

“When I was just thirteen, I spent my time in school practicing my autograph instead of doing math. I’d be drawing stage setups, amps, drums, where I’d put the speakers, and the Fender guitars.”



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“Our House,” written by Graham Nash, was recorded by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young for Atlantic Records in 1970. It climbed the music charts for six weeks and peaked at #30 on Billboard’s Hot 100. Graham Nash, cofounder of The Hollies in 1962, had a string of top forty hits with the group; most notably “Bus Stop” and “Carrie Anne.” After moving to the United States, he co-founded the folk/rock group Crosby, Stills & Nash in 1968. Crosby, Stills & Nash were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. Graham Nash lives in Los Angeles, California.

I was born in Blackpool, in the north of England, on February 2, 1942, at one-fifteen in the A.M. The reason I was born in Blackpool, which is not where we lived, was that during the closing years of the Second World War, pregnant women were evacuated from bombing areas to have their babies in peace. Blackpool is about fifty miles from Salford, which is a suburb of Manchester, where we actually lived. Blackpool is basically the Coney Island of England; it’s got the fun fair on the beach and all those seaside kind of things. It wasn’t a strategic or primary target for the German bombers like Manchester. So even though we lived in Salford, I was born in Blackpool.

Would you say that songwriting is mainly a matter of inspiration?

I would have to say that it’s something you can’t do unless you are inspired, so inspiration has to be at least 75 percent of the equation.

What form does that inspiration come in?

With music, it’s usually an incident that happens to me—something personal, something I’ve read in the paper or witnessed on the street, even something someone has said.



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