

Shenandoah

American Folk Song Fusion by Randy Sparks and the New Christy Minstrels

CHORUS

C *Em*
Oh Shenandoah, I'm bound away,
F G7 *C*
Fair thee well you rolling river,
Em *F* *G7*
There's a meadow land over Jordan,
C *Em*
Roll along, roll along,
F *G*
Roll along to the sea.
C
Oh Shenandoah.

C *Em*
This world is not my home,
F G7 *C*
I am bound across the river,
Em *F* *G7*
Just a poor wayfaring stranger,
C
Passing through.

C *Em*
It's well. I've love this land,
F G7 *C*
Rolling hills and purple valleys,
Em *F* *G7*
I have marveled at their beauty,
C
All my days.

CHORUS

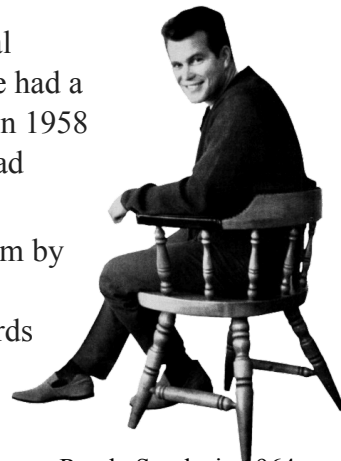
History

Randy Sparks (born 29 July 1933, Leavenworth, KS) is a musician, singer-songwriter and founder of The New Christy Minstrels and The Back Porch Majority.

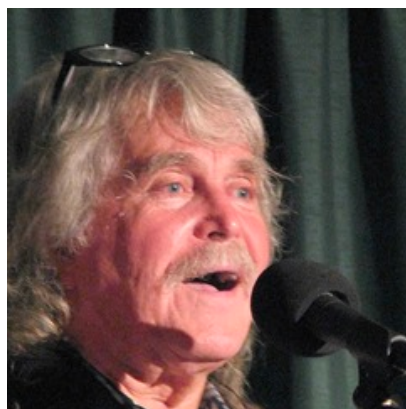
Sparks grew up in Oakland, CA and attended UC Berkeley. His first musical engagement was at the Purple Onion in San Francisco. In the late 1950s, he had a solo career and released two albums on the Verve label, a self-titled album in 1958 and *Walking the Low Road* in 1959. The single "Walkin' The Low Road" had previously reached the Cashbox magazine Top 60.

In 1960, he formed a trio called "The Randy Sparks Three" and had an album by that same name. He wrote the song "Today" which was a hit for the New Christy Minstrels for their 1964 album of the same title for Columbia Records (CL 2159/CS 8959) and he wrote "Green, Green" with Barry McGuire or the 1963 album *Ramblin* (CL 2055/CS 8855).

Sparks had the starring role in a 1960 film drama, *The Big Night*.



Randy Sparks in 1964



Randy Sparks in 2015

Sparks also sang the opening credits of the theme song of the movie *Thunder Road*. In an email to DJ Allyn in 2009, he explains how Robert Mitchum had asked that he play his kid brother in the movie and writing the music, but ended up just singing the theme song written by Mitchum.

In 2009, a Golden Palm Star on the Palm Springs, Walk of the Stars was dedicated to him and The New Christy Minstrels.

Presenting The New Christy Minstrels is a studio album and was their debut. It was recorded in mid-April 1962 and released the album in October 1962.

The same year the album won a Grammy Award for Best

Performance by a Chorus and occupied the *Billboard* 200 charts for two years, peaking at number 19. The album included "Shenandoah".

Wikipedia

As of September 2008, Randy Sparks lives in Mokelumne Hill, California, a former gold mining town, with his wife Diane Jergens. They live in a historic building, which is also a museum of memorabilia of the gold rush days, and Diane occasionally tends bar at the Hole In The Wall Saloon, located in the downstairs of their home.

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