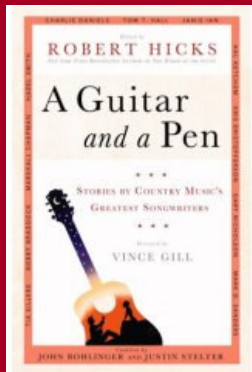




Photo: Herman Safavie

**“The ‘melody’ and
‘story’ keep
songwriting alive.
Thanks for A
GUITAR AND A
PEN.”**

Bruce Johnston, The Beach
Boys



SPEAKING TOPICS

- Songs Without Music: The Story-telling Gift of the Songwriter
- What is Important in a Story

LYRICIST

Robert Hicks has lived and worked in Nashville for almost thirty years. As a music publisher he has run his own company, launching the careers of some of Nashville's best-loved singer-songwriters and publishing hits like "Just Call Me Lonesome," "Kisses Don't Lie," "Lipstick Promises," and "Never Say Die." He has worked as an independent publisher and has also been in partnerships with both PolyGram Music and MCA/Universal Music.

“A GUITAR AND A PEN is a long-overdue celebration of the talent of not just these writers, but of all of country music’s storytellers.”

– Vince Gill

SONGWRITER: THE ULTIMATE SHORT STORY WRITER?

His latest book, A GUITAR AND A PEN, will be published in May 2008. A collection of short stories written by country music’s best songwriters, Hicks emphasizes why songwriters are the ultimate short, short story writers. They know how to use the minimum amount of language to provide maximum emotional impact, and spend their lifetimes turning stories into songs. In A GUITAR AND A PEN, beloved songwriters get to share creative, beautiful stories that run one-and-a-half to thirty pages of their lyricism.

For a read of a different sort, WIDOW OF THE SOUTH, a historical novel set in the American Civil War, is a book not to miss. A preservationist and avid collector, Robert Hicks can hold his own on a range of fascinating subjects!

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