

Making Music in Cuba and Around the World

Meet Will Hobbs, a globe-trotting retiree and professional musician who traded in circuits for cadenzas.

Will Hobbs retired in in 2011 from the Oregon site. For his last several years at Intel, he was a validation architect in the Ultra Mobility Group, defining the validation for south bridges and leading the debug activities. That was the culmination of a long career at Intel that started as a hardware design engineer. From there, Will moved to managing a debug tools team, managing the XTG (X86 Tools Group) modeling group, creating and leading the PMD analog validation team, and managing chipset and CPU validation groups. He also led an Intel-wide validation improvement team. When looking back, Will misses interacting with all of the intelligent people who worked at Intel.

Travel and music have always been big parts of Will's life, but he has really taken both to the next level since retiring. In terms of travel, Will has been to 49 countries, including nine since retiring. In fact, Will is currently on a six-week trip to



Church of the Holy Trinity in Trinidad on the south coast of Cuba. You can't help but notice the '52 Chevy, typical of vintage cars seen throughout Cuba.



Turkey, Greece and Italy. Last year he spent two weeks in Cuba and wrote an article on Cuba for the Travel Section of the Oregonian that appeared in June 2012. He has crossed the US twice, once by car and once on Amtrak and hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Footbridge across the Colorado River taken from the Kaibab Trail on the North Rim. The trail on the left of the bridge leads to Phantom Ranch and on to the North Rim.

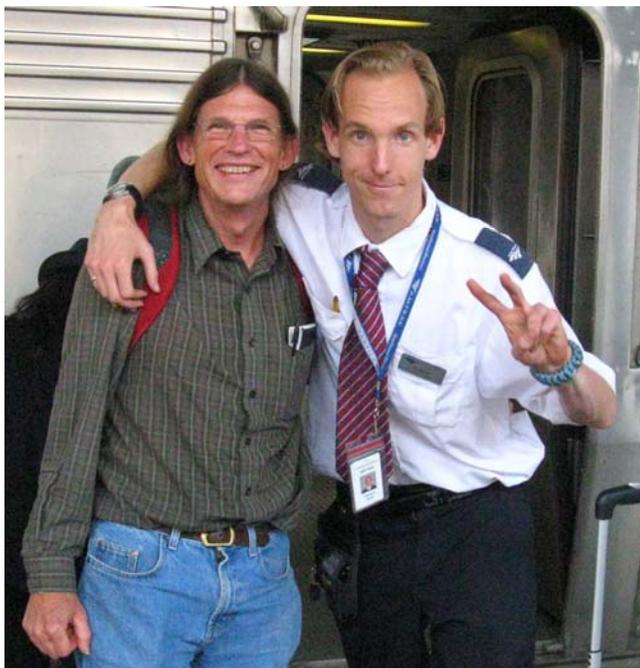


Oregon Music Hall of Fame trophy presented to Wheatfield

As for music, Will has been a songwriter since age 4. He has won a number of songwriting contests, including placing second in the 2012 Woody Guthrie Songwriting Competition. In a "former life," he performed full time in a band called Wheatfield, which was recently inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame. He just completed his fourth CD, this time with his acoustic Americana trio Woodlander, which will be released on May 18, 2013.



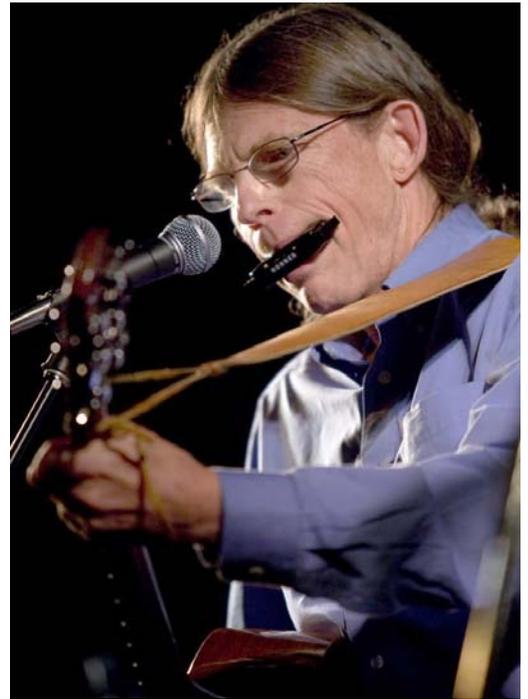
Will (center) and his acoustic Americana trio, Woodlander



Will and the Amtrak conductor, who was a very good poet and shared philosophical and political discussions on the two day ride between Los Angeles and New Orleans.

Combining travel and music is natural for Will. He has performed as a soloist singer/songwriter in countries across the globe, bridging different cultures with the common language of music. He performed three times while he was in Cuba, sang in Guatemala and wrote a song about taking Amtrak across Texas. While in Turkey, Will visited Ephesus, the best preserved Roman ruins in the Mediterranean. Encouraged by his wife, he entertained tourists by singing The Lion Sleeps Tonight on the stage of the ancient Grand Theatre, which seats about 25,000 people. Will said, "The sound of the applause in that marble amphitheater was

amazing!" Everything doesn't always go off without a hitch. Once, while in New Orleans, his wallet was stolen, which caused him to get very creative in getting back home. Will explained, "I pre-printed my boarding pass, but had no ID except for a photocopy of my driver's license that my motel fortunately took before the robbery. I was able to get some money from a credit union by talking them into doing a credit check on me and letting them quiz me on anything on it. The airline ticket agent would not check my bag, and I had to be interviewed by the head of security to get to the gate—the saving grace was that I had a copy of my solo CD with me, and it had my name and photograph. That, coupled with the fact I was traveling with my guitar, convinced Security I was who I said I was."



Will with his guitar and harmonica...no hands!

Lest you think Will doesn't have enough going on, he recently got married, flies single engine airplanes for pleasure, rides his Honda Shadow 600 when the weather is good, and dabbles in woodworking, astronomy, hiking and camping. He was even cast as an extra on Grimm in 2012. Will is also involved in politics: he ran against David Wu in the 2008 primary, scoring nearly 20,000 votes, while still at Intel. He currently serves on the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO), and is on the steering committee for the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. He has drafted a proposed Oregon constitutional amendment, which was approved by the Washington County Democrats and is being promoted within the Oregon legislature.

Will's advice for new retirees? "Relax. Remember what you used to daydream about, and go for it."

Want to learn more about this fascinating guy with the diverse interests? Will may be contacted at willhobbs01@hotmail.com.