



TAMULEVICH
ARTIST MANAGEMENT
— We Build Careers —

Mustard's Retreat – Biography

Mustard's Retreat (David Tamulevich and Michael Hough), met in Ann Arbor, MI in 1974, as short order cooks, both on hiatus from their studies at the University of Michigan. Discovering a mutual interest in music/writing and performing, they put together 3 songs one day after work, and took them to the legendary Ark coffeehouse's open mike night. They were a big hit, and, on the spot, were invited back to do a 45 minute set 2 weeks later. Within a year and a half they had both quit the restaurant and were doing music full time. 37 years later, they have 9 highly acclaimed recordings of their own, plus 2 more CDs with their songwriting collective, The Yellow Room Gang. Mustard's Retreat has performed more than 4,000 shows over those years, traveled more than 1 million miles and in doing so, have earned a dedicated and loyal following, many of whom have been coming to hear them since the 1970s. Michael and David joke on stage about attracting people "with long attention spans", but it is what Mustard's Retreat gives them that turns audiences into such loyal fans.

Spike Barkin, who produces the prestigious Roots of American Music Festival at New York City's Lincoln Center, wrote to thank them for their "folk from the heart," going on to say it seemed like David and Michael "take your living room on the road with you and invite people in as friends." David Siglin, of Ann Arbor's premier folk club, The Ark, where Mustard's Retreat did that first open mike, and have head-lined many, many times since said, "In order to last, there has to be more than just talent - you have to enjoy playing, enjoy audiences and enjoy being in front of them. Audiences go to your shows because they know they will be entertained." Margie Rosenkranz, manager of the Eighth Step at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, NY, who has presented Mustard's Retreat many times, said a Mustard's Retreat show "reminds us why we're doing this, pulls people together," adding that the duo transcends the vagaries of passing trends because they remain so "in tune with the audience."

"I work with them several times a year and always wish it was more." said Canadian songwriter Garnet Rogers, who also produced their landmark recording *The Wind and the Crickets*. "The thing that always impresses me is the incredible openness they have with the audience. They stand up there and just radiate friendliness; the audience is included in the whole process, encouraged to sing along and talk back. I've learned a lot from them in that sense."

"They are so warm and friendly and giving on stage, completely in touch with their audience," said Tom Paxton, a folk music star for more than 40 years. "There are no barriers at all, and you just love to watch that and be part of it. But the thing that strikes me about them from Jump Street - and that makes it all work so well - is that their time is so tight. Michael is such a wonderful, simple bass player; his time is just flawless. And that's why two guys can move you musically the way they do - they have a gorgeous sense of time and tempo, a real musicality to what they do. They're nice guys on stage and entertaining as hell, but there's also music in them."

While both Tamulevich and Hough are grounded in the early traditional 60s folk music boom, they also were influenced by the songwriters of that time, and their shows represent an eclectic blend of music, old and new, with a big dash of storytelling. “We have never performed the same show twice,” says Tamulevich, “Each night is its own unique moment, unique audience. For us, that is the exciting thing, the magic: to craft a shared experience and leave people entertained and moved...and with moments and songs they will take away with them and remember, ponder, rediscover; hopefully for years to come.” Many of those moments are the result of their well-respected and broad body of original material, written both individually and together. “We take our writing very seriously.” says Tamulevich, “No matter if it is a serious or humorous song. A song is a tool to communicate a feeling or a story, and we want it to be as sharp and finely focused as we can make it. It is a challenge that we happily embrace. Each song is a unique puzzle, and it is fun to see where it can and does take you as you write it. Michael and I are both very different people and writers; having different strengths, and that diversity, when we can get it right, can make a song a whole lot richer and more effective. It is a very rewarding process.”

Those memorable songs have been a hallmark of Mustard’s Retreat from the first. The spooky, *Mallon’s Bridge*, that tells the story of a haunted bridge in Ireland and the midnight encounter that takes place there, has been a staple of Folk radio on Halloween since it first came out in the early 1980s. *There’s A Dance Tonight* celebrates love and community, the poignant *Part of Me Remembers*, the humorous *Michigan Mosquitoes*, the anthemic (*Ours is a Simple Faith* and *Gather the Family*...to the insightful and powerful *Pay the Toll*...all and more have received extensive airplay and many have been covered by other singers.

“And it is still new, fresh, exciting...and fun” concludes Tamulevich. “We still really enjoy all of this: the writing and the performing. Audiences let us know that they enjoy it as well. They have taken our music and made it a part of their lives: that is the ultimate compliment, and as long as they want to see us, we plan to keep performing.”

Press & Presenter Reviews / Quotes

“fresh, vital, relevant” - *Robert Reid, Waterloo Record, ON, January 2015*

“ these guys are not the ones you paid to see when you first heard them live. But you’ll buy a ticket the next time ‘round” – *Andy Braunfeld, Program Chairman for the Philadelphia Folk Festival*

“Mustard’s Retreat...come see them. They put words together beautifully.” - *Utah Philips*

“A pleasure to see and hear. Music to cure what ails you.” – *Michigan Times*

“The whole evening was a total delight!!! Not only do you both excel in your performing talents, but your genuine sincerity that you cared about your audience showed too.” – *Ferris State College*

Current magazine - “one of the foremost Midwestern folk duos..a force to be reckoned with..” -*picked as the Best Damn Folk Band in Washtenaw County Fall 2007.*

“ When I listen to Mustard’s Retreat, I get speeding tickets. I get so lost in the songs that space/time cease to exist, and the next thing I know, it’s the flashing red lights and the warning “ Don’t listen and drive!” - *Bridgett Ellis, Folk Director, WCNI, 91.1 New London , CT*

“David Tamulevich and Michael Hough’s engaging stage presence, myriad of subject matter, and the sheer joy that they take in playing has made Mustard’s Retreat one of the most revered bands in folk music today.” – *Madison Folk Music Society*

”Mustard’s Retreat performs for the pure joy of it...infectious; never derivative...a simplicity in their music and performance that is rare and timeless.. there are people who do this professionally and competently. Mustard’s Retreat takes it to the next level.” – *Rich Warren, journalist, programmer and on-air personality for The Midnight Special on WFMT, Chicago (on the air for 30 plus years)*

”In order to survive you need more than talent. Mustard’s Retreat has thrived because they have talent, clearly love their audience and being on stage, and know how to do a good show.” -*David Siglin, programmer of The Ark, Ann Arbor , MI for 40 plus years*

”Ann Arbor is home to many very talented musicians and performers, but perhaps none have garnered as much national acclaim and as avid a following as Mustard’s Retreat...audiences throughout the Midwest and East Coast have been enchanted by the duo...(a show) certain to evoke joy and the satisfaction of an evening well spent” – *David Siglin, The Ark*

” represent everything that is best about folk music... extraordinary songs, attention to details. Their music comes from our common roots and traditions, pays tribute to those roots and expands on them. It is music for real people about real things- life, love, sex and death- the big stuff.. ,and the songs have entered the lexicon of “ anonymous” folk songs and are being passed from hand to hand- which is the ultimate tribute to a songwriter.” - *Garnet Rogers, singer/songwriter/producer/Mustard’s Retreat*

” When I’m part of a co-bill I’m usually too nervous to listen to the act immediately preceding me . However, last year sat, utterly charmed, in the wings of the theatre, watching David and Michael work their spell on the audience. The audience roared for more when they finished. I hated having to follow them.” -*Garnet Rogers*

”Uplifting...joyful..the missing link between the traditional and the contemporary.” – *Anne Saunders, programmer for the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival*

“ the highest quality of songs ...wonderful harmonies...the unique ability to break down the barrier between the audience and performer and create a warmth and intimacy...no matter what the setting they have the uncanny ability to make the listener think he or she is sitting in their living room with some friends...blends the feeling of inclusiveness and family that the Weavers has with contemporary feelings and sounds. “ - *Spike Barkin , Lincoln Center*

“... a quality that transcends ... it reminds us of why we do this ... pulls people together.. .in tune with the audience. .outlast the trends.” – *Margie Rosenkranz, programmer for the Great Hudson River Revival and the Eighth Step (Albany , NY)*

“Mustard’s Retreat represents everything that is best about folk music. Their music is community music. It comes from our common roots and traditions, pays tribute to those roots and traditions and expands on them. It is music that speaks to peoples hearts and lives and binds them together as an audience.

To watch a Mustard’s Retreat show is not to see a formal ”performance” but something more real and precious: a sharing of songs and experience- Michael and David unfold their songs, whether traditional or contemporary or their own extraordinary compositions and one sees the audience being invited into their world and drawing closer together. One watches couples react to the songs-the shared laugh, the sidelong glance, and smile of recognition- “ this song is about us!:- the squeeze of the hand or shoulder.

It is music for real people about real things- life, love, sex and death- the big stuff- and the songs have entered the lexicon of “ anonymous” folk songs and are being passed from hand to hand- which is the ultimate tribute to a songwriter.

In an every widening “ market” where everyone seems to be “ the next big thing” and we are overwhelmed by and endless string of sensitive sullen poseurs who keep one eye on the bottom line and the other on the nearest mirror, David and Michael stand out as the real thing: two grown men singing grown up songs for all the right reasons ; writing to make sense of their lives, helping us to make sense of ours, sharing much, talking little, trying to find the most graceful path and being able to laugh at the inevitable stumbles and head bumps along the way- here’s to another 25 years.” – Garnet Rogers

“Mustard’s Retreat is nothing short of inspirational.” - *Sarah Zettel, award-winning author of Dust Girl, Bitter Angels and A Taste of the Nightlife.*

“Mustard’s Retreat puts the fun in folk! Whether a fresh take on an old classic or one of their own new classics, like Simple Faith, the songs of David Tamulevich and Michael Hough were spun with an infectious joy that was impossible to resist! Before you knew it,

everyone was tapping a toe or lifting a voice to join in the fine musicianship that David and Michael were sharing from the stage.” – *Catherine Kasmer, Lake County Folk Club, IL*

Album Specific:

THE WIND AND THE CRICKETS

” ... it’s just such a superior piece of work ... and the writing, too, is wonderful” - *Tom Paxton*

“ Achieves landmark status ... insightful and intricate...exquisite harmonies.” - *Singout!*

HOME BY THE MORNING

“...an exceptional album. Tender, intelligent, moving, fresh and eclectic.” – *Ann Arbor News*

”...by far one of the best new albums I’ve heard lately. Highly recommenced.” - *Canadian River Music*

“ Superb throughout.” – *WMNF, Tampa, FL*

“one of the finest LP’s of last year.” – *WCVT, Towson, MD* - “I am simply enchanted with the most recent selections sent to us by Eagle Records (most especially Mustard’s Retreat) and the feedback from listeners has been wonderful too.”

MIDWINTER’S NIGHT

“ If there were a specific formula for creating a successful album, this one would have to be a textbook example!” - *SingOut! Magazine*

Nominated for Best Folk Album of the Year (1987) by National Association of Independent Record Producers

“..there’s class aplenty. The effects quite captivating, certainly mature music which refuses to be pinned own or pigeon-holed.” - *Folk Roots*

“Excellent ...amazed at their poetry and storytelling ability ... has more of the magic that made the last (album) so special, and that was a hard act to follow.” - *Canadian River Music*

5 MILES OR 50,000 YEARS

“ Live and at their quirkiest ... an eclectic collection of slice-of-life songs, twisted tunes, ballads and a children’ story ... the full spectrum of what Mustard’s Retreat has to offer.” - *Kevin McCarthy, Kevin’s On Live Reviews*

MR7

” What a pleasure..rings with exquisite lyric and melody..brilliantly crafted songs...” – *Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange*

” I have heard the song. Simple Faith, and think its wonderful.....It’s a fine album, my friend. Congratulations.” - *Peter Yarrow, Peter, Paul & Mary*

1st Album Plus

” ..a splendid album ... terrific...if I had listened to it when it first came out, you would have been on the First Roots of American Music Festival” - *Spike Barkin, Lincoln Center*

**LETTERS FROM PRESENTERS –
The Mustard's Retreat Family/Children's show**

"Today's kids show was pure magic. I can't wait to work with you again. In twenty-plus years of concert and festival producing I can't remember a more enthusiastic, focused audience of kids. You captured the kids' attention right from the beginning and held it for 45 minutes. You had them singing, clapping, and having a great time doing it. Even the stage crew was singing along with you.

..your high energy, genuine warmth, funny songs, beautiful voices, and good spirits still reverberate. In over 25 years presenting music festivals and concerts I have never seen kids react and interact at a children's program as they did with your specially designed show....You guys were amazing. I have presented Mustard's Retreat previously in an adult setting, and the songs and harmonies were wonderful. But your kids' show went even further. I don't think I have ever seen kids and parents as transfixed as they were at your "Just for Kids" show.

Thank you also for your "show must go on" attitude when midway through your program the skies opened up with the downpour and you guys literally went acoustic off stage under the protective overhang in the plaza and the hundreds of kids went with you, staying to hear the rest of your set." **-Lincoln Center, New York City**

"You and Michael have such a nice way with children your songs and stories and interesting and fun and you were able to capture the children's attention and imagination ... Over the past 15 years we have presented over 40 children's programs and Mustard's Retreat was the best musical performance we have had." **- Festival on the Green, Middlebury, VT**

"Songs, rhymes and stories! Fun and frivolity! Exactly what you'd expect from Mustard's Retreat; exactly what you'd want for a children's concert."
-Ann Arbor Summer Festival

"During its ten seasons, the Festival has presented some of the nation's finest children's performers. Here in Ann Arbor, Mustard's Retreat is unsurpassed in their appeal, both to kids and adults. The duo is witty and fun-loving, and in addition to outstanding voices, they possess the singular ability to entice everyone into joining in on imaginative original works and well-know classics. Very few artists have their talent for creating such a warm rapport with their audience." **- The Ark, Ann Arbor, MI**

"You gave an outstanding performance that was liked by both our young audience and their families. Since that evening, many people have told me how much they enjoyed themselves. You consistently rise to the high expectations of quality. It shows in the songs you write, your enjoyment of performing, and in the high level of audience involvement you maintain." **- Holly Area Schools**

"What an outstanding afternoon..!!!! I've heard nothing but positive comments... Needless to say you were a hit! **- Leslie Public Schools**