



Gary Paul Hermus: Biography

Author, essayist, three-time New Mexico music award winner and 8-time nominee, winner of the Xtreme Folk Scene award for his songwriting, Gary Paul Hermus is a compelling storyteller, an intelligent, insightful writer, and a seasoned performer. His novels and essays reflect the wit and wisdom of a life well lived, with complex, exciting characters, courtesy of his years of training and experience as an actor. Through his songwriting, he has developed an ear for poetry and rhythm that he brings to bear in all his work.

Growing up in the slums of Brooklyn, NY did not mean a lack of exposure to music, theater & poetry; his mother was an avid reader and his father had a love of music that encompassed a wide range of genres. But it was around Boy Scout council fires that he grew to love storytelling. His first successful foray into writing came in June 1965, when he won the New York City Junior High School Narrative Writing Contest for his short story, "*A Day at The Beach*," about a family's seaside outing gone wrong.

Music and theater were parallel tracks for Gary Paul, performing with his band at well-known New York hot spots of the day, while studying drama at New York City's High School of Performing Arts, following up with study at HB Studios and appearing Off-Off Broadway, while playing the Greenwich Village folk scene. But to make ends meet, he played fender bass with many New York-based bands in a myriad of musical genres, all while working by day with the developmentally disabled, completing a B.A. in Psychology, and Master's degrees in Public Administration & Computer Science.

In 2002, he changed his focus to performing original narrative story songs, earning him first place in the 2006 Xtreme Folk Scene Song Contest. His debut CD, "*Sid's Gaseteria*," was released in 2007 on the Big Moose Music label. His Sophomore CD, "*American Road*," was released on the Storm Canyon Music label, debuting 38 on the Folk DJ Charts.

When the pandemic struck, curtailing performances, he focused on long-form writing, completing his debut novel, "*The Port Edgerton Chronicles*." He amused his fans with online performances and readings from his novel, as well as a monthly series of essays called "*Road Warrior: A Memoir of a Life in Music*," revealing the behind-the-scenes world of the music industry in New York in the 1960s and 1970s as seen through the eyes of a young aspiring musician.

Now a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Gary Paul Hermus occasionally performs both as a solo artist under the name Gary Paul and as an accompanist on bass for others. He continues writing his Road Warrior essays and has recently completed the manuscript for the second book of *The Port Edgerton* series. He is also writing a science fiction/fantasy novel he hopes to turn into a series.