

Paul Winter - Milestones

Beginnings

- 1939:** Paul Winter born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, into a musical family; grandfather Ferdinand Winter was bandmaster in Civil War, founded Winter Music Store in Altoona in 1880s, which continued under Paul's uncle and father until 1946
- 1944:** begins drum lessons with Freddie Tortell
- 1945:** auditions for Baker School Orchestra in first grade; drum career cut short by conductor who complains that, "He plays where he shouldn't" -- starts piano lessons with Alma Leighty
- 1946:** begins study of clarinet with teacher John Monti
- 1947:** Paul and sister Diane begin performing as clarinet-piano duo, playing for local civic and church events in the greater Altoona area
- 1948:** gets first alto sax
- 1951:** forms first group, "The Little German Band," with clarinet, cornet, trombone and tuba, performing throughout the Greater Altoona Area, playing old German "oom-pah" music, telling jokes between songs
- 1952:** as 7th grader is featured as clarinet soloist in Altoona High School Band spring concert, playing "Dizzy Fingers"
- 1953:** first dance band, "The Silver Liners" (named after theme song "Look for the Silver Lining") debuts in assembly at Roosevelt Junior High School
- 1955:** "The Silver Liners" gets regular gig playing Saturday nights for "Co-ed Party" in gym at Altoona YMCA
- 1956:** featured piano soloist, playing "Rhapsody in Blue," in annual concert of Altoona High School Band
- 1957:** first composition, "Soliloquy in Jazz," for solo sax and band, performed with Altoona High School Band in spring concert
-- summer tour of mid-western state fairs, playing in pit orchestra with members of Ringling Brothers Circus Band
-- enters Northwestern University, forms small dance band
- 1958:** dance combo plays throughout Chicago area
- 1959:** jazz-oriented octet plays 6 nights per week in officers' clubs at Great Lakes Naval Base north of Chicago

1960s

- 1960:** summer tour playing tenor sax with Ralph Flanagan Orchestra; autumn one-niters in mid-west with Les Elgart Band
- 1961:** Paul Winter Sextet wins first prize in Intercollegiate Jazz Festival; judges are Dizzy Gillespie and legendary producer John Hammond, who signs Sextet to Columbia Records
- 1962:** Sextet makes six-month tour of 23 countries of Latin America for State Department --success of the tour brings invitation from Jackie Kennedy to play at White House; Sextet's concert in the East Room November 19 is first ever by a jazz group in the White House
--first Columbia album, JAZZ MEETS THE BOSSA NOVA becomes minor hit
- 1963:** Paul subs for saxophonist Paul Desmond with Dave Brubeck Quartet in Virginia Beach concert
--Columbia releases JAZZ PREMIERE: WASHINGTON and NEW JAZZ ON CAMPUS
- 1964:** Sextet co-billed with Peter, Paul and Mary in campaign concerts for Lyndon Johnson
- 1965/66:** returns to Brazil, living in Rio de Janeiro for 11 months
--records SOUND OF IPANEMA with Carlos Lyra, and RIO with Luiz Bonfá, Roberto Menescal, and the Tamba Trio
- 1967:** Paul Winter Consort founded; makes first recording, accompanying "The House Song," on Peter, Paul and Mary's ALBUM 1700
- 1968:** THE WINTER CONSORT, produced by Paul Stookey, released by A&M Records; Paul hears recordings of Humpback Whales
--Consort tours Israel as part of predominantly classical Israel Festival
- 1969:** Consort plays "rock" venue for first time, on bill with Spirit and Savoy Brown at Fillmore in San Francisco

1970s

- 1970:** ROAD album recorded live at Royce Hall, UCLA and the Eastman School of Music, produced by Phil Ramone
- 1971:** Consort opens for Procol Harum at Fillmore East in New York
--astronauts of Apollo XV take Consort's ROAD album to the moon, naming two newly-discovered craters after the album's songs "Icarus" and "Ghost Beads"
- 1972:** ICARUS album released by Epic, described by its producer, Beatles' mentor George Martin, as "the finest album I ever made"
- 1973:** Paul plays to whales for first time, with Greenpeace Expedition in North Pacific
--newcomer Bruce Springsteen opens for Consort at "My Father's Place" on Long Island
- 1974:** Paul produces "The Charles Ives Show" at the Ives' home in Redding, Connecticut, in celebration of the composer's 100th birthday
--Consort co-billed with new Miles Davis electric band at Village East, New York
- 1976:** Living Music Foundation formed, committed "to exploring and implementing ways in which music can be used to enrich the lives of human beings, and awaken a spirit of involvement in the preservation of wildlife and the natural environments of the Earth"
- 1977:** Consort plays in Washington as part of inauguration celebration for Jimmy Carter
--Paul leads music-making whale-watching expedition in Baja California
- 1978:** COMMON GROUND album released, featuring the voices of Whale, Wolf and Eagle
--Consort records live album, TURTLE ISLAND, with poet Gary Snyder

1980s

- 1980:** first river-rafting recording expedition in Grand Canyon
--debut concert in New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, celebrating Vernal Equinox
--Living Music Records founded with CALLINGS: A CELEBRATION OF THE SEA AND ITS VOICES
--first Winter Solstice Celebration in Cathedral
- 1981:** Consort premieres ecological/ecumenical mass, MISSA GAIA (Earth Mass) at Cathedral
- 1982:** Paul receives Joseph Wood Krutch Medal from Humane Society of the United States, in recognition of his encouraging through music "a deep sense of reverence and wonder for all animals"
- 1983:** SUN SINGER voted "jazz album of the year" by National Association of Independent Record Distributors
- 1984:** first of 13 trips to the Soviet Union
--CONCERT FOR THE EARTH recorded on World Environment Day in U.N. General Assembly
--Paul receives Award of Excellence from the United Nations Environment Programme along with Carl Sagan and David Attenborough
- 1985:** Consort and Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko tour U.S. together
--Paul featured in "Beyond War" satellite "space bridge" telecast, playing from San Francisco with chorus singing simultaneously from Moscow
- 1986:** CANYON album receives Paul's first Grammy nomination
- 1987:** WHALES ALIVE produced with biologist Roger Payne and narrator Leonard Nimoy
--Payne, Nimoy and Winter go to Moscow to present "Star Trek IV" film and the story of whale songs
- 1988:** Consort plays Global Forum of Spiritual Leaders and Parliamentarians in Oxford, England
--EARTHBEAT, with the Dmitri Pokrovsky Singers, released, the first album of original music created by Americans and Russians together; the two groups tour 25 U.S. cities

1990s

- 1990:** EARTH: VOICES OF A PLANET, celebrating 20th Anniversary of Earth Day, released by Living Music; Consort makes third tour of Japan, is invited to play at palace of Prince Takamado, cousin of the Emperor
--Dr. Roger Payne and Paul visit Japanese whaling cities, promoting the economics of "whale-watching" over "whale-killing"
--Paul organizes expedition, including author Peter Mathiessen, around Siberia's Lake Baikal
- 1991:** Chez Liley and Paul are married in the meadow of their farm, by the dean, in the company of elephant, falcon, owl, the Dean of the Cathedral, Pe de Boi Samba Band, 600 friends and Paul Stookey singing "The Wedding Song"
- 1992:** Paul Winter and Brazilian guitarist Oscar Castro-Neves play 13 concerts during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro
- 1993:** Paul is featured soloist in Milton Nascimento's "Missa dos Quilombos," in plaza of cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- 1994:** SPANISH ANGEL, recorded live during Consort's tour in Spain, wins Grammy; Consort plays for 7,000 people in Negev Desert, in spring celebration of "Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel"
--first Summer Solstice Celebration at Cathedral in New York draws almost 1,000 to 4:30 a.m. performance
- 1995:** second Grammy, for PRAYER FOR THE WILD THINGS
--Paul solos after address by Dalai Lama on Mt. Yoash in Israel, during international nature conference
--Consort makes debut performance in London at St. James Piccadilly
- 1996:** Consort plays Earth Day in Zagreb
--Paul gives commencement address at Juniata College, is awarded Honorary Doctorate
--receives Governor's Distinguished Arts Award from State of Pennsylvania
--on August 17, Paul and wife celebrate birth of daughter Keetu
- 1997:** the album PETE, by Pete Seeger, produced by Living Music, wins Grammy as Best Traditional Folk Album
--Paul's first solo saxophone album released -- CANYON LULLABY, recorded in the Grand Canyon
- 1998:** BRAZILIAN DAYS, by Oscar Castro-Neves and Paul, is released
--Paul and Yo Yo Ma are featured in premiere of "Lulie the Iceberg" at Carnegie Hall
- 1999:** Paul produces epic celebration, "Altoona America," with 250 performers, for his hometown's sesquicentennial
--solo performance following talks by cosmologist Brian Swimme and cultural historian Thomas Berry in awards ceremony at Harvard University
--premiere of "World Tree" event at Bucknell University
--20th annual Winter Solstice Celebration at Cathedral

2000s

- 2000:** CELTIC SOLSTICE wins Grammy
--"Spirit of the City" award, from New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine
--JOURNEY WITH THE SUN, with new Earth Band, is released
- 2001:** JOURNEY WITH THE SUN is nominated for a Grammy in the Best World Music Album category
--Consort's "Celebration of the Earth" with the Boston Pops featured on PBS' "Evening at the Pops"
--Paul plays in the launching of the Earth Charter, in the great barn at Shelburne Farms, Vermont
- 2002:** SOLSTICE GEMS, a 20-year retrospective CD of the Winter Solstice celebrations, is featured on National Public Radio
--Paul plays Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas
--Paul and Earth Band present "The World Tree" in the great barn at Shelburne Farms, Vermont
- 2003:** Paul plays solo concert in Glen Canyon, in side canyon named "Cathedral of the Desert"
--plays in Moscow and St. Petersburg with Dmitri Pokrovsky Ensemble, in celebration of the Ensembles' 30th anniversary
--plays in Lebanon, at Beitiddine Festival, with Iraqi singer Kazem el Sahar
--Consort plays Red Sea Jazz Festival in Israel
- 2004:** Special performance at International BirdLife Conference in Durban South Africa
--Paul receives the Francis Hutchinson Medal from the Garden Club of America for National Work in Conservation
--visit to Borneo for Orangutan Preservation Society
--25th annual Winter Solstice Celebration at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine
- 2005:** Paul and Chez celebrate the birth of their second daughter on February 3
--presents "Carnival for the Rainforest" with 20 Brazilian musicians for the "Light in Winter Festival" in Ithaca, NY
--performance in special event on edge of Great Rift Valley, in Laikipia wilderness, Kenya
--SILVER SOLSTICE, a 25-year anniversary album of the Winter Solstice Celebrations is released
- 2006:** SILVER SOLSTICE wins a Grammy for Best New Age Album
- 2007:** CRESTONE, A Celebration of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Great Sand Dunes, & San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado is released
- 2008:** CRESTONE wins a Grammy for Best New Age Album
- 2009:** 30th annual Winter Solstice Celebration at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine

2010s

- 2010:** MIHO: JOURNEY TO THE MOUNTAIN, A Celebration of I. M. Pei's Miho Museum in the Shigaraki Mountains of Japan is released
- 2011:** MIHO: JOURNEY TO THE MOUNTAIN, wins a Grammy for Best New Age Album
--EARTH MUSIC, a celebration of the cultures and creatures of the whole Earth is released
- 2012:** Concert Premiere of music for FLYWAYS: A CELEBRATION OF THE GREAT BIRD MIGRATION FROM AFRICA TO EURASIA, with the *Great Rift Valley Orchestra* (the Paul Winter Consort and musicians from 12 cultures of the migration route)
--COUNT ME IN: 1962-1963, the 50th anniversary anthology of The Paul Winter Sextet, is released