

# We asked Dan...

## Where did you grow up?

I grew up mostly in a town called Binghamton, New York. Binghamton had a lot of abandoned train yards and closed factories and warehouses. One of the abandoned warehouses was my band's practice space until someone stole our gear. It was a great place to start a punk band but there weren't many people to see us play. I also lived for a while in a very small village in the country of Niger (nee-ZHER) in Africa. My father was an anthropologist and his work took the whole family there when I was five.

## How did you start playing music?

My whole family is musical. My mother is a classically trained pianist. My father was a folk singer and musician. My brother is a jazz and rock guitarist and a hand drummer. He makes his own instruments. My father used to sing union songs and other folks songs to us around the fire under the stars.

## What is your favorite holiday?

My favorite holiday is Passover. It starts with a huge feast with lots of eating, singing and ritual. It takes a long time and it gets loud! It's designed to let everyone contribute. It gives a family the opportunity to really enjoy its own culture. It's kind of hard to explain but that is part of the magic.



Campfire Songs



Passover Feast