

## Jeff Wasserman Biography - Short Version

Jeffrey Wasserman is an American expatriate who resides in Norway, where he works as a songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and artist. Wasserman's love for music began at age 11 when he took his sister's guitar, and by 15, he was a student and a teacher at "The Guitar Workshop" on Long Island's North Shore. Wasserman met other musicians, including Jeff Davis and Jeff Warner, and played back-up guitar while learning hundreds of fiddle tunes on Wednesday tune session nights. Jean Ritchie and Frank Warner, who lived nearby, also inspired him during his early years. In 1969, he attended the Newport Folk Festival, where he heard new folk artists such as Joni Mitchell and James Taylor, and he learned about the upcoming Woodstock Music Festival in Bethel, NY. Wasserman's musical philosophy is that good music cannot be contained in genres.

During the Vietnam War, Wasserman left the US a month before his 18th birthday to avoid being drafted. He spent 18 months hitchhiking throughout Europe and making a living as a street musician. He returned to the US in 1973 after the war ended. At 19, he won a local radio station songwriting contest and performed as a songwriter and artist, opening for Pink Andersen, Ry Cooder, Patrick Sky, Sam Chatman, and The Balfa Brothers. Later, Wasserman toured with Jeff Davis and Jeff Warner as "The 3 Jeffs," performing a broad range of American folk traditions at folk clubs, universities, coffeehouses, house concerts, and contra/square dances throughout the Eastern USA.

In 1974-75, Wasserman visited Norway on tour with his band "Chicken-Am Good," where they held a year-long residency at a farm outside Haugesund, inspiring many Norwegian musicians with their eclectic mix of Old-Timey, Jugband, Bluegrass, Blues, Celtic, Sea Shanties, fiddle tunes, original songs, and space opera. Wasserman and the band then changed their name to "Easy on the Tuba" and won the N.Y. Old Timey Music Contest in 1978, supporting Lester Flatt.

Wasserman returned to Norway to form the newgrass band "Gone At Last," which was at the forefront of acoustic country music in Scandinavia. The band toured extensively, with up to 200 travel days a year throughout Scandinavia and the US. They opened for Emmy Lou Harris, Bill Monroe, The Seldom Scene, Ralph Stanley, and The New Grass Revival, among others. In 1985, Gone At Last was nominated for a Spellemann (Norwegian Grammy) for their first album, and in 1987 they recorded their second album, "Still Out There," which was released in 1994 due to their record company's bankruptcy. They toured Scandinavia with "The Band" to support the album's release.

Wasserman is a multi-instrumentalist and a renowned songwriter. He has lived in Norway since 1983 and has written lyrics for mega-hits such as "Everyone Needs A Friend" (Dance With A Stranger), "Tell Me Where You're Going" (Silje Nergaard), and "Moving Time" (Rita Eriksen and Delbert McClinton). He has also collaborated with Adam Douglas, Didrik Solli-Tangen, and Big Bang, among dozens of others. He was awarded TONOs EDVARDpris for Lyrics in 2016