

HAPPY TRAUM

Coming of Age in the Greenwich Village Folk Revival and the Woodstock Scene (1954 - 1971)



Tales of Music and Friendship with Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, Brownie McGhee and a Close Encounter with the “Great Washington Square Folk Singer’s Riot.”

AN INSIDER’S VIEW OF A HISTORICAL/MUSICAL ERA

With colorful anecdotes and incisive memories, and the aid of vintage photos and music clips, Happy Traum relates some of his adventures as an active member of the New York folk revival; his arrest for civil disobedience; his participation in what has become known as the “Great Folk Singer’s Riot” in Washington Square; and his friendships with some of the leading folk artists of the day. Happy was a regular in the Washington Square Park jam sessions, studied blues guitar with Brownie McGhee, and met, among many others, a young Bob Dylan. His group, the New World Singers, were the first to perform and record “Blowin’ in the Wind” and “Don’t Think Twice,” and Dylan wrote the liner notes for their Atlantic Records album. Happy recounts his later friendship with Bob and the Dylan family in Woodstock, as well as his association with Allen Ginsberg, George Harrison, Pete Seeger, Dave Van Ronk and many other notables on the scene.

Happy punctuates his remembrances with powerful renditions of songs and guitar solos from the “folk era” and beyond.

“One of the most satisfying and successful bookings I’ve accomplished as a booking agent and concert manager was in hosting Happy Traum’s program.... He relates his insider’s view of this historical/musical era in an entertaining and educational way that honors the performers, the audiences and the musical genre as well. I would encourage any concert venue, library, performing arts center, college, folk society or folk festival to host this consummate artist and speaker in presenting this superb program.”

- Stan Sullivan, Concert Manager,
Roaring Brook Concerts, Canton, CT.

“We were pleased to present Happy Traum’s “Coming of Age” program in a series of performances as part of our New York Living Folk Legacy Project. From the first notes of Happy’s folk and blues set that showcased his much admired finger-picking to his insider stories of the Greenwich Village music scene in the 50’s and ‘60s, audiences in all venues were captivated from start to finish.”

- Peter Lesser, Director, The Empire State
Performing Arts Center (“The Egg”), Albany, NY.