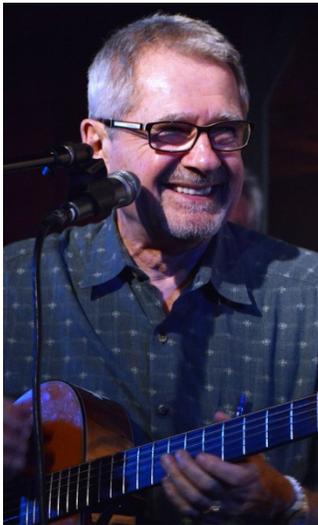




Art Podell



Had Art Podell kept a diary, it would have been a rich chronicle of the life of a folksinger during the Folk Era and as a songwriter in the years since, spiced with a healthy serving of laughter. Unfortunately, he didn't. Instead, at the coaxing of friends and former folkies, he is spilling the beans on stage.

He began in Greenwich Village with friend and fellow musician, Paul Potash. **Art and Paul** released two albums on Columbia Records. The first - "Songs of Earth and Sky" -- is considered a folk classic and is rumored to have influenced the early recordings of another "Art and Paul" (Garfunkel and Simon). (Begrudgingly, Art finally admitted last year that they were "pretty good.") In the Village, Peter Yarrow, their friend, shared a new song with them called "Puff, the Magic Dragon" and it was **Art and Paul** who first recorded the song in 1961 -- well over a year before *Peter, Paul and Mary's* version. In 1961, the boys headed west to the L.A. folk scene. "We were so successful," Art remembers while scratching his head, "we broke up." Art turned to songwriting. In short order, he had songs recorded by **Rod McKuen, The Smothers Brothers, Glenn Yarbrough, Joe and Eddie, Bud and Travis, Barry and Barry**, and, eventually, **The New Christy**

Minstrels, whom he joined as one of the original members in 1962 until 1966. Quite a ride -- from the Troubadour to Carnegie Hall in less than six months...national TV, college concerts, European tours, and performances at the White House. Art co-wrote the title song for **Ann Murray's** Christmas album, 'Christmas Wishes'.

Art continues to write and perform and hosts a bi-monthly segment of "**Roots Music and Beyond**" on **KPFK 90.7FM** – Los Angeles, a Pacifica Station in Los Angeles. His new CD, '**From The Village To The Canyon**' was recently featured in an exhibit at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles featuring the music of Laurel Canyon.

"**Art Podell** presents an evening of music, laughter, songs, stories and memories shared through his signature story/songs. He sometimes divulges a few secrets about friends -- famous and not. (Consequently, he is currently looking for a qualified bodyguard – preferably one who plays banjo).

"I thought I was watching and listening to Will Rogers with an Ivy League education and maybe that's true, but your humor and songs - both touching and delightful - was better and much more enjoyable than his lasso" -Herb Freed, Film-maker, novelist and friend

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