

# ELLSWORTH & HICKS - Bio

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"What sets this pair apart is the casual way they come across as throwbacks to a time when songwriters sought to make some sense of the world, rather than settle for vocal acrobatics." - *Mike Wolf - Music Editor, Time Out New York*

"Cool, observant, and delivered with a baggy-pants soul..." - *Mark Keating, Sound Views, NYC*

"A must hear! And musical soulmates too. Listening to them reminds me of all the reasons that I went into radio." - *Ruth Eddy, WPKN Radio*

"A class act from start to finish." - *Bill Hay, WKNH Radio*

Somewhere between the myth of high and low art, skirting the fine line of fact and fiction, with their heads held high and their critics laid low, stand E & H with their sweet blend of guitar, clarinet & vocal harmonies - and a whole batch of original songs.

E & H have played nightclubs, bars, cafes, coffeehouses, backyards, libraries, bookstores and barges throughout the land, sharing a stage or two with Leon Russell, Jonathan Richman, Graham Parker, Levon Helm, Maria Muldaur, Ronnie Earl, Bill Kirchen, "Spider" John Koerner, Bill Morrissey and Mary McCaslin to name a few. And it shows in their relaxed onstage banter and tight arrangements of their highly original songs, some of which have been featured on radio, internet and film. "The Moon is a Faithless Lover" was in the movie *Ghetto Dawg* with Drena DeNiro and Gianna Palminteri. "The Things I Gotta Do to Stay Alive - Are Killing Me" was in *The Clinic*, an independent film which won Best Screenplay in the NYII Film Festival. In 2000, their debut CD, "Ask Around" was a finalist in the Crossroads Music Awards for Contemporary Folk.

**Ellsworth** hails from the factory town of Leominster, Massachusetts where he spent most of his early years "wandering around empty lots, collecting stuff no one else wanted". It was the same thing with music. Late nights in bed with a transistor radio to his ear, picking up the distant sounds of blues & country along with the not so distant AM radio sounds of the sixties. Beatles, Dylan, Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, John Hartford, Supremes. The list goes on & on. Later on came Robert Johnson, Mississippi John Hurt, Lightnin' Hopkins, Louis Jordan, Doc Watson, Hank Williams & Uncle Dave Macon. "There isn't enough paper here to name the people that have influenced me over the years."

**Phil Hicks** was born & raised in Cincinnati, Ohio where "the style of music you heard depended on which part of town you happened to be in". Cincinnati's location on the Mason-Dixon line earned it the name "Gateway to the South" & it was here that the young Phil Hicks soaked up Traditional Blues, Folk, Country, Bluegrass, Gospel, Pop and Rhythm & Blues. His musical training came from a father who played clarinet in show & marching bands and a mother who taught classical piano. He was a Drum Major in his high school band's 'Marching Cowboys' and at Amherst College a vocalist in the distinguished A Cappella band, the "Zumbies".