

Chapin Family @ Westbury Music Fair

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Harry's instrumentation) was made up for with a "weeping" electric guitar.

Next, the family introduced Harry's daughter, Jen Chapin, with her band: husband and bassist, Stephan Crump, and Jaime Foxx on guitar. Jen and Stephan's older son, 5 year-old Maceo, watched from behind the curtain as the trio delighted the crowd with a bluesy version of "Tangled Up Puppet." They completed their "mini-set" with a Jen Chapin original: "Go Away" (to appear on an upcoming release). Jen's bluesy-jazz-folk-pop mesmerized and relaxed the audience.

The family continued coming and going, performing "Let Time Go Lightly" (Steve Chapin), "My Love Needs a Little More Time" (Harry), "Shooting Star" (Harry), until they ended the set on a hilarious, upbeat song about a disastrous trucking accident (only Harry could have written a song like that). Tom, Steve, John, and Howie took us on an accelerating journey down a hill leading into Scranton, PA which culminated in "30,000 Pounds of Bananas" smearing down the hill ("not to mention an arm or two.")

The second set took the focus off of Harry's music. Tom, also an award-winning children song singer, led the performance of "Pass the Music On," a song that honors the times when they used to perform as "The Chapin Brothers" ("When open mics were called hootenannies"). To counter the "Brothers," the Chapin Sisters came out, unaccompanied, and sang the beautiful, "Let Me Go," from their 2008 LP, *Lake Bottom*, and then "Palm Tree" which will appear on their upcoming release (check their website for updated information: www.thechapinsisters.com). Tom was featured next, playing "Walk the World Now, Children," a Grammy nominated folk song geared toward remedying the world's ills. David Chapin (Jim's 4th son, and Harry's half-brother) took the stage for his first appearance of the evening and played "I Love the Moon," about his love for his wife.

Tom then sang "Always Gone," which he wrote to honor his father (and luckily had the opportunity to sing it to him while he was alive). To complete this "mini-tribute," the family performed a song written, and typically performed by Jim.

Soon, Jen was back out on stage with her band and performed "Goodbye" from her 2006 release, *Ready*. Then, to honor her father, she sang "I Wonder What Would Happen to This World," the song whose lyrics appear on Harry's gravestone: "If a man tried, to take his time on earth, and prove before he died, what one man's life could be worth, I wonder what would happen to this world."

"Big" John Wallace led the performance of the song he sang at the Harry Chapin Tribute Concert: "Last Stand" - an eerie, yet beautiful song from the perspective of a man on his deathbed. Then came the hits: "Cats in the Cradle" - the father/son anthem, and "Taxi" - the love-long-lost epic. All of the family members came to the stage for the grand finale: "Circle." This song would always complete Harry's concerts and leave the crowd hoping to "Go 'round one more time."

From Jim Chapin to Maceo Crump, the generations of Chapins have kept the music and stories alive and thriving. It makes us realize that we must take the fruits that distinguish us, plant their seeds wherever we can, and watch them sprout in infinite ways. It only took one man's time on earth, Jim Chapin, to prove what his life was worth to bring music and joy to generations of Chapins and their fans.

In addition to the music, the family continues the legacy of social action. They continue to give large portions of the proceeds from their concerts to charity (Harry used to boast that they gave over half their money to charity). Jen Chapin sits as Chair of the Board of Directors for World Hunger Year (WHY), an organization co-founded by her father to combat world hunger, especially in children. Many other family members sit on the board as well. To become involved go to www.whyhunger.org.

Words and photos by Craig Duff

Before humans had the ability to record sound, storytelling and music was the language that spoke across generations, uniting the young with the old, the dead with the unborn. Fortunately, recorded sound has not completely wiped this timeless institution from our collective conscience: it still thrives in familial pockets, like it does in the Chapin Family.

Jim Chapin, big band drummer since the '40s and author of *Advanced Techniques for the Modern Drummer* (considered to be the "Drumming Bible" by many), passed away last summer, leaving a family of remarkable musicians to carry on his legacy. They performed together on April 10th at the venue formerly known as Westbury Music Fair on Long Island.

For the most part, the family celebrated the music of Jim's second (and late) son, Harry (hit songs in the '70s included "Taxi" and "Cats in the Cradle"). The concert commenced as the core of Harry's band took the stage: brother Steve on keyboard, brother Tom on guitar and banjo, "Big" John Wallace on bass, and Howie Fields on drums. Soon, the lineup enlarged, adding Steve's son Jonathan and John's son, Clark Wallace on guitars. They played Harry Chapin classics, "Sunday Morning Sunshine," "WOLD," and the anthem-like "Story of a Life." The next song, arguably the most emotional of the evening, featured Tom's three daughters: The Chapin Sisters. Abigail Chapin, Lily Chapin, and Jessica Craven, angelically harmonized "Remember When the Music," the forlorn ballad written for Harry's friend and hero, Congressman Al Lowenstein, who was shot and killed by a mentally-ill patient of his (Bruce Springsteen lamented Harry's death when he sang this song at Harry's Tribute Concert, making it "doubly-meaningful.")

The Chapin Sisters left the remaining family members to play "Mr. Tanner," a story-song about a baritone singer whose dream was shattered by a flawed review. John Wallace, as baritone, was featured, singing "Oh Holy Night" in counterpoint to the chorus. The lack of the emotion-evoking cello (a staple of

