

## **A BRIEF BIO OF BRAM MORRISON**

Since 1978, Bram Morrison has been best known as one third of the well-loved trio of Canadian children's entertainers 'Sharon, Lois & Bram'. As a teen-ager he became fascinated by the vast repertoire of folk songs that were being sung by such artists as Pete Seeger, Alan Mills, The Weavers, and many others. Bram began singing them in the coffee houses and folk festivals of the Sixties while continuing his studies at York University and The University of Toronto.

In 1963 he met Alan Mills, the noted Canadian folk song collector and singer. During the next ten or so years Bram spent as much time as possible accompanying Mills, learning Canadian folk songs in English and French, traditional songs from The British Isles, and most significantly, a treasury of songs especially for children. Alan Mills is the composer of the famous 'I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly'.

As well, Bram taught in the North York School Board for seven years; two years teaching everything to Sixth Graders, and five as an itinerant music teacher in Special Education with special needs children.

In the Seventies Bram left the School Board to join 'Mariposa in the Schools' and 'Prologue to the Performing Arts', two organizations that send performing artists into the schools to do concerts and workshops for students and their teachers

In 1978 at Mariposa in the Schools [MITS] Bram, Lois Lilienstein and Sharon Hampson decided to make a recording together – 'One Elephant, Deux Elephants - A Children's Record for the Whole Family'. The rest, as they say, is a mystery.

In their career together, Sharon, Lois & Bram made dozens of recordings and have played every major concert hall in Canada and many in the United States including the Clinton White House. They produced several television specials for CBC, as well as two popular TV series, 'Sharon, Lois & Bram's Elephant Show' and 'Skinnamarink TV' which were broadcast widely across Canada and the USA.

In 2002 Bram, along with Sharon and Lois, was inducted by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson into 'The Order of Canada' for his outstanding contribution to the musical education of Canadian children.