



# Wayne Hamilton

**Singer/Songwriter  
Twin Cities, Minnesota**

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Singer/songwriter Wayne Hamilton has been performing music of one kind or another in front of audiences since the 1960s. Born and raised in the Washington, DC area, Wayne started working as a drummer in rock & roll bands, singing lead and banging out R&B rhythms for audiences whenever he could book the band into a high school cafeteria, fire hall or Legion post. In the days before electronic samplers and synthesizers, he learned the value of a steady beat and a strong voice.

When he went off to Emory & Henry College in the southwestern corner of Virginia, "soul" music was all the rage, and the lessons learned in his high school years helped him put together a blue-eyed soul group with powerful horns and tight vocal harmonies. Surrounded by string-pickin' musicians in the southern Appalachians, he naturally also picked up the guitar and the sounds of the then-popular folk movement. He met Pete Seeger and Elizabeth Cotten, who inspired him to begin writing his own music. He also received formal training as a tenor and sang in the college's touring choir.

He later earned a Master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and began a career as a college theater professor and actor/singer, directing or performing in a wide variety of musical productions. Wayne taught at VCU, in the Music department of Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland and was the entire theater faculty at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the oldest independent Catholic College in America. He was also a member of the theater faculty at the University of Minnesota before leaving the teaching profession in 1984. Throughout those years, he performed and directed professionally when his teaching schedule allowed.

Now, in addition to writing songs and marketing two CDs, he performs several times per month in the active coffeehouse, bookstore and restaurant circuit in the Twin Cities region, with an occasional festival, showcase or benefit thrown in. Wayne is a member of ASCAP and the Minnesota Music Academy, has served on the board of the Minnesota Association of Songwriters, which endorsed all 12 of the songs on his CD, and founded the Twin Cities Chapter of Just Plain Folks, an international, grassroots music-networking organization, which named him Coordinator of the Year in the 2000 Just Plain Folks Awards. In 1999 & 2000, he was a finalist in the Minnesota Folk Festival's New Folk Songwriting Contest.

Through the years, he's accumulated a large storehouse of songs from other songwriters. Wayne feels that musicians should perform the music that influences them, as well as their own songs. When he's not learning a great tune from a contemporary songwriter's CD, he uses the Internet to seek out his favorite classic tunes, many of which aren't often heard these days. But Wayne's performances not only keep *them* alive, they give him an opportunity to try out *his own tunes* on the people who come to listen. Most importantly, the songs and the audiences keep Wayne close to the music he loves to play and sing. Wherever there's a song and people to listen, that's where you'll find him.