

Bare Bones & Short Bio

A Bare Bones Bio by Mason Williams

I've recorded and released **7 singles, 24 albums**, and **2 EPs**. I've written **250 songs**, half of which are pretty good, one of which, **Classical Gas** is apparently really good. I've played at least **1,000 gigs** in a lot of different places. I've written well over **1,000 poems** plus a bunch of other stuff and created **bunches of art** too, published **16 literary/art books** and **5 music books**, written **174 hours of broadcast television** (and even more hours of unbroadcastable television), received **11 awards** and **8 nominations**.

That's it for me. If you're interested in anything else, visit www.masonwilliams-online.com.

Mason Williams Career Highlights Guitarist, Composer, Comedy Writer & Performer

Albums/Labels: *Song of the Blue & The Grey*/Mercury ('60), *Big Hootenanny*/In Records ('63) *More Hootenanny* /Crown Records ('63), *Twelve-String Story, Vol. I & II, Banjo Story*/Horizon ('63), *5-string Banjo Greats*/Liberty, *Them Poems*/Vee-Jay ('64), *Mason Williams Phonograph Record, Mason Williams Ear Show, Music, Handmade, Sharepickers*/Warner Bros. ('68-'71), *Fresh Fish*/Flying Fish ('78), *Of Time & Rivers Flowing*/Skookum ('84), *Classical Gas*/American Gramophone ('87), *Music 1968–1971*/Vanguard, *A Gift of Song*/Real Music ('92). *Mason Williams EP 2003, Electrical Gas*/Skookum ('03-'05)

Awards: Grammy (2) for *Classical Gas* (Best Instrumental Theme/Best Performance) ('68).

Nominations: Grammy ('70, '71, '88, '04).

Acknowledgements: In 2007 Broadcast Music, Inc., (BMI) the music licensing organization that tracks air play performances on radio and television, presented Mason with a special Citation of Achievement in recognition of the great national and international popularity of *Classical Gas*. It has logged over six million broadcast performances and is the number one all time instrumental composition for air play in BMI's repertoire.

Writing for TV (comedy/variety): Roger Miller ('66), The Smothers Brothers ('67, '68, '69, '74, '80, '87, '88) also created Pat Paulsen for President satire ('68), Petula Clark ('68), Andy Williams ('68), Glen Campbell ('69), Dinah Shore ('79), Steve Martin ('80), *Saturday Night Live* ('80).

Awards: Emmy Award, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* (CBS) ('69). Writers Guild Award *All Commercials* (Steve Martin) ('81).

Nominations: Emmy ('67) ('88), Writers Guild ('75)

Books: *The Mason Williams Reading Matter* ('69), *Flavors* (Doubleday – '70), *The MW FCC Rapport* (Liveright – '70), & (11) limited editions. *Them Poems* (Parallel Press - '00) **Music Books:** *Classical Gas - The Music of Mason Williams* (CPP Belwin -'93) Second Edition (Warner Bros. - '03)

Art: *Sunflower* (Skywriting art project – '67) *Bus* (life size photo/poster of Greyhound bus), Exhibitions: The Pasadena Art Museum ('68) The New York Museum of Modern Art (Word and Image) ('69) Norton Simon Museum ('99) Museum of Contemporary Art, LA ('07-'08).

Performances: Coffee houses, clubs, festivals, concerts, concerts with orchestra, and television appearances. **Thematic Concerts:** *Symphonic Bluegrass/Bluegrassical Gas* ('74-'02), *Of Time & Rivers Flowing* ('82-'99), *A Gift of Song* (Christmas '92-'00), *Mason Williams & Friends* (Folk/Pop - Mason Williams original songs and music '59-'03).

Mason's broad palette of writing, composing and performing in a variety of venues continues to this day. He has also begun working with several up and coming artists on new recording projects.