

MY OLD MAN

A Tribute to Steve Goodman

October 7, 2004, shortly after the 20th anniversary of my father's death. Several of us set off to New Jersey for a musical tribute to my father and benefit for a leukemia foundation. An evening of folk music. Folk music used to make me cringe. My old man died when I was seven. I rebelled in my musical childhood, having been brought up around an array of singer-songwriters, acoustic guitars and mandolins, discovered pop, hip-hop and metal. I formed a rock band and wrote my own songs.

Through my dear Canadian friends Chris Brown and Kate Fenner, I realized all these years I had been missing out on the impact of a well written song. A well-written song can hit close to home – real close to home. I began digging in the boxes in our basement, reading clippings and listening to Dad's music on CD, a format that didn't exist while he was alive, realizing that not only was my dad an incredible song-writer but an American songwriting hero.

With the help of friends and talented peers I embraced my Dad's music and legacy, and wanted to introduce it to my generation. I've gathered together the best young talent I knew or Chris knew, artists like *Ana Egge, Luther Wright & The Wrongs, Crescent & Frost, Tony Scherr, Chris Brown & Kate Fenner*, These musicians have a kinship, shared songs, play together and look out for one another and, for the most part, invited me into their world so we could all share the life that remains in songs my Dad wrote decades ago. Some picked the songs they wanted to sing, and I handpicked a few I envisioned for them. Like my Dad, his friends and fellow musicians, *John Prine, Johnny Cash, Bonnie Raitt, and Jimmy Buffett* when they were our age. The wheel makes a new circle.

"*My Old Man*" was one of the hardest most personal songs my father wrote, and even harder to sing. I never met my Grandpa Bud, my old man's old man, whose life and death the song is about, but it became the perfect muse for this tribute.

I hope I have accomplished my mission: a great song and a great spirit will always stand the test of time. My Old Man would've written it that way.

- Rosanna Goodman
_____ 2006

Steve Goodman - July 25, 1948 - September 20, 1984
He is survived by his music, his fans, 2 Grammy Awards, The Cubs, his dear friends, Nancy and their 3 daughters, Jessie, Sarah and Rosanna, his mother Minnette and brother David. Special thanks to "Uncle" Al Bunetta.