

# He Gave a Damn

Contributed by Phil Glatz  
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I was sorry to hear of the recent passing of Stu Scharf, a remarkable musician and good friend. You can see his web site (while it is still up) at [www.stuie.net](http://www.stuie.net)

He was well known as a producer, composer, arranger, and New York studio musician. He had a long time partnership with the great Bob Dorough, where they produced a series of classic recordings for Spanky and Our Gang. He wrote some of their best songs, including Give A Damn, which reflected his strong interest in civil and human rights (and the stupidity of the media; many radio stations objected to the word "Damn" and tried to censor it; thankfully to no avail).

He was an exquisite jazz and traditional guitarist, playing and arranging with the Chad Mitchell Trio, and on studio recordings for some of the brightest artists of the sixties through the nineties, including Nina Simpon, Laura Nyro, Herbert Laws, Al Kooper, Carly Simon, Burt Bacharach, Pearls Before Swine, Neil Diamond, Phoebe Snow, Ian and Sylvia, and Roberta Flack.

Mostly I'm going to miss the great emails he would send me, with observations on society, human nature, and the life of the artist.

I thought something should be said to commemorate the life of this great guy. Beneath his sometimes gruff exterior, he was a humanist, civil rights activist, and all-around mensch.

I'll miss you, Stue!