

Bill & Brenda Sutton

Still singing after all these years!

Just a blink ago, Bill and Brenda Sutton were that wild, romantic, crazy, young singing duo, *Bed & Breakfast*, chatting on the CompuServe SF and Fantasy Forum long before it was *de rigueur*. Now they're a grizzled curmudgeon and a silver-haired granny, still belting out songs even if it does take them a bit longer to get on and off stage. (It's not the arthritis slowing them down but the plethora of new instruments they keep adding to the act.)

The couple has been instrumental (bah-dum-DUM!) in the filk community for over thirty years. They teach lyric writing workshops to help others improve and enjoy the music creation process. They helped create and run Interfilk, a non-profit organization that fosters up-and-coming contributors to filk music by sending them to filkcons far from their stomping grounds. They work conventions at all levels from committee to chair, from small regionals to Worldcons and far-flung internationals. Most recently, they ran Dorsai Thing #42, headed the music track for the 2013 Worldcon, and were honored as Music Guests of Honor for the 2014 North American Science Fiction Convention in Detroit, Michigan. Brenda currently chairs Chambanacon, a relaxacon in Normal, Illinois, and teaches the Irish language and bodhrán for Irish Arts Academy of Indianapolis.

Accomplished on guitar, mandolin, flute and penny whistle, Bill has added the concertina to his instrument collection. Brenda plays guitar and studies fiddle, but her *forte* is bodhrán, utilizing a unique, jazzy paintbrush tipper style on the traditional Irish frame drum. In addition to *Bed 'N' Breakfast*, Brenda plays as one of the four *Three Weird Sisters*, with the Indianapolis-based traditional Irish trio *Alair*, and occasionally sits in with the Wisconsin-based pub band *The Toolies*.

Both Suttons are talented singer/songwriters. Bill won Pegasus Awards for Best Male Filker in 1986, Best Techie Song for "Do It Yourself" in 1989, and in 2009 for his uproarious country space song "Stray Dog Man." Brenda garnered her share of Pegasus recognition with a nomination in 2002 for "In a Gown Too Blue," winning Best Song for "Strangers No More" in 2001 and Best Performer in 2002 for her work with *Three Weird Sisters*. They were inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame together in 2001. At Chicon 7, the 2012 World Science Fiction Convention, Brenda staged a Readers Theater performance of her one-act operetta "Choice of Endings" based on the Tanya Huff short story.

When they aren't playing at local Irish *seisiúns*, attending SCA bardic circles, or sitting in with Seanan McGuire's pick-up band *Dead Sexy*, Bill and Brenda reside in the sleepy, Midwestern farm town of Danville, Indiana with a selectively deaf dog and two cats who pay no attention whatsoever to their music.

The duo recently released the first of a 2-CD set, *And They Said It Wouldn't Last*, a collection of their eclectic folk and filk. The second CD in the set, *By and By*, featuring the renditions of original and traditional Celtic music, is scheduled for release this summer.