

## My Dad Loved my Music

The Pat Terry Group was one of favorite bands in the 1970's; a regional band (from Georgia), they were my impression of early, but contemporary Christian music (CCM). Here is some more information from the Web, bandlink.net:

He (Pat Terry) was one of the few in early Jesus music worth his salt as a songwriter. The Pat Terry Group produced a handful of interesting pop CCM albums in the mid-to-late '70's. After the band departed, Pat went on to write music in Nashville for several prominent country artists. Sonny Lallerstedt and Randy Bugg continue to perform.

From his own Web site, patterryonline.com, the following brief bio of his "first days" as a writer and performer:

Beginning his career in 1970, Pat eventually signed on with Myrrh Records – an upstart label for Christian music. By 1980, he (and his band), had produced seven albums.

On the question of his first song, Pat replies:

I wrote a song called "Let's go to Town" when I was about twelve. It was basically done for the amusement of my parents, but I remember that my father thought it was great. It was actually pretty miserable, but of course, my Dad was my biggest fan.

(On writing his first song)  
*"I wrote a song called "Let's Go to Town"...it was basically done for the amusement of my parents, and I remember that my father thought it was great...my dad was my biggest fan.*

- Pat Terry

In my own search for content on my Web page, "The Music Man", I immediately turned to my limited offering of musicians and genre. Christian and folk music is probably the sum-total of my earliest account and affection of music. The basic messages and "earthy" qualities of these music types is what appeals to me most; with the instrumental often limited to string instruments for which I know something, at least.

Besides my familiarity with this artist, the quote from his Web site was what made for a definite entry in the developing list of featured musicians and music fans. How often do you hear someone give such

recongnition and tribute to their dad? Well, for me, the opportunity was *carved in stone*...along with the quote. How inspiring for Pat Terry: to have a dad who was his "biggest fan".

Nearly thirty years after my earliest accounts of this group, the music still stays with me; and from time to time, I'll pluck a few cords from memory of the songbooks and albums collected during those years. "Sweet Music", "Songs of the South", and others were among the recounted albums and, with matching music and a little imagination, off I went playing: "You", "I can't wait to see Jesus", and several others.

Even as the Web is perused today, in seeking additional information, the memories pour out. In college, a dorm neighbor of mine, Jim Jackson, would jam together some times; and among our collection was Pat Terry. From "Songs of the South", Jim and I would try to iron-out a harmony on the single, "All I Ever Need". Another of my favorite (on guitar) was "Wonder of you Love" on the album "Sweet Music".

Well, with all this reminiscing over the '70's, I have the momentary desire to be young again – and to experience the simple pleasure of sitting down to some songs of substance – of someone's personal experience blended to a musical score. Perhaps, with limited talent and ability, I can hum a few bars, copy down the words, and experience another level of what the artist is saying or expressing.

Why, if I keep at it, maybe my dad will be my biggest fan; after all, dad's are so easily drawn into the desires of the children and, especially, when those desires are coupled with goodness and meaningful purpose. **Pat's father saw the talent brewing in his son; and I see that talent as well in my own...**

Some years ago, I let a guy borrow those music books and, as often happens, I never got them back. That's alright though – now where is that imagination?