

The Highwaymen

Dave Fisher

Dave is the musical director of, and arranger for the group. He is also the lead tenor and lead guitar player. Dave spent thirty years in Los Angeles working as a composer, arranger, editor, and supervisor for TV and films at all the major studios. He has written over a thousand songs, many of which were used in television and movie productions and his songs have been recorded many times. He has a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

Steve Trott

Steve sings baritone and plays guitar and mandolin in the Highwaymen. He graduated from Wesleyan University and has a law degree from Harvard. Steve worked in Los Angeles as an Assistant District Attorney, Chief Deputy District Attorney, and United States Attorney. He then moved to Washington D.C. where he became the Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. He is currently a Federal Judge, sitting on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. He has also been President of the Boise Symphony and continues to give the pre-concert lectures for the Boise Symphony as well as the Seattle Symphony.

Bob Burnett

Bob sings tenor and plays classical guitar with the Highwaymen. He graduated from Wesleyan University and Harvard Law School. Bob was born in Mystic, Connecticut and has been a sailor since childhood. He has been an active athlete all his life, a member of the Wesleyan track team and hockey player in college, and a marathon runner later in life. After leaving Harvard, Bob used his degree as a trust officer at several banks headquartered in Providence, RI. Until recently retiring, Bob was Vice President of the Bank of America.

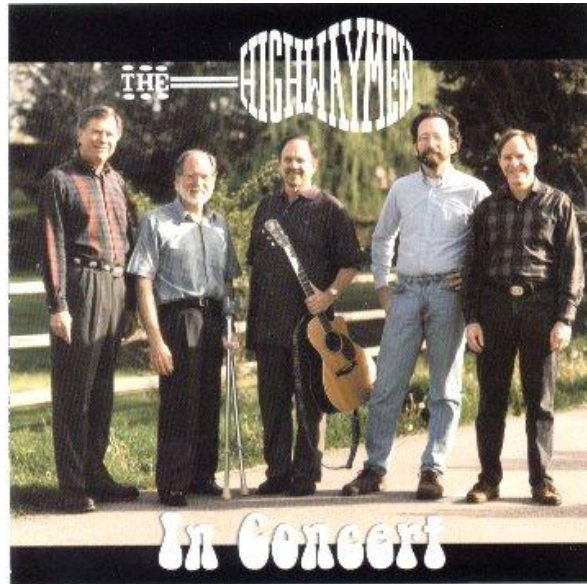
Steve Butts

Steve is the bass singer and banjo player in the group. He is also proficient on many wind instruments including recorders and baroque oboe. After graduating from Wesleyan, Steve received a PhD in Chinese Politics from Columbia University. Until retirement, Steve's "day job" had been as an academic administrator at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Grinnell College and Lawrence University. He has also taught statistics and baroque music performance at Columbia and the Lawrence Conservatory.

Johann Helton

Johann has been the bass player for the Highwaymen for the past twenty years. A resident of Boise, Idaho, Johann has made his life and living in music as a bassist, guitarist and sound engineer. He is an alumnus of the University of Idaho, Boston College, Hochschule fuer musik und Darstellende kunst (Mozarteum) in Salzburg, Austria and the Academia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. He has served on the faculties of Albertson College of Idaho, Northwest Nazarene University and Boise State University.

THE HIGHWAYMEN GROUP BIOGRAPHY



The Highwaymen had a major impact on the folk scene of the early 1960s. Apart from a couple of major hit singles, and appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show, they contributed a couple of future standards to the folk repertory ("Big Rock Candy Mountain," "All My Trials"), played a key role in the unearthing of a major, overlooked Leadbelly song, which later became a major new addition to the repertoires of both Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Beach Boys.

Their origins go back to the late 1950s, when, for a time, it seemed as though every college was spawning a folk group or two or three. California's Menlo College led the way as the birthplace of the Kingston Trio, and a year later Connecticut's Wesleyan University was where the Highwaymen were born. In the fall of 1958, Dave Fisher, Steve Butts, Bob Burnett, and Chan Daniels met through a performance at a college fraternity show, and guitarist Steve Trott came aboard during their rehearsals. Originally named The Clansmen, for their heavily Scottish and Irish repertory, they were popular enough at concerts around Wesleyan that they decided to try and turn professional, and to get a recording contract. The group cut a demo tape of their entire repertory and, as an afterthought, included a song that they'd lately added to their shows, called "Michael, Row The Boat Ashore.

They signed with United Artists and "Michael, Row The Boat Ashore" slowly became popular across the northeast and broke out nationally in 1961, rising to the No. 1 spot that summer. The Highwaymen suddenly found themselves major recording stars as their senior year commenced. United Artists eager to get them back into the studio. A new album, entitled "Standing Room Only," followed, along with appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show and a full schedule of weekend concerts. The group's singles "The Gypsy Rover" and "Cottonfields" became immediate successes.

After graduation, the Highwaymen became much closer to the core of the urban folk music revival. If they weren't topping the charts, their records still sold respectably, including a live album, *Hootenanny With The Highwaymen and One More Time*.

Indeed, the Highwaymen, with all of their other "firsts" in terms of cutting certain songs, may be the only folk group in the history of the United States to boast a sitting Federal Appeals Court judge, in the person of Steve Trott, in their line-up.

DISCOGRAPHY

Michael, Row The Boat Ashore
Big Rock Candy Mountain
All My Trials
Cottonfields
The Gypsy Rover
I'm On My Way
Whiskey In A Jar
I Know Where I'm Going
Number One
The Devil's Right Hand
Live Forever
Everyone Gets Crazy
It Is What It Is
Here Comes That Rainbow Again

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