

Tim Sample

bio:

Tim Sample is widely acknowledged to be New England's premier native humorist. Novelist **Stephen King** has likened Sample's work to that of Mark Twain, and **Charles Kuralt** called him "Maine's humorist laureate." Tim's books, albums, and videos (including four albums and a video for the **Bert and I** company) have sold well over a million copies. For eleven years he was a correspondent for CBS News and a regular essayist on the Emmy award winning television show **CBS News Sunday Morning**, hosted by veteran newsman **Charles Osgood**.

Tim was born and raised in Maine and has never lived (or for that matter wanted to live) anywhere other than the Pine Tree State. Tim's first album of downeast humor was recorded in 1979 and produced by **Noel Paul Stookey**, "Paul" of **Peter, Paul, and Mary** with liner notes by the late humorist **Marshall Dodge**, who along with his partner **Rev. Robert Bryan**, created the world-famous Bert and I recordings back in the 1950s. After Dodge's death in 1982, Tim recorded four albums and a video for the Bert and I company. Sample and Bryan have collaborated on a number of projects, including several TV specials, the popular recording **How to Talk Yankee**, and the TV specials **Out of Season** and **Maine Humor Behind the Barn**.

Tim has also written and/or illustrated over a dozen books, including regional bestsellers **Saturday Night at Moody's Diner** and his most recent **Maine Curiosities second edition**, co-authored by **Stephen Bither**, published in 2006 by The Globe Pequot Press. Tim's national TV appearances include **The Today Show** and **Good Morning America**, and he has narrated award-winning films and books on tape, including **Robert McCloskey's** children's classic **Bert Dow Deep Water Man** and Stephen King's **The Sun Dog**.

Over the years, Tim has performed thousands of shows in venues as diverse as the Los Angeles Convention Center, the Mall of America, the New York Yacht Club and the Caribou Performing Arts Center. These days, he averages 50 -70 concert and after-dinner appearances per year. More information on Tim may be found at his website: **www.timsample.com**.

Tim Sample

appearances:

Media appearances include:

"Good Morning America" (ABC)
"Today" (NBC)
Michael Feldman's "Whad'Ya Know?" (NPR/PRI)
"Portrait of America" (WTBS)
"Of Thee We Sing!" (PBS)
"Out of Season" (WGBH TV Boston)
CBS News Sunday Morning 1993-2004

Conferences include:

American Bar Association National Convention
The National Press Club
National Automobile Dealers' Association
National League of Postmasters
National Association of Secretaries of State
Boston University School of Management
New England Reading Association
Maine State Legislature forum
Hinckley Yacht 50th Anniversary
L.L. Bean 75th, 90th Anniversaries
American Express Corporation
National Association of Trial Lawyers
Project Literacy U.S.A.
National Labor Relations Board
Unum Corporation
Stand up for Rural America (Tuskegee, Alabama)
Wyeth Ayerst Pharmaceuticals

Concerts include:

American Place Theatre (NYC)
Warner Theater (Washington, D.C.)
Leavitt Pavilion (Westport, Conn)
Brandywine Festival (MD)
Ball State University (Muncie IN)
Ocean Reef Club (Key Largo FL)
New York Yacht Club
Portsmouth Music Hall
Rochester (N.H.) Opera House
Newport (N.H.) Opera House
Mall of America (Bloomington, MN)
Olde Whaling Church (Martha's Vineyard)
First Night Celebrations; (N.H.) Keene, Portsmouth, Wolfboro
(Maine) Portland, Houlton, Waterville

Tim Sample

bibliography:

books

The Summer With Jay (by Leah Sample, Illus. by Tim Sample - The Maine Humor Company 2005)
Maine Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & other Offbeat Stuff
(Globe Pequot Press 2002, 2nd edition 2006)
Saturday Night at Moody's Diner (Down East Books, 1996)
Stories Told in the Kitchen (by Kendall Morse, Illus. by Tim Sample)
How to Talk Yankee (by Gerald Lewis, Illus. by Tim Sample)
Aunt Shaw's Pet Jug (Thorndike Press, 1984)

audio recordings

The Tim Sample Collection vol. 1: The Bert and I Years 1982-1989 (The Maine Humor Company 2005)
Ain't Life Grand! (Sample Studio, Inc. 1999)
Sample and Dodge...the Summer of '81 (Sample Studio Inc. 1998)
Born in Maine (Sample Studio Inc. 1997)
Pumping Irony (Sample Studio Inc. 1992)
Four Past Midnight / The Sun Dog by Stephen King
(Penguin / Highbridge 1991)
Snappy Answers (Bert and I 1990)
Back in spite of Popular Demand (Bert and I 1985)
Downeast Stand-up (Bert and I 1984)
How to Talk Yankee (Bert and I 1983)
The Junk of Marshall Dodge (Bert and I 1982)
The Tim Sample Comedy Album (Elephant's Graveyard 1980)

film/video

Maine Humor in the 21st Century (Maine Humor Co. 2006)
Back in the Day DVD (Maine Humor Co. 2006)
Lobsters, LAUGHTER & Lighthouses (Sample Studio 1998)
Sunday Morning in Maine (Sample Studio 1996)
Tim Sample On A Roll (Sample Studio 1994)
Maine Humor Behind the Barn (Sample Studio 1993)
Tim Sample *LIVE on WPXT* (Sample Studio 1991)
Tourist Huntin' in Maine (Sample Studio 1991)
Postcards from Maine (Sample Studio 1990)
Best of Tim Sample (Bert and I 1987)
From Stump to Ship (Northeast Historic Film 1985)
Burt Dow Deep Water Man & King of the Cats (Weston Woods 1983)

advertising awards

6-Gold Brodersons
2-1st Place Hatch Awards
1st & 2nd Place Best of Broadcasting

Tim Sample

quotes

"Tim Sample is Maine's humorist laureate."

- Charles Kuralt

"He's funny if you come from Augusta Maine...he's just as funny if you come from Augusta Georgia"

- Stephen King

"Maine's high prince of comedy...a one-man humor factory!"

- The Maine Sunday Telegram

"Humorists such as Tim Sample...are doctors of the human soul. These are the ones...who keep our world whole."

- The Reporter

No. Conway New Hampshire

"Tim Sample is my kind of storyteller. I've never met anyone who can set the tone and mood of a comedy bit so well. Tim Sample's brand of 'human' humor will be cherished for years to come."

- Larry Glick

WBZ Radio, Boston

"Tim Sample stands on stage and makes you laugh at yourself, or perhaps, in spite of yourself. An evening of his humor leaves you feeling clean from the experience. He might be the best example of how laughter truly is the best medicine."

- Entertainment Times

Stephen King _____ talks about Tim Sample

"I've had to travel a lot over the last fifteen or twenty years of my life, and because I like comedy, I've had a chance to sample regional humor and regional humorists in much the same way gourmets sample various regional dishes. I've heard everyone from the southern good old boys to the Swedish 'Yoopers' of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I think Maine's Tim Sample is probably the best of them, and this fine funny album does nothing but confirm the judgment. Too often, all regional humor amounts to are the same jokes (usually about some grouchy farmer's privy) told in different accents and set in different locales, or anecdotes whose appeal is so narrow that those outside a very small region - the Ozarks or the Smokeys or perhaps Tornado Alley in Arkansas - are totally mystified. Like some wines, this sort of humor does not travel well.

Tim Sample, however, is different. He's funny if you come from Augusta, Maine; he's just as funny if you come from Augusta, Georgia.

Like Mark Twain - who started, believe it or not, as a regional humorist himself - Sample's humor is sweet on the tongue...but kicks like a spirited mule going down. And, like Twain, his stories of Maine life and Maine people don't show that we are different from you, but rather that we are all the same.

He also has the great humorist's gift of telling stories *within* stories; he doesn't tell jokes but creates cunning nests of Chinese boxes. Anyone can tell a tale about how a city fella mistook unc's horse for a hornless cow, but it takes Tim Sample to inject a rap about how Japanese cars *sound* (sorta like one cylinder of a '77 Buick Electra) into the middle of the story.

Humor doesn't bear over-analysis, so I'm going to call a halt right about here. This is a funny, funny set - I think that says it all. If you've ever leaped happily from your motel bed on the first day of your vacation and rushed to the window to drink in the view and saw only another motel room facing yours across the courtyard, you'll relate to Tim Sample's wry, comic view of life.

Bon Appetit ...or, as we say in Maine, 'Dig in Chummy!'"