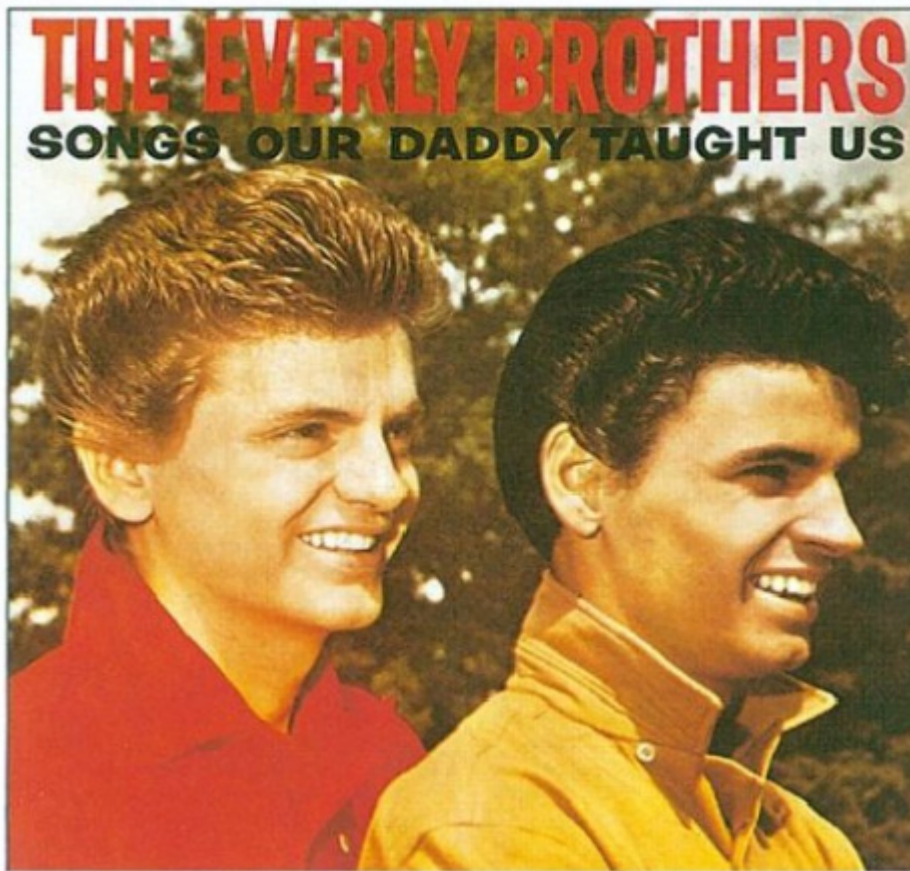


My Strange Experience Interviewing The Everly Brothers



As music director of Saskatoon's CFQC-Radio-600 I had the strange experience of interviewing the Everly Brothers on their last tour in 1973—strange because I was surprised to learn that they hated each other so much that they not only had separate managers but I had to interview them separately. It was done in the Green Room of the Centennial Auditorium. They were very different. I basically did the same interview twice, asking them about their formation and the genesis of each hit song. Don, the older, darker one, was first. He slouched in the sofa chair, exuded cynicism and kept responses to questions he's heard a million times concise. Phil was much easier to engage, and the much more likeable of the two—though he was completely stressed out and could barely sit still. He looked like he was ready to explode with pent up frustration of some kind. He spied off the answers to the very same questions he too had heard a million times before like a 45 rpm record (remember those?) cranked up to 78. The interview over, he bolted from the chair. Then they went onstage to perform, with a

minimum of banter, and they were flawless and magic and, for a huge fan like me, it was indelible (as was the whole experience).



I then took both interviews into the studio and spliced them together as if they were together, talking about their career and songs. And I produced an hour long music documentary which was distributed nationally through the CAB (Canadian Association of Broadcasters). But I never forgot what a strange experience it was—and I wasn't surprised when, just a few months later, they split up and didn't talk to each other for ten years....

Like Martin and Lewis, they later made up. Much later. As Don said, "We've been hitched to the same plow for a long time." But as Phil said about their incredible harmonies, "It's an art." And it was.

RIP Phil Everly.

