakeside Theatre

Stony Brook University, renamed their theatre and graduate school apartment complex, respectively, in his honor.

His quest to combat world hunger is legendary. His daughter, Jen, stated: "He saw hunger and poverty an insult to America." He co-founded the organization *World Hunger Year*. The sales of concert merchandise were ear-marked to support the organization. Harry philanthropy caused friction with his band members and manager as he would donate an estimated third of paid concerts to charitable causes.



Harry's widow stated after his death that he wasn't interested in money saying, "Money is for people' so he gave it away." She further commented that "only with slight exaggeration Harry was supporting 17 relatives, 14 association, 7 foundations and 82 charities."

After his death and despite his success as a musician, his estate left little money to support his causes for which, in the last 6 years of his life, he raised \$3 million.

Harry died at 38 on July 16, 1981, in a tragic auto accident due to a massive heart attack.

As a result of his humanitarian award, he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his social activism. He was the inspiration for the creation of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger as well as the anti-hunger projects *USA for Africa* and *Hands Across America*.

**SINGER OF SONGS..TELLER OF TALES
QUIZ ABOUT HARRY**

First to answer and submit answers to Shirley receives a FREE beer or wine.

1. In what city does *Taxi* take place?

2. How old was the son in *Cat's in the Cradle*?

- 3 What is the name of the fare in *Taxi*?

4. What was the name of the documentary Harry directed? _____

5. In *Taxi*, the fare wanted to be an actress in her youth, what did Harry want to do?

TRUTH ON TRIVIA QUIZ

Misspelled word in *Final Jeopardy* is acceptable. Contestant has 30 seconds to write down the answer in *Final Jeopardy*. Merv Griffin not only created *Jeopardy!* But also composed the "think" music. A person can win with only \$1. Art Flemming was the original host which first aired in 1964. A contestant must win 5 times in a row to be considered a 5-time champion.

December 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

WHEN AND WHERE

The *Whirled Peas* perform at the (BSG) Bourbon Street Grille. The highlighted dates listed above indicate when, the remaining Wednesdays in December; they start about 7:30 and play until 10.

BSG, formerly the Coachhouse, is located at 2605 Philadelphia Pike in Claymont. If you go **north** on Philadelphia Pike, it's on the left just before the Wawa at Harvey Road. If you are coming **east** on Harvey Road, turn right when you get to Philadelphia Pike. Go past the Wawa and BSG is on the right. There is no problem with parking.

PEAS PONDERINGS...

I've got nothing against selling out, but just let me do it for something that matters. Not so I can be Number One With a Bullet, as it were, but so I can leave this world feeling like I made a difference.

When in doubt do something.

According to Harry Chapin

