

A personal note from songwriter Johnny Prill

“A Song for Grandma and Grandpa” grew out of a lifetime of love, family stories, and the wisdom I gained from my own grandparents. Growing up in a family of nine children, I always looked forward to their visits — not just for the cookies and candy, but for the laughter, the stories, and the feeling of being truly understood. They ran a small antique shop, and every visit felt like stepping into a treasure chest of memories and history.

As I got older, I realized how much their guidance shaped me. One of my favorite memories is teaching my 70-year-old grandfather to play the accordion. In the end, he taught me far more — especially that age should never limit what we try to learn or accomplish.

Those moments made the song incredibly natural to write. In fact, it came together in just fifteen minutes. The melody and words flowed from the gratitude I felt for my grandparents and for the many elders I've met while performing at local nursing homes for more than 40 years. I've always believed that the residents I play for are “our nation's grandparents,” and they continue to inspire me.

In 2004, the National Grandparents Day Council officially designated “A Song for Grandma and Grandpa” as the National Grandparents Day Song. Since then, it has been used in classrooms, school programs, church celebrations, and family gatherings across the country.

Today, my wife and I are proud grandparents ourselves — a role that brings everything full circle and continues to inspire my music and my mission to celebrate the bond between generations.