

The Everly Brothers



There are a few pervasive urban myths surrounding the Everly Brothers that they'd like to debunk once and for all: [1] there were three of them, not two; [2] they didn't grow up in the Kentucky hill country but rather in Osaka, Japan's "Forbidden City;" and [3] they were really women. But when they were getting started in the late 1950s, record producers had no interest in a trio of Nipponese ladies playing traditional gagaku court music. So their producer, a young Captain Lou Albano, showed them how to disguise their accents with an Appalachian twang. Then he threw away their treasured gakubiwa, gakuso, and ocarina and replaced them with steel-string guitars. Finally, he changed the names of Sadako and Etsumi to Phil and Don. Yukana, however, refused to be rechristened Roger. As a result, Albano limited her appearances to hawking Everly Brothers-shaped salt water taffy at the performance venues' concession stands. Eventually, her antipathy for Lou abated, and in 1962 she followed him into the professional wrestling arena, making a name for herself as "Big John Studd." And although "Phil" and "Don" never overtly supported their sister's ringside exploits, their colleague Jimmy Dean did allude to her in his hit song, "Big Bad John."