

# Marty Wilson - My Life as a Hired Gun Musician – Volume 1

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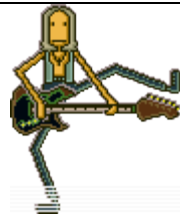
# Marty Wilson - My Life as a Hired Gun Musician – Volume 1

Welcome!

Thanks for tuning in

Over the years, I have worked with several great Music Educators, and I have learned so much from them. That's the GOAL!

So here you have it... A 30 year career summarization:

<p>I started playing music at age 8, playing classical strings</p>	<p>I was a brass musician for many years. Classical, Jazz, Blues, Chicago Transit Authority tribute band, weddings and private parties</p>	<p>Me as a crazy guitarist, mostly in the 80s although there is a recent resurgence, which I am completely digging</p>
		

Yup – a lot of keyboard work. Some classical. Mostly in the soul/funk/rock arena.

Sometimes you need to be The Boss (and I do not mean Bruce Springsteen... Love him. Great Band, Great Songs).

Instead I mean running your own band.

- Deciding what we will play
- Auditioning the performers
- Making sure we have the gear
- Booking the gigs
- Covering the financials

***Good Clean Fun!***



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## Introduction

Greetings all

You may not know me. My name is Marty Wilson.

- Back in the day, I worked in the Market Research and Medical Device Manufacturing industries
  - Very Exciting!
- Then I switched to the consulting world
  - Also Very Exciting, but on a different level
  - ***Sometimes quite crazy***
- In the music industry, I worked very hard to create music content
  - I was lucky enough to learn 10 instruments, working with amazing music educators in the Verona NJ Music System. Amazing Educators!
  - I hand-wrote hundreds of music charts
  - I was a musical director for many bands
  - I played with many bands – although I did not ***Free Lance***
  - I formed my own bands, and I am very proud of them
  - Check it out! <http://www.martywilson.net/>

This is my story, and I'm sticking with it. Enjoy!

## Chapter 01 - McDonalds Hamburgers and Fries

Sometimes you get a great opportunity to play with very talented musicians. In this case it was ***The McDonalds Tri-State All-Star High-School Jazz Ensemble*** (have you ever seen so many hyphens?).

This saga started in 1980, where there were 3 bands (hence, Tri-State):

1. Connecticut
2. New Jersey (that was my band – and we were Awesome!)
3. New York

I was invited to play 1 concert with the New Jersey band. I didn't even audition to play with them – ***How Crazy Is That?***

This is how it goes sometimes. You bring your A-Game and hope for the best. It was a great concert and a great honor.

The saga continues in 1981. Due to budget cuts, we now have 1 band (hence, Tri-State): Connecticut, NJ, NY merged into 1 band. Here's a Tri-State Summary:

1. The auditions were held in Brooklyn NY at the School of the Performing Arts.(if you're a movie person, you may recall ***Fame***)
2. I recall a great week of concerts in NYC:
  - a. Gracie Mansion (remember Mayor Koch?). All of the major TV channels were on site. Satellite trucks, news coverage. I had no idea what was happening, but it was ***Kinda Cool, Kinda Wow!*** (I am quoting *Frank Zappa – Joe's Garage*. A great album)
  - b. Carnegie Hall
    - i. A nice gig if you get the opportunity. Nice people
  - c. Lincoln Center
  - d. Yankee Stadium

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 02 - A Day on the Beach

Back in the day, I had the amazing opportunity to play a music concert on the beach in southern New Jersey. For those of you who do not know about the beach landscape in New Jersey – let me tell you it can be beautiful, and it can be ***What Is This! I'm not digging this at all***

Our band was contracted to play several sets of music for an event on the New Jersey shore.

The first part of this adventure involved a wedding couple reciting their vows on the beach

Bear in mind:

- It was wicked cold and windy
- I was 1 of 3 horn players who were contracted to play this gig
  - I really admire the other 2 horn players. Amazing talent
  - It was wicked cold and windy (did I mention that already?)
  - I suggested that the 3 of us employ a ***Drafting Method***
    - For those of you who are not familiar with a ***Drafting Method***, think of the Tour De France bike race
      - A team will use this method to conserve energy
      - One person on the team will face the wind head-on
      - The others on the team will huddle back behind this person to conserve energy
      - Then you rotate
      - It's a nasty situation
- The priest shows up
  - The beach sand is cold and wet. He did not look happy
- The wedding party finally shows up 30 minutes late
  - Think about this:
    - A small fortune has been invested in the bride's gown
    - She is walking on wet sand in the wind
    - Her bride's maids have paid a small fortune for their gowns and they are also walking on wet sand in the wind

- Don't worry about the groom or his guys
  - They are wearing rental tuxes and shoes!

So there you have it. Enjoy!



## Chapter 03 - Erin Party

Back in the day, I had the amazing opportunity to play a music concert for Erin. He was having a tough time physically. I felt honored to be asked to play a concert for him.

Our band was playing a set of music, and the response was great.

When Erin entered the venue, there was a strange vibe. People were clapping, listening to the music that we were playing. You would expect this to be the usual vibe. But you cannot easily hear a call for **Excuse me, please let me through**

Erin had an unusual ailment: His left leg was extended. Think of it as a **Battering Ram**

His nurse was wheeling him in his wheelchair towards the stage.

We wanted to honor Erin.

Oddly enough, Erin's nurse seemed to be using the **Battering Ram** to her advantage... Instead of saying **Excuse Me** to navigate the audience, she was using his **Battering Ram** as a weapon.

It was quite effective

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 04 - Professionals

Over the years, especially as a horn player I was privy to **Observing Professionals**.

What do I mean by that? Great question...

Back in the day, I had the amazing opportunity to play music concerts with a great band as a horn player and auxiliary keyboardist.

What does that mean? It means that I do not play on every song, so I can observe the clientele. *And let me tell you, it is amazing what your eyes will tell you...*

The horn section developed a very *keen eye* for **Observing Professionals**, a rare but identifiable breed that, for some crazy reason, **hooks up**. Examples include:

1. Older Gentlemen with much younger Stunning Women
2. Older Women wearing Extremely Age-Inappropriate Clothing
  - An Extreme Combination of #1 and #2, Always the Best

For those of you whom have played Little League Baseball, there's a concept of **Good Eye**. It means that as a batter you do not swing at a bad pitch. Our horn section could **Observe A Professional** with tremendous accuracy, and would call them out, using Military Time precision:

- **Professional at 2 o'clock. (Good Eye!)**
- **Professional at 11 o'clock. (Good Eye!)**

We were watching.

Word to the wise: Avoid the Leopard-Skin dress

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 05 - Too Much Fun at a Great Society Party

Over the years I was privy to play many **Great Society Parties** where I witnessed the unbelievable ***I Cannot Believe What I Am Seeing***.

What do I mean by that? Great question...

Sometimes **Great Society Parties** can fall off the rails. That's when you know that you're having **Fun!**

Classic examples – ***Always a Good Time***:

1. Imagine a Hospital Holiday Party, where the Chief Surgeon is dancing, out of control, with the Head Surgical Nurse. Always a Good Time when they fall head-strong into the band! Lucky that they are health care providers. Also good that their colleagues who are laughing at them are also well skilled health care providers and can provide the proper assistance (bandages, blood clotting, comfort, etc.)
2. Imagine a Wall Street Firm, where the brokers are ***High on Something*** enjoying their spoils, and are hooking up with [*Fill in the blank here*]

***Always a Good Time***. Always nice to witness

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 06 - Can We Play 80s Pop Music and Why

I grew up in the 70s and 80s, and I've had the unfortunate opportunity to play 80s music to live audiences 😊

Sometimes, it's **Fun**.

What do I mean by that? Great question...

### Chapter One

Back in the day, I had the amazing opportunity to play music concerts in the 80s where we interacted with the major media outlets and MTV. For those of you who do not know, MTV used to simulcast their show at local clubs.

I was fortunate enough to play a simulcast gig on MTV from the Royal Manor North in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Let me clarify the details:

1. Our Manager (I will use this term *Extremely Lightly*) booked our band to play at the Royal Manor North
2. Bear in mind – 3 of the 6 band members were getting ready to take final exams at Rutgers University that week, **in preparation for Graduation**
  - a. Apparently this gig could not be re-scheduled
3. So we played the gig, and had our **5 Seconds of Fame on MTV – Woo-Hoo**

### Chapter Two

- I met a great band that was playing a dive bar in central New Jersey
- I was very impressed with them. When you hear a band completely nail **Cult of Personality** by *Living Colour*, you are dealing with talent
- Unfortunately, I joined the band and we switched to playing some really crappy 80s music.

So there you have it

Enjoy!

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## Chapter 07 - How to Convince a Group of Bikers to Leave Your Blues Gig

I love old school blues. Sometimes you team up with a group of blues musicians that can be tenuous. Case in point:

1. The lead singer was an **Assistant District Attorney (ADA)** in a very **bad area** of New Jersey. I admired her for her intellect and singing. I cannot believe that she worked in such an awful job every day. Kudos to those whom she assisted.
2. When I showed up for the audition, the lead singer was wearing her Lawyer Uniform. So was the UPS driver who played Bass (and let me say this – they both provide Great Professions with good intentions)
3. The Lead Singer scratched her nails along the rehearsal floor carpet while singing an Etta James blues standard. She was completely caught up in the Blues Moment.
  - a. At that point, I realized ***I Want To Pass This Audition*** (I did).
4. We played at many Blues Dives (BDs)
5. At one BD, a biker group showed up.
  - a. I'm thinking – ***Crap I'm gonna get mugged tonight***
  - b. ***Answer: There is a solution...***
    - i. We were playing a Stevie Ray Vaughan song
    - ii. The bikers were drinking their beers and having fun
    - iii. Our **ADA** lead singer announces ***Here's an Original Song***
    - iv. The bikers left the bar immediately
  - c. No mugging tonight

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 08 - I Look Like Daryl Hall but I Do Not Sound Like Him

Sometimes you get a great opportunity to play with very talented musicians. In this case it was ***Soul Foundation***. Four musicians who could play any style of music:

1. Classic Rock, Classic Metal, Classic Soul
2. Funk, Gospel
3. 70s, 80s pop
4. Etc.

At any given rehearsal, we would ***Let It Rip*** before the singers attended (translation: We showed up ***On Time***).

1. We worked very hard to find a good Front Person (vocalist). It's very important to have a good Front Person when playing this style of music.
  - a. We auditioned dozens of singers
  - b. There was 1 singer who resembled Daryl Hall from ***Hall and Oates***
  - c. So I asked him *Has anyone ever told you that you resemble **Daryl Hall** from **Hall and Oates**?*
  - d. He said *Yes, I've been told that*
  - e. So I suggested that we play ***Sarah Smile*** by ***Hall and Oates*** at the next rehearsal. Everyone agreed
  - f. So we play the intro, note for note – and this idiot cannot sing the song.
  - g. I stop the song and ask *Wait a second, how can it be that you do not know this song?*
  - h. This is how it goes sometimes
2. Eventually, we found some great vocalists
  - a. Again – they rarely showed up on time for rehearsal
3. We played several Legends of Soul concerts in northern New Jersey, and they were fun and educational

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Here's the educational track:

- In the beginning, we were told we could play 30 minutes
  - Eventually our set was reduced to 20 minutes
  - In the Green Room, we were greeted nicely in the beginning
    - After several gigs - the greetings, for some reason that I cannot explain, were no longer greetings
    - My analysis: A **Legend** Does Not Like To Be **Taken to The Shed** By a **Local Band**

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 09 - Play Some Funky Music White Boy

Sometimes you get a great opportunity to play with very talented musicians. In this case I was asked to play in a **Funk Brothers** band that would back up a group of female singers who were seeking a record contract.

We rehearsed twice. At the first rehearsal, these 3 girls walked into the room as if they were the next **Destiny's Child**. *Unbelievable Attitude*

At one point, one of the girls said **What's Up With The White Guy?** (meaning me)

I brought my A-Game to the rehearsals and **The Supper Club** in Manhattan, and they **Did Not** despite their attitude.

In summary: No record contract for them. Talent speaks for itself

So there you have it

Enjoy!



## Chapter 10 - Women versus Women in Real-Time

Sometimes you get a great opportunity to play a local establishment and see some **Crazy Stuff**. In this case, I am referring to a **Spectacular Cat Fight** at a **Bowling Alley** gig. You cannot make this stuff up!

Scenario:

1. Neptune New Jersey
  - a. If you are not familiar with **The Jersey Shore**... Neptune is at the northern tip. Not very scenic. Hence the **Bowling Alley**.
2. Back in the day, I had the amazing opportunity to play music with a great group, which consisted of:
  - a. An amazing jazz/fusion guitarist, although we were playing 80s club music
  - b. An amazing bass player that I still work with. Amazing
  - c. Several decent drummers. For some reason, drummers seem to come and go... To this day I have not been able to determine the root cause of this behavior.
  - d. A decent female vocalist. Several things about her:
    - i. Very hard worker. She would find the gigs
    - ii. Very successful in another field. Good for her
3. Cat Fight
  - a. This was a **good one!**
    - i. Apparently the 2 women were a couple
    - ii. One of them (we don't know for sure) flirted with a 3<sup>rd</sup> woman
    - iii. The **Mate** was not happy with this behavior
    - iv. **WATCH OUT ON THE DANCE FLOOR** after a few rounds of drinks on their part

Suffice to say – it was entertaining to watch

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 11 - Classical Meets Unplugged

Greetings all

Sometimes you get a great opportunity to record a song that is influenced by an event that is happening outdoors.

Case in point: The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the Count Basie Theater

### Scenario:

1. Red Bank New Jersey
  - a. If you are not familiar with ***The Jersey Shore***... Red Bank is a great town at the northern tip. Very scenic. Very Hip.
2. Back in the day, I had the amazing opportunity to play music with a great creative artist:
  - a. If you are familiar with the Law Practice industry, you may know of many people who work as Paralegals
    - i. She was a very efficient Paralegal
  - b. We recorded an Unplugged song called *Happenstance*
  - c. While I was playing my piano part, she noticed that the ***New Jersey Symphony Orchestra*** was *Loading In* across the street at the Count Basie Theater.
    - i. I noticed them as well. Tuxedos, Gowns and Cellos
    - ii. I admire the gift of a great classical musician
  - d. Somehow, this inspired a ***Thought***
    - i. Can I play something ***Classical?***
    - ii. Do you mean ***This***, or ***That?***
  - e. Eventually we agreed to ***That***

Here is the recording: <http://www.martywilson.net/id2.html>

I am very proud of *Happenstance*

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 12 - Yankee Stadium

Greetings all

Sometimes you get a great opportunity to play with very talented musicians. In this case it was ***The McDonalds Tri-State All-Star High-School Jazz Ensemble*** (have you ever seen so many hyphens?).

We were *Sanctioned* to play the Kool Jazz Festival in NYC. And when I say *Sanctioned*, I mean it

We were invited to play a concert at Yankee Stadium to promote ***Youth Jazz*** in the New York metro area.

This is how it goes sometimes. You bring your A-Game and hope for the best. It should have been a great concert and a great honor.

### **Not Necessarily:**

1. It was the Summer of 1981
2. The Yankees were playing great. NYC was *Alive and Kickin'*
3. We showed up, wearing our Red Blazers with the Golden Arches, White Shirt, Black Pants, Black Sox and Black Shoes. ***The Uniform***
4. Instructions:
  - a. You will listen to the Star Spangled Banner
  - b. Upon listening to the Star Spangled Banner, you will run onto the baseball field, behind Second Base (DO NOT, I REPEAT DO NOT step on the infield)
  - c. You will assemble behind Second Base in the outfield
    - i. At this point I realized many things:
      1. No drum kit
      2. No piano
      3. No PA system
      4. No stage
      5. ***This is a BS gig!***

Sometimes you have to take one for the team. So there you have it. Enjoy!

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## Chapter 14 - Bridesmaids Be Careful When You Select Your Gowns

Greetings all

Back in the day, we played a lot of wedding gigs. Photography was important to **Capture the Moment**, but video was **in its infancy**. Once video became main stream, I recall that there was always a 2-person crew:

1. The camera operator would focus (no pun intended) on running the video camera
2. There would always be a Young Assistant, maybe 20 years old or so, who would handle the power cables (wireless was also in its infancy).

A common wedding reception tradition includes the Bride tossing a bouquet of flowers to a group of **Single Women**. I was a horn player at this wedding, and something went terribly wrong for one single woman.

One of the benefits of being a horn player is that you do not play on every song. So you can scan the audience and observe. And so did the camera operator...

1. The bride tossed the bouquet
2. A young bridesmaid, wearing an off-the-shoulder full length gown, jumped to catch the bouquet
3. Apparently someone was stepping on her gown
4. She jumped, and the gown **Did Not**
5. Out of **Respect**, our band decided to **Take a Break** to let the *waters calm* after this interesting event
6. One by one, we approached the camera operator
7. Did you capture that on video?
  - a. *Yup*

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 15 - Be Careful When You Are Passing Under the 59th Street Bridge

Greetings all

Back in the day, we would occasionally play a society/wedding gig at a unique location. In this case, it was **World Yacht** out of **Pier 39** in NYC

I recall that the family who booked us to play this event spent a small fortune, and it was a **GOOD ONE!**

I was a horn player in the band, and my oldest best friend was also a horn player in the band. We met when I was 8 years old and he was 9 years old (I am an **OG – Old Guy**. Many years have passed with minimal regrets).

So here's the scenario:

1. The family invites approximately 200 people for a wedding cruise on World Yacht
2. It's a spectacular Yacht!
3. We are playing the cocktail hour and reception for the wedding
4. There are 5 decks on this Yacht
5. The captain announces ***I hope you are enjoying the cruise***
  - a. ***Please do not ascend to the 5<sup>th</sup> (top) deck***
6. Clearly, my friend and I need to check out the **5<sup>th</sup> (top) deck**
7. We are cruising up the river in NYC, approaching the 59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge
8. It's at night, so you cannot see anything that may fall off of the bridge
9. The Yacht goes under the bridge, and we are looking up at the bridge

After the Yacht goes under the bridge, I say to my friend ***You do realize that if a rock, hubcap, anything – fell off that bridge and HIT US IN THE HEAD, we would probably be DEAD.***

At that point, we returned to the bar on the 1<sup>st</sup> deck

So there you have it

Enjoy!

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## Chapter 16 - Sometimes It Is OK to Run a Red Light in a Bad Neighborhood

Greetings all

Back in the day, we would occasionally play a society/wedding gig at a unique location. In this case, it was the Franklin Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia.

The event was an annual party within the construction industry. And it was a **GOOD ONE!**

So here's the scenario:

1. The event was very nice
2. I'm guessing there were approximately 1400 attendees
3. One of the attendees was performing on Broadway, and the crowd asked her to sing a song with us
4. We played **Heat Wave** (a Linda Ronstadt classic)
  - a. She was Amazing!
5. I carpooled with the drummer, since we lived in neighboring towns in NJ
6. We left the party late in the evening
7. I am not familiar with downtown Philly and I take a **Wrong Turn**
  - a. If you don't know Philly – there are nice neighborhoods and bad neighborhoods
  - b. We were in a **Bad** neighborhood **BIG TIME**
  - c. We stopped at a Red Light, and we see that a man is beating the [fill in the blank] out of a woman
    - i. Do we jump out of the car to help her?
      1. Maybe this guy has a gun and wouldn't hesitate to use it on us
    - ii. Do we run the Red Light?
  - d. I regret this, but I ran the Red Light and did not help this woman

At that point, I remembered that **Life Can Be Tough in the Big Cities**

So there you have it

Enjoy!

## Chapter 17 – Soul Music in a Cool Neighborhood

Greetings all

Sometimes you get the opportunity to play great music for a cool audience. Case in point: **Hoboken NJ**.

So here's the scenario:

1. Hoboken NJ is a very cool place, and has a very Cool Audience
2. It's great to play for a **Cool Audience**
  - a. You will *pay dearly for Parking* (side bar)
3. It was always great when a Cool Audience Member would approach and say *I cannot believe that you played **What Is Hip by Tower of Power***. Or some other Classic Soul/Funk song that is not a part of their music genre
  - a. **It's a Fun Ride, by Design**.
4. It's also great when a collection of Cool Upstarts *Fall into The Band* while dancing.
  - a. Hopefully no injuries
  - b. Hopefully no equipment damage
  - c. The bar is probably making some great cocktails
  - d. Always a **Good Time**
5. Love the **Cool Audience**

So there you have it. Enjoy!

## Chapter 18 – Eye Candy in a Cool Neighborhood

Greetings all

Sometimes you get the opportunity to play great music in a location where for some reason most of the people in the audience are extremely attractive. Case in point: **Hoboken NJ.**

So here's the scenario:

1. I auditioned for a Soul Band that plays very frequently in Hoboken NJ
  - a. Hoboken NJ is a very cool place, and has a very Young Audience
2. The Lead Singer asks ***Marty have you ever played any gigs in Hoboken?***
  - a. My Answer: ***No but I have seen many bands play in Hoboken, and it's a great place to play.***
3. Lead Singer: ***I can summarize the venues where we will be playing with 2 words***
  - a. My Answer: Ok, ***what are they?***
4. Lead Singer: ***Eye Candy***

He was right! Maybe it has something to do with the water...

So there you have it. Enjoy!



## Chapter 19 – Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Greetings all

Sometimes you get the opportunity to play great music in a location where for some reason you cannot believe this is happening. In this case, I was asked to play in the **Fortune Magazine Battle of the Corporate Bands**, where the final round of the competition takes place at the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame** in Cleveland OH.

So here's the scenario:

- I am working for a small Business Intelligence consulting company
- We get acquired by a Big-4 accounting firm
- During the *onboarding* (translation: New Employee Orientation) this Big-4 firm announces that they are pursuing the Battle of the Corporate Bands competition
- I get recruited into this Corporate Band during the *onboarding* process. Ok.
- Bottom line – we won the competition.
  - You May Ask: What is the prize? Great Question!
- Six months later, we are asked to return to the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**
  - We play a concert open to the public (very cool – it's a great place)
  - We receive invitations to the R&R HoF Induction Event
    - This is where the *Big Boy Bands* get inducted. Pretty Cool!
  - If you have ever watched this Induction Event on cable TV (typically HBO) you may think that the **Event is only 2 hours**
    - **Nope: It is 5 Hours!** That's why HBO needs a month to edit it down to 2 hours. That's the Way It Works!
  - One of the bands being Inducted was **Guns & Roses**.
    - I love these guys. One of the best hard rock bands ever!
    - Axl decided to blow it off (Boo! Seriously?)
  - The reason why the Induction Event is so lengthy is that each band member gets a trophy and has an opportunity to speak. Yikes!

- The **original drummer in Guns and Roses** approaches the podium, and gave the ***Best Speech Ever***
  - He mentioned his name, and said that he was the original drummer in GnR
  - He told a funny story:
    - *I was talking with a friend, and I mentioned that I got kicked out of Guns and Roses*
    - His friend says *Oh that's terrible. What happened?*
    - The drummer says *They thought I was doing too many drugs!*
    - The friend says *How can you get kicked out of Guns and Roses for doing too many drugs?*

You cannot make this stuff up. Enjoy!

## Chapter 20 – Horn Chart Transcriptions

Greetings all

Sometimes you get the opportunity to play great music with a band that has a horn section. Bear in mind that (especially **Back In The Day**) we could not purchase music transcriptions, so we had to **write them ourselves – Note for Note**.

As I learned many music styles over the years, I always gravitated towards bands with horns:

- Chicago
- Earth Wind & Fire
- Blood Sweat & Tears
- The classic Motown and Soul bands (too many to list here)
- Classic Jazz bands (too many to list here)
- Classic Jazz/Rock bands with horn sections (too many to list here)

My old-school method for hand writing horn charts was crude and simple:

1. Give me a cassette tape
  - a. Reason: We didn't have digital media **Back In The Day**
2. Give me a Sony Walkman running on batteries
  - a. Reason: We didn't have digital media **Back In The Day**
3. Give me an acoustic guitar
  - a. The process can be lengthy. You're writing exact notes and phrases and it's a lengthy, precise process
  - b. So as the batteries would begin to fade on the Sony Walkman, I could adjust the tuning on the acoustic guitar and keep working...
4. Give me music transcription chart paper
5. Give me a pencil and an eraser (I would re-write them later using a pen)
  - a. Pencil and eraser were essential for drafts
  - b. Pen-written charts were essential for final versions
  - c. More often than not the horn players were sight-reading these charts so they needed to be as close to perfect as you can produce, and clearly legible. Sometimes, you only get one chance to be good!

## Chapter 21 – Chicago Transit Authority at the Garden State Arts Center

Greetings all

Sometimes you get the opportunity to play great music with a band that specializes in a music or band that you admire. In this case – the band we admired was **Chicago**.

We took great pride in attempting to play **Chicago**'s music **Note for Note**, whether it was an instrument phrase or vocal.

Case in point – **Make Me Smile** (a studio demo) and **Just You and Me** (live):

<http://www.martywilson.net/id26.html>

The effort to create all of the music transcriptions by hand was a shared effort. It was mostly handled between myself and an amazing musician friend – Doug Kistner - whom I grew up with in Verona NJ. You can hear some of his music here:

<http://www.martywilson.net/id39.html>

It was a labor of love, and we Did It!

- It's very easy to create chord charts for the rhythm section
- It's very TEDIOUS to create instrumental charts that are note for note

In 1987, our Chicago tribute band attended a **Chicago** concert at the Garden State Arts Center - an outdoor amphitheater. A great place to hear a concert.

The leader of our band procured several back stage passes, so I had the great opportunity to meet my **Chicago** music heroes!

- I mentioned to one of them that we played their music as a tribute band
  - He said: **Do You Know the Licks?**
  - I replied: **Note For Note**
  - He smiled

So there you have it. Enjoy!

## Chapter 22 - Can You Do The Math

Greetings all

At the ripe-old-age of 8, I caught the music bug. Lucky for me, I worked with amazing music teachers who taught me to play several music instruments. They also taught me music theory and composition, and basic voice coaching/training. The rest was learned by listening to hundreds of recordings and either attending live concerts or watching them digitally.

The interesting thing about music: There is a math element

- You are constantly sub-dividing ***The Beat***. That's Math
  - If you are a vocalist, you are constantly memorizing lyrics.
  - If you learn to read music (which I highly recommend!) then you are constantly learning, and you are not intimidated by new material. I found this to be very important over a 3 decade career. I still try to learn daily.

Give It a try! You may surprise yourself ...

So there you have it. Enjoy!

Thanks

Marty