

# *Mason Williams*



*Full Biography  
with  
Awards,  
Discography,  
Books &  
Television Script Writing  
Releases of Classical Gas*

January 2008

# Biography

Mason Williams, Grammy Award-winning composer of the instrumental hit “*Classical Gas*” and Emmy Award-winning writer for “*The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*,” has been a dynamic force in music and television circle since the 1960s.

1938  
to  
1956  
Oklahoma  
City  
to L.A.

Born in Abilene, Texas in 1938, Williams spent his youth divided between living with his father in Oklahoma and his mother in Oregon. His interest in music began when, as a teenager, he became a fan of pop songs on the radio and sang along with them for his own enjoyment. In high school, he sang in the choir and formed his first group, an a capella quartet that did the 1950’s style pop and rock & roll music of the era. They called themselves **The Imperials** and **The Lamplighters**. The other group members were **Diana Allen**, **Irving Faught** and **Larry Warren**.

After Williams was graduated from Northwest Classen High School in Oklahoma City in 1956, he and his lifelong friend, artist **Edward Ruscha**, drove to Los Angeles. There, Williams attended Los Angeles City College as a math major, working toward a career as an insurance actuary. But he spent almost as much time attending musical events, especially jazz clubs and concerts, as he did studying. This cultural experience led him to drop math and seek a career in music.

Williams moved back to Oklahoma City in 1957 to pursue his interest in music by taking a crash course in piano for the summer. After a few weeks, his piano teacher, **Jewell Major Roach**, told him flatly that he would never become a great musician, but would probably be able to play very well someday. With the burden of “greatness” lifted, Williams decided to approach music from the standpoint of having fun. In the fall he enrolled as a music major at Oklahoma City University, where he studied piano, flute and double bass. To put himself through school, he worked in a record shop in the evenings.

1958  
to  
1960  
The  
Wayfarers  
Trio

Williams’ music career took a key turn in 1958, when he purchased his first guitar, an old Stella, for which he paid \$13. He played guitar and sang as a duo with OCU singer, **Scott Fulton**. At about the same time, he met **Bill Cheatwood**, a folk and ethnic music aficionado who introduced Williams to folk, flamenco, blues and other traditional music guitar styles. In 1959 the two teamed up with a schoolmate of Bill’s from Dallas, Texas, **Baxter Taylor**, to form a folk group called **The Nighlighters**. They eventually became **The Wayfarers Trio**. In addition to performing with that group, Williams became a regular at **The Gourd**, an Oklahoma City coffeehouse. There he worked with folksingers **Steve Brainard**, **Johnny Horton**, and bassist, **Joe Lawrence**.

1960  
to  
1962  
The  
Hootenaires  
US Navy  
San Diego

In 1960, he recorded his first and second album, “*Folk Music As Heard at The Gourd*.” A few months later, he recorded his second album, this one with **The Wayfarers Trio** called “*Songs of the Blue and the Grey*” (Mercury). He wrote his first song in 1960.

In the fall of 1960, in order to be closer to a booking agent in Dallas, Williams, Cheatwood and Taylor (**The Wayfarers Trio**) enrolled at North Texas State Teachers College in Denton, Texas.

After a college concert tour as the opening act for the **Kai Winding Jazz Septet**, **The Wayfarers** broke up. Williams dropped out of school (after one semester) and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he worked as a folksinger at a coffee house called, "The Gallery" He worked solo, or with friends who came through town. He also discovered that the cook at The Gallery, **Lorane Parker**, had a great voice and sang gospels. Williams began to work with her.

As part of a hootenanny performance at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Mason first met lifelong friend, fiddler **Byron Berline**.

The next year Williams learned to play the 5-string banjo and reformed **The Wayfarers Trio** in 1961 with two old friends from the Gourd, **Johnny Horton** and **Joe Lawrence**. This group went on to play folk clubs on the West Coast such as **The Troubadour**.

In the fall of 1961 Mason formed a duo with OCU classmate, singer and songwriter **Mike Settle**, and continued to write more songs of his own. That November, Williams was called up from the Naval Reserves to active duty with the U.S. Navy in San Diego, Calif., where he served on the USS Paul Revere as a Yeoman Third- Class.

During this period, he was a sailor by day and a folksinger by night, working the area clubs and coffee houses after hours and on weekends. He formed another folk group (playing the 5-string banjo, guitar & recorder), **The Hootenaires** which included **Marilyn Powell** (dulcimer), **John Powell** (guitar) and **Ed Douglas** (bass). They made one record, "**More Hootenanny**," for the Crown label. This group began performing at folk clubs in San Diego (**The Upper Cellar**, **Circe's Cup**, **The End**, **The Pour House**, **The Mantiki** and **The Blue Guitar**). Other musicians in the San Diego area Mason worked with were **Eric Horde**, **Barney Bartelle**, and **Russ Giguere**.

In 1962 he expanded his gig base to include folk clubs in L.A. (**The Ice House** and **The Troubadour**.) It was at this time that Williams made his first instrumental recording of guitar and banjo pieces ("**The 12-String Story**" *Volumes I and II*" and "**The Banjo Story**") for the Horizon label.

Williams left the Navy in the fall of 1963 and returned to Oklahoma City with the idea of picking up his college education. He produced his first album for folksinger **Paul Sykes**. There he hooked up with OCU bass player **Dave Phillips**. However, halfway through the first semester he got an offer to perform at **The Exodus**, a folk club in Denver, however he and Dave ended up having so much fun, they stayed a little too long in Denver and Williams was forced to drop out of school once more.

1964 opened with Williams moving to Los Angeles to room with artist **Ed Ruscha**. He played the L.A., southern California folk club circuit and pursued his writing and song writing interests. He signed a publishing agreement with **Dave Hubert** of Davon Music that provided \$200 a month retainer, if he would deliver two songs a month. Several of his songs were recorded by **The Kingston Trio**, **Glenn Yarbrough** and others. His comedic "**Them Poems**" were such a big hit for **The Kingston Trio** that it led to his opportunity to record them for the Vee-Jay label. That year he also played 5-string banjo on an anthology recording titled, "**5-String Banjo Greats**" (Liberty). Musicians Mason worked with during this time included, **Dick Rosmini**, **Tandyn Almer**, and **Jimmy Helms**.

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1963  
to  
1964  
LA folk clubs  
Davon  
Music

1964  
to  
1965  
Smothers  
Brothers on  
the road  
First Book

In December of 1964, Williams published his first book, *“Bicyclists Dismount,”* a collection of poems, lyrics, snippets and photos, and made a fortuitous connection. **Tom and Dick Smothers** heard about Williams’ comedy songs and recorded some of them on their *“Tour de Farce”* album (Mercury). Williams backed them up on the record, playing guitar, 12-string guitar, 5-string banjo and recorder.

**The Smothers Brothers** introduced Williams to their managers, **Ken Kragen** and **Ken Fritz**, who also became his managers, thus setting the stage for his lifelong association with the popular Smothers Brothers act. In 1965, he did a concert tour with them that featured **Ester and Abi O’Farim** as an opening act. Mason played backup for them as well as Tom and Dick. He received his Cordova (Oskar Teller) classical guitar as a gift from Tom Smothers that year. He also published and printed his second book, *“Next to the Windows.”*

1966  
TV Comedy  
Writing/  
Songwriting

In the fall of 1966, he was hired as a comedy writer on the television variety series, *“The Roger Miller Show”* (NBC) and published his third book, *“Tosadnessday.”* Williams’ Hollywood career spanned the next five years, during which time he wrote songs, comedy material, published books and articles; produced and recorded albums, for himself as well as for other artists; wrote music and comedy for television series and specials; performed in clubs, in concert and on TV; created and produced several art projects. He also wrote several songs with **Nancy Ames**, working with her music director, **Artie Azenzer**.

1967  
Emmy  
Nomination  
Books, Art  
and  
Warner Bros.  
Records

The year 1967 consisted of more television writing, primarily for *“The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour”* (CBS), for which he received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Writing Achievement in Comedy, Variety and Music. On the show he worked on music with **Denny Vaughn** and also with his comedy writing partner, **Allen Blye**. The show’s conductor was **Nelson Riddle** and **Jimmy Joyce** was the choral director. The other writers on the show were **Mike Marmer, Stan Burns, Al Gordon, and Hal Goodman**. He also published three more books, *“The Night I Lost My Baby,”* *“Royal Road Test”* (with **Ed Ruscha**) and *“Boneless Roast.”* He created and produced two art projects: *“Bus,”* a life-sized photograph of a Greyhound Bus (11 x 37 feet) which was featured in the Museum of Modern Art exhibition “Word and Image.” It is now part of the museum’s permanent collection. *“Sunflower,”* a skywriter drawing of a sunflower with the sun as the blossom. At the end of the year, he began to record his first album for **Warner Bros.**, *“The Mason Williams Phonograph Record,”* working with producer, **Mike Post** and arranger, **Al Capps**.

1968  
TV writing  
[Gas] be-  
comes  
a hit

Television writing in 1968 included specials for **Petula Clark** and **Andy Williams** and continued work with *“The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour,”* where he, among other things, engineered the *“Pat Paulsen for President”* campaign. *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* went directly into *“The Summer Brothers Smothers Show.”* A summer replacement show starring **Glen Campbell**. Mason and **Allen Blye** were the lead writers for (11) shows. Other writers on this show were: **Steve Martin, Rob Reiner, Carl Gottlieb, Bob Einstein, John Hartford, Leigh French, Murray Roman** and **Cecil Tuck**. *“Classical Gas”* from the *“Mason Williams Phonograph Record”* was issued as a single and became a number one hit that summer. His

work in both television and recording led him to produce one of the earliest “music videos,” when he combined “*Classical Gas*” with a film by **Dan MacLaughlin** titled “*3000 Years of Art in 3 Minutes*.” In the fall, he released his second album for **Warner Bros.**, “*The Mason Williams Ear Show*,” and performed his first live concert with orchestra.

In 1969, Williams began primarily to pursue his own pop career. “*Classical Gas*” won three 1968 Grammy Awards—Best Instrumental Composition, Best Instrumental Performance and Best Instrumental/Orchestra Arrangement (**Mike Post**, arranger). Williams also won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing Achievement in Comedy, Variety and Music for “*The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*.” In March, he published his first commercial book “*The Mason Williams Reading Matter*” (Doubleday) and released “*Music*,” his third album for Warner Bros. A single, “*Greensleeves*,” became a number one single on the easy listening charts. He formed a band to help promote his albums that included **Rick Cunha** (guitar), “**Putter**” **Smith** (bass), **Mike Cannon** (drums), **Larry Knectal** (piano), **Jimmy Gordon** (piano/clarinet), **Ben Lanzaroni** (piano) and **Bill Cunningham** (fiddle, dobro, harmonica) and began to play clubs, concerts and make appearances on such major television variety and talk shows as “*The Ed Sullivan Show*,” “*The Tonight Show*,” “*The Today Show*,” “*The Johnny Cash Show*,” “*The Dating Game*” and “*What’s My Line?*” plus shows hosted by **Merv Griffin**, **Mike Douglas**, **Steve Allen**, **David Frost**, **Donald O’Connor** and others.

The year 1970 consisted of a fourth Warner Bros. album release, “*Handmade*” a second book for Doubleday, “*Flavors*” a book about television for Liverite, “*The Mason Williams F.C.C. Rapport*.” Williams also made television appearances in London, and performed spring and fall college concert tours. **Jennifer Warnes** opened for Mason.

In 1971, he released his fifth and final album for Warner Bros., “*Sharepickers*,” and published “*The Mason Williams Guitar Pieces Book*.”

With his career in high gear, Williams continued to give numerous concerts throughout North America. But the pace began to take its toll and, feeling the negative effects of burning the candle at both ends, in 1972 Williams gave up his “place in line” in Hollywood and drove to his folks’ home in Oregon. He restored an old camper and for six months traveled around the West, fishing trout streams, swimming rivers, hiking trails, climbing mountains, and in general getting to be a kid again. Rejuvenated, he moved to Sante Fe, N.M., in the fall.

Williams decided to “bite the bullet” and try to learn to play with a flat pick. To do that, he bought a Martin D-28 and tried to master playing rhythm guitar. He formed **The Sante Fe Recital**: A band consisting of **Steve Keith** (5-string banjo), **Hugh Hazelrigg** (cello), **Doug Cottler** (bass), **George Bouhey** (drums). A regional country, folk and bluegrass band, they played clubs, bars and concerts throughout Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. The band recorded an album called “*Fresh Fish*” (Flying Fish Records)—an early prototype of the bluegrass-for-symphony project that would occupy Williams in the years to follow.

In 1973, Mason wrote television for the “*Tommy Banks Show*” in Edmonton, Alberta Canada. Here he met **John Sereda** who was to play bass with him the next for several years.

Williams premiered his “*Concert for Bluegrass Band and Orchestra*” at **Red Rocks Am-**

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1969  
Pop Career-  
Grammy  
and  
Emmy  
Awards  
Books

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1970  
Recording  
and Touring  
More Books

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1971  
to  
1973  
Hollywood  
to  
Bluegrass  
Split to Or-  
egon

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1973  
to  
1975  
Bluegrass  
Concerts

phitheater in Denver, Colo., in the summer of 1974. The next year, he returned to Hollywood to write for “**The Smothers Brothers Show**” (NBC), for which he received a Writers Guild of America nomination in the Outstanding Script, Television Variety category.

1976  
to  
1979  
Symphonic  
Bluegrass  
and  
TV Comedy  
Writing  
Awards

By 1976, Williams was back perfecting his “**Symphonic Bluegrass**” concert, which he performed with the Oklahoma City, Sacramento, Eugene and Denver symphonies. His band now included **Byron Berline** (fiddle), **John Hickman** (5-string banjo), and **Dan Crary** (guitar). In December, in Toronto, he appeared as the host of a CBC Super Special titled “*Guitar*,” which featured guitarists **Merle Travis**, **Randy Bachman**, **Liona Boyd**, **Ed Bickert**, **Bob Mann** and **Bobby Edwards & Fat City**.

In the summer of 1977, Williams put together a band to play concerts in Colorado. That year he also wrote television scripts for “*The Rolling Stone Magazine 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Special*” (CBS). The next three years consisted mostly of playing bluegrass festivals and symphony concerts.

1980  
to  
1981  
Music &  
Comedy - Sat-  
urday Night  
Live

In April 1980, Williams performed at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day ceremonies in Denver, which featured a celebration of the clean up of the South Platte River that runs through the downtown area. This event was a harbinger of his future concert about water and rivers, “*Of Time & Rivers Flowing*.”

The following year, Williams helped create a unique concert event in Eugene, Oregon—one that featured the Eugene Symphony, members of the National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics, guest gymnasts from around the country. **Tom Smothers** was the host. Williams’ musical collaborator was **Art Maddox**, with whom he has since worked on numerous projects. Williams finished the year again writing for television. He received a Writers Guild award in the Outstanding Script, Television Variety, category for a **Steve Martin** special, “*All Commercials*” (NBC). He then went to New York City to become head writer for NBC’s “*Saturday Night Live*,” a job he described as like “working for the head shop at Sears.” In 1981, after a ten-year hiatus, he began to actively write songs and music for the guitar.

1982  
to  
1987  
Of Time  
& Rivers  
Flowing  
& More  
Classical  
Gas

During the summer of 1982, the Vail (Colorado) Symposium invited Williams to perform at its “Water: Options for Tomorrow” conference. Coincidentally, he found out that an Oregon utility was intending to put several hydroelectric dams on his favorite trout stream, the North Fork of the Willamette River, near his home in Oakridge. At a public meeting, where the pros and cons of the issue were debated, he realized that the river itself was not able to speak in its own behalf. He decided to try to give the river a “voice” by presenting an entire concert of music inspired by “the river”. His motives were to draw attention to the local issues and, in a larger sense, to show that the river flows “not only through the land but through our hearts and minds as well.” He named the concert after a song by **Pete Seeger** titled, “*Of Time and Rivers Flowing*” and performed the show with **Mason Williams & Friends** band members, **Art Maddox** (piano), **Amy Windus** (cello), **Jerry Mills** (mandolin), **George Relles** (banjo), **John Averil** (mandolin), **Dennis Caffey** (drums), **Thom Bergeron** (woodwinds), **Hollis Taylor** (violin) with fellow river enthusiast, **Jim Williams** organizing and promoting the show.

After the premier of the concert at Vail, he continued to work on the concept. In 1983, Williams, in conjunction with the McKenzie Flyfishers, presented three sold out benefit concerts in Eugene. The money earned was used to successfully lobby the state legislature to make the North Folk of the Willamette River (one of Mason's favorite trout streams) a protected waterway. In 1984, he released an album on his own label **Skookum Records**, "*Of Time and Rivers Flowing*" which featured music from the concert program.

The next three years saw Williams performing bluegrass festivals, symphony concerts and "river" shows. In 1987, author/storyteller **Ken Kesey** joined the river show band. That fall, Williams released his "*Classical Gas*" album recorded with **Mannheim Steamroller** on the American Gramophone label. He ended the year performing with Kesey at the Grateful Dead's New Years Eve Celebration at the Oakland Coliseum.

In 1988, "*The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*," after having been kicked off the air in 1969 for being "too controversial," returned to CBS. Williams resumed his old roles as a writer (for which he received an Emmy nomination in the Outstanding Writing in a Variety of Music Program category) and performer ("Classical Gas"). The Smothers Brothers went on to do (14) more shows that year, which Williams also wrote. He also managed to perform several concerts and taped a PBS special with the Smothers Brothers and the Boston Pops. In addition, Williams' composition "Country Idyll," a single from the Mannheim Steamroller collaboration album, was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Country Music category for Best Instrumental Performance by a Soloist, Group or Orchestra.

Over the next few years Williams played more of his "*Of Time and Rivers Flowing*" and "*Bluegrassical Gas*" concerts. In 1990, he received the Governor's Award from the State of Oregon for his contribution to the arts.

In the spring of 1991, Williams began to write the first edition of "*Classical Gas: The Music of Mason Williams*" guitar book. In October, the **Mannheim Steamroller** album went gold. In July 1992, Vanguard Records put out an anthology of his earlier work (22 cuts out of 52 from his five Warner Bros. Albums) titled "*Music: 1968-71*" produced by Bill McEuen. He also signed a recording contract with the Real Music label to produce an acoustic instrumental Christmas album titled "*A Gift of Song*," which was released in the fall.

In 1992 Williams began to produce and perform a Christmas Holiday Pops Concert for guest performers, choirs and orchestra. He played with **The Eugene Symphony** for the '92, '93, '97, '98, '99 & 2000 seasons. He also played a total of twelve concerts with **The Oregon Symphony** for the 1994 & 1998 seasons. Mason's guitar book was published by CPP Belwin in 1993.

Williams continues to receive awards for his work and community efforts. In 1996 he received an Honorary Doctor of Music from Oklahoma City University. In 1998 BMI presented Mason with a special Citation of Achievement in recognition of the great national and international popularity of Classical Gas. It has logged over three million broadcast performances to become BMI's number one all time instrumental composition for air play, replacing the previous #1 tune, *The Theme From Moulin Rouge*, by Michele LeGrande, released in 1953.

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1988  
to  
1989  
**Smothers  
Brothers  
20 Year Re-  
nion  
Manheim  
Steamroller**

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1989  
to  
1992  
**Rivers, Blue-  
grass  
Best of CD  
&  
Guitar Book**

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**The 1990's  
A Gift  
of Song -  
Holiday  
Concerts  
Honors &  
Awards**

In 1999, **“Bus”** was included in an exhibition about artists of the 50’s and 60’s called **“Radical Past”** at The Norton-Simon Museum of Modern Art in Pasadena. The University of Oregon presented him with the Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

2000  
to  
2005  
Honors,  
Awards  
and  
More Music

In 2000, The University of Wisconsin’s Parallel Press published his **“Them Poems”** in chapbook form as part of a poetry series. At his 2000 Holiday Pops Concert with the Eugene Symphony, by proclamation from the Governor, Mason was designated **“Oregon Musician Laureate”** for the state.

The character of Williams’ music, both universal and unique, has found a place in film , television and in advertising. **“Classical Gas”** was featured in Rob Reiner’s film, **The Story of Us**, as well as **Cheaper By the Dozen**, and **The Dish.** **“Classical Gas”** was also featured on episodes of **The Simpsons**, **Frasier** and most recently **The Sopranos.** **“Tradewinds,”** another of his compositions, was included in the David Mirkin film, **“Heartbreakers.”**

In July of 2003 Williams made a special appearance at the annual Chet Atkins Appreciation Society event in Nashville and was presented with a special award in honoring the influence of **Classical Gas** on the world of fingerstyle guitar.

By the end of 2003, a new, expanded second edition of Williams’ popular guitar book (with companion CD) **“Classical Gas: The Music of Mason Williams”** was released by Warner Bros. Publications. Much more than music book, it’s an engaging story of Mason’s song writing and performance history. To wrap up the year, Williams released a new CD of six new instrumental recordings, **“Mason Williams EP 2003 Music for the Epicurean Harkener”** on his Skookum Records label. The album received a Grammy Nomination for Best Pop Instrumental album.

Williams with has been working with several up and coming artists on recording projects and performances. In 2005 he teamed up with a young guitarist from the UK and released **“Electrical Gas,”** an album featuring arrangements of his tunes for electric guitar.

2007  
to  
2008  
Art,  
Legacy  
and  
40 Years of  
Classical Gas

2007 saw many milestones and benchmarks. Williams was inducted into the **Oregon Music Hall of Fame** and also featured on a CD from his other home state titled “Oklahoma Rising” which celebrates the Oklahoma State Centennial. Mason’s famous **“BUS”** was on display once again, this time at the Museum of Contemporary Art in LA. **Classical Gas** reached over 6 million air plays and has firmly established itself as the most famous instrumental guitar piece ever written.

Approaching the 40th Anniversary of **Classical Gas** gave Williams an opportunity to reflect on his career and collect many of his art, writing and music projects into a fantastic retrospective presentation that is being exhibited all over the country.

Most recently, Williams has been going back to his broad palette of writing, composing and performing in a variety of venues, exploring his own unique style of mixing contemporary art and humor with a new concept, **“Üpclose Glimpse”** an abstract artist. He is currently working on events around the celebration of the **40th Anniversary of Classical Gas** including performances, special appearances and the release of a new line **Mason Williams Signature Guitars** featuring the **Classical Gas Commemorative Edition** by Foggy Mountain Guitars.

- Original 1992 bio edited by Fred Crafts
- 2008 version edited by Kathi Graue



## Mason Williams Awards & Nominations

YEAR	TITLE OR DESCRIPTION	FOR
1967	Emmy Nomination-"Outstanding Writing Achievement in Comedy, Variety, & Music"	The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour (CBS)
1968	Grammy Award - "Best Instrumental Theme"	"Classical Gas" (Warner Brothers)
1968	Grammy Award - "Best Instrumental Performance"	"Classical Gas" (Warner Brothers)
1968	Grammy Award - "Best Instrumental Arrangement" (by Mike Post)	"Classical Gas" (Warner Brothers)
1969	Emmy Award "Outstanding Writing Achievement in Comedy, Variety, & Music"	The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour (CBS)
1969	Grammy Nomination "Best Instrumental Arrangement" (by Al Capps)	"Baroque-A-Nova" (Warner Brothers)
1970	Grammy Nomination - "Best Album Cover Design"	"Handmade" LP (Warner Brothers)
1971	Grammy Nomination - "Best Album Cover Design"	"Sharepickers" LP (Warner Brothers)
1975	Writers Guild Nomination - "Outstanding Script, Television Variety"	The Smothers Brothers Show (NBC)
1985	Oregon Trout "Wild Trout" Award	"Of Time & Rivers Flowing" Project
1981	Writers Guild Award - "Outstanding Script, Television Variety"	"All Commercials"- Steve Martin Special (NBC)
1988	Emmy Award Nomination-"Outstanding Writing in a Variety or Music Program"	The Smothers Brothers 20th Anniversary Reunion Special (CBS)
1988	Grammy Nomination - "Best Instrumental Performance" (Country Music)	"Country Idyll" (American Gramophone)
1990	14th Annual Oregon Governor's Art Award	Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts
1991	Gold Record "Classical Gas" (American Gramophone)	"Classical Gas" (AG 800) LP/Cassette/CD
1996	Honorary Doctor of Music, Oklahoma City University	Career Recognition
1999	Distinguished Service Award, University of Oregon	Contribution to Oregon's Arts
2000	Oregon Musician Laureate, State of Oregon	Appointed by Governor John Kitzhaber
2004	Grammy Nomination - "Best Pop Instrumental Album"	"Mason Williams EP 2003: Music for the Epicurean Harkener"
2007	Oregon Music Hall of Fame	Inductee - Career Recognition

## Books by Mason Williams

YEAR	TYPE	BOOK TITLE	PUBLISHING FORMAT	PRINT	PUBLISHER
1964	ART LIT	Bicyclists Dismount	LIMITED EDITIONS (1, 2 & 3)	1,800	Davon Music Corp
1965	ART LIT	Next to the Windows	LIMITED EDITION	100	Mason Williams
1966	ART LIT	Tosadnessday (Illustrations by Bob Willis)	LIMITED EDITION	500	Mason Williams
1967	ART LIT	The Night I Lost My Baby (Photos by Pat Blackwell)	LIMITED EDITION	500	Mason Williams
1967	ART BOOK	Royal Road Test (w / Ed Ruscha & Pat Blackwell)	LIMITED EDITION	5,500	Williams/Heavy Industry Pub.
1967	ART LIT	Boneless Roast	LIMITED EDITION	2,000	Mason Williams
1967	ART FOLD	Bus	LIMITED EDITION	200	Mason Williams
1968	CAMPAIGN	Pat Paulsen for President (w / Jinx Kragen)	LIMITED EDITION	60,000	Mason Williams
1968	MUSIC	The Mason Williams Phonograph Song Album	COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION	N/A	Irving Music (Sheet Music Inst.)
1968	MUSIC	Songs from the Smothers Brothers Show	COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION	1,500	Irving/ Feist/Robbins/Miller
1969	ART LIT	The Mason Williams Reading Matter	COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION	167,295	Doubleday
1969	BOOK	The Mason Williams F.C.C. Rapport	LIMITED (XEROX) EDITION	25	Mason Williams (Limited Edition)
1969	MUSIC	Music Book	COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION	N/A	Hansen
1969	ART BOOK	Road Sign Business	LIMITED EDITION	500	Mason Williams
1969	BOOK	The Mason Williams F.C.C. Rapport	LIMITED EDITION	500	Mason Williams (Limited Edition)
1969	ART LIT	Crackers (by Ed Ruscha / story by Mason Williams)	LIMITED EDITION	5,000	Heavy Industry Publications
1970	BOOK	The Mason Williams F.C.C. Rapport	LIMITED EDITION	19,900	Liverite
1970	ART LIT	Flavors	COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION	30,222	Doubleday
1970	SCRIPT	Cancer Society Script	LIMITED EDITION	480	Mason Williams
1971	MUSIC	The Mason Williams Guitar Pieces Book (tablature by Bill Cheatwood)	LIMITED EDITION	1,500	MW Publishing Co. (Double Eagle)
1993	MUSIC	"Classical Gas - The Music of Mason Williams"	COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION	N/A	CPP Belwin / Warner Bros. Pub.
2000	CHAPBOOK	"Them Poems"	COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION	1,000	Parallel Press, U. of Wisconsin
2003	MUSIC	"Classical Gas: The Music of Mason Williams"	2nd Edition COMMERCIAL PUB.	N/A	Warner Bros. Publications

## Mason Williams Discography

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LABEL</u>
7/14/60	Little Billy Blue Shoes/Run, Come See (45 RPM)	Mercury (71676x45)
8/60	Folk Music as Heard at the Gourd (LP)	Gourd Label Records
4/0/61	Songs of the Blue and Grey (LP)	Mercury (MG 20634)
4/30/62	Away All Boats (EP)	Limited Edition
1963	The Big Hootenanny (LP) (Anthology)	In Records 1001
3/12/63	I Am An American (LP)	Standard School Broadcast (RCA)
8/26/63	More Hootenanny (LP)	Crown Records (CLP 5351)
1963	The Twelve-String Story, Vol. I (LP) (Anthology)	Horizon (WP 1626)
1963	The Twelve-String Story, Vol. II (LP) (Anthology)	Horizon (WP 1635)
10/1/63	The Banjo Story (LP) (Anthology)	Horizon (WP 1623)
10/29/63	Folk Baroque (LP)	Davon (#2078)
4/2/64	5-String Banjo Greats (LP) (Anthology)	Liberty (LRP 3357)
1964	Them Poems (LP)	Vee-Jay (VJLP 1103)
12/25/64	Introducing Jayne Heather (LP)	Limited Edition
4/1/65	Tour de Farce (The Smothers Brothers)	Mercury (MG 20948)
4/22/66	Love Are Wine/The Exciting Accident (45 rpm)	Mercury (#72603)
	Classical Gas/Baroque-a-Nova (45 rpm)	Warner Brothers
2/1/68	The Mason Williams Phonograph Record (LP)	Warner Brothers (WS 1729)
8/10/68	Classical Gas/Long Time Blues (45 rpm)	Warner Brothers
11/1/68	The Mason Williams Ear Show (LP)	Warner Brothers (WS 1766)
	Saturday Night at the World/One Minute Commercial (45 RPM)	
3/14/69	Music (LP)	Warner Brothers (WS 1788)
3/1/69	Greensleeves/\$13 Stella (45 RPM)	Warner Brothers
1969	Jennnifer (Jennifer Warnes)	Parrot (PAS 71034)
3/69	The Mason Williams Listening Matter (LP) (Them Poems)	Everest (3265)
3/10/70	Handmade (LP)	Warner Brothers (WS 1838)
	Jose's Piece (45 rpm)	Warner Brothers (WS 1941)
10/71	Sharepickers (LP)	Warner Brothers
	Train Ride in G/Here I Am Again (45 rpm)	Warner Brothers
11/78	Fresh Fish (LP)	Flying Fish & Stoney Plain (SP5.1009)
12/1/84	Of Time and Rivers Flowing (LP/Cassette)	Skookum (SK-1001)
10/22/87	"Classical Gas" (LP/CD/Cassette)	American Gramophone (AG 800)
7/13/92	"Music 1968-1971" CD/Cassette	Vanguard Records (VCD 137/38)
9/18/92	"Gift Of Song" CD/Cassette	Real Music (RM-2007)
	Rock Instrumental Classics Vol. 2: The Sixties ("Gas")	Rhino R2 71602
9/95	"Fiddle & A Song" (Byron Berline)	Sugar Hill (SHCD-3838)
12/20/95	1995 Sony Disc Manufacturing Holiday Choir	SDM
	1968 Billboard Top Pop Hits ("Gas")	Rhino R2 71938
12/20/95	1995 Sony Disc Manufacturing Holiday Choir	Sony (500 Disc Pressing)
4/9/96	Cascadia (1996 Oregon Governor's Arts Awards)	Sony (500 Disc Pressing)
12/25/03	Mason Williams EP 2003: Music for the Epicurean Harkener CD	Skookum Records (SKCD1006)
9/27/05	Electrical Gas - Collaboration with Zoe McCulloch	Skookum Records (SKCD1008)
2006	Oklahoma Rising CD	OK Centennial - Universal Music

## Mason Williams Television Script Writing

START	SHOW	NETWORK	FORMAT	#	POSITION	PRODUCERS
8/1/66	The Roger Miller Show		Variety	16	Staff Writer	Gary Smith, Dwight Hemion
2/1/67	The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour (Performed Toadsuckers on)	CBS	Variety	20	Staff Writer	Saul Ilson, Ernest Chambers
9/1/67	The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour	CBS	Variety	26	Staff Writer	Saul Ilson, Ernest Chambers
4/1/68	Petula	NBC	Special	1	Head Writer	Steve Binder, Yvonne Littlewood
4/28/68	The H. Andrew Williams Kaleidoscope Co	NBC	Special	1	Head Writer	Andy Williams, Bob Henry
6/1/68	The Summer Brothers Smother Show (Glen Campbell, host)	CBS	Variety	11	Head Writer	Tom Smothers, George Sunga
9/1/68	The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour	CBS	Variety	7	Head Writer	George Sunga, Allan Blye
12/19/68	The Andy Williams Christmas Special	NBC	Special	1	Head Writer	Andy Williams
3/5/69	The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour	CBS	Variety	4	Head Writer	Roger Gimbel
12/31/69	The Artist on Leaving the 60's	NET	Documentary		1Writer/Performer	Channel 28, Los Angeles
9/1/70	Both Sides Now (Syn/Storer Brdcstng)		Documentary		1Writer/Host	
8/1/74	The Tommy Banks Show	ITV (CAN)	Var./Talk	29	Head Writer	Windell Wilks, Tommy Banks
11/1/74	The Smothers Brothers Show	NBC	Variety	9	Staff Writer	Joe Hamilton, Kenny Solms, Gail Parent
10/1/76	Jim Stafford Show		Variety	Pilot	Staff Writer	Burt Sugarman
7/1/77	Rolling Stone 10th Anniv. Special	CBS	Special	1	Staff Writer	Steve Binder
8/1/79	Dinah and Friends	Syn.	Var./Talk	22	Staff Writer	Fred Tattashore
6/1/80	All Commercials - Steve Martin	NBC	Special	1	Staff Writer	Joseph Cates, 40 Share Productions
9/1/80	The Smothers Brothers Spec. I & II	NBC	Variety	2	Head Writer	Tom Smothers, Dick Smothers
11/1/80	Saturday Night Live	NBC	Vareity	6	Head Writer	Jean Doumainian
5/1/82	"Gimme Five" (Julie Kavner)		Anth./Pilot		Head Writer	Paramount TV
7/1/85	The NBC All-Star Hour (Fall Preview)	NBC	Special	1	Staff Writer	Peter Calabrese, Don Mischer
11/1/87	The Smothers Brothers 20th Reunion Show	NBC	Special	1	Staff Writer	Tom Smothers, Ken Kragen
3/1/88	The Smothers Brothers	NBC	Variety	6	Staff Writer	Tom Smothers, Ken Kragen
7/1/88	The Smothers Brothers	NBC	Variety	6	Staff Writer	Tom Smothers, Ken Kragen

## Mason Williams Art Projects/Concepts/Events

DATE	TITLE	LOCATION	CITY	STATE
7/11/67	"Sunflower" - skywriter art concept	Desert NW of Apple Valley	Apple Valley	CA
1/23/68	"Word and Image" ("Bus")	Museum of Modern Art	New York	NY
9/7/67		Pasadena Museum of Art	Pasadena	CA
10/13/91	"California Artists Books" ("Bus")	The Armory center for the Arts	Pasadena	CA
2/6/99	"Radical Past 1960 - 1974" ("Bus")	Norton Simon Museum of Art	Pasadena	CA
11/10/00	"White on White" (Reza play, "Art")	Private Collections Only	Eugene	OR
5/4/2002	"In School" & "Wrong Way" fish paintings	Capitol Hill School	Portland	OR
Aug-07	Retrospective / Upclose Paintings	Gallery at the Merc	Temecula	CA
9/9/2007	BUS / Artists Gifts / Michael Asher	MOCA	LA	CA