

Logo design by Tina Repass.

Video links:

“Stay All Night” traditional tune:

<https://youtu.be/65cdHrQiVek>

Sampler of original songs:

<https://youtu.be/S12hxS-7He4>

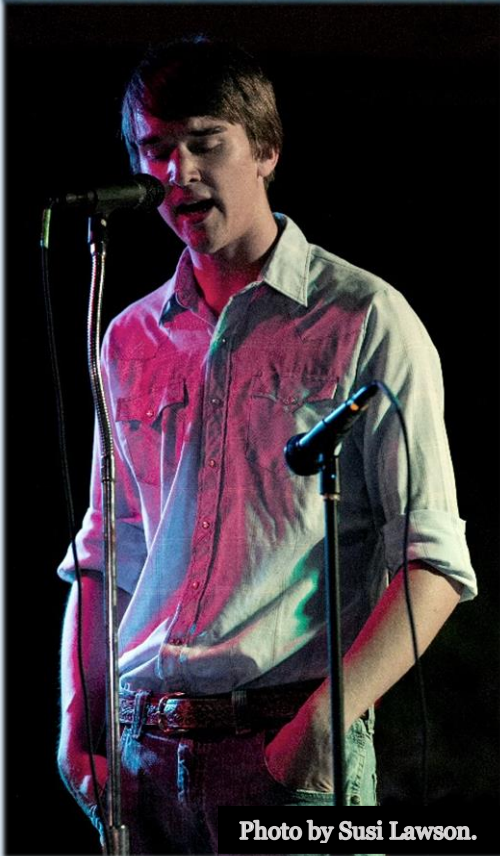


Photo by Susi Lawson.

Appalachian ballads: traditional & contemporary

Born and raised in Wythe County in southwest Virginia, Sam Gleaves performs innovative mountain music with a sense of history. Under the direction of local teacher and barber Jim Lloyd, Sam took up stringband instruments as a teenager, including the banjo, guitar, fiddle, autoharp and dulcimer. With his mentor ballad singer Sheila Kay Adams, Sam found his voice and fell in love with the mountain love songs, which he carries into his generation with pride. Sam’s performances combine traditional Appalachian ballads, dance tunes, original songs and the stories that surround the music.

Sam earned a degree in Folklore from Berea College and has performed throughout the east coast of the U.S. and internationally in Ireland and Japan with the Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble, directed by Al White. Sam writes new songs in the Appalachian tradition, telling stories about love, the home place, working people and present social issues in the mountains.

Sam’s music has been featured on Kentucky Educational Television, West Virginia Public Radio, Appalshop’s WMMT FM, and in print for LEO Weekly and Still Journal. With three recordings under his belt, (*Shadow of a Song* 2010, *A Little While In The Wilderness* 2012, and *Carrying On: Live Performances* 2013) Sam is currently collaborating with producer and activist-musician Cathy Fink on a debut album of his original songs (titled *Ain’t We Brothers*) to be released in summer 2015.

“What I first noticed about Sam was the gift, but that’s obvious to anybody. What struck me was just underneath that talent, an honest respect and desire to honor this tradition. Sam is all we hope to see and hear in these younger generations.”

-Sheila Kay Adams, NEA National Heritage Fellowship Recipient, seventh generation ballad singer

"Courageous as hell and country to the bone – Amazingly talented Sam Gleaves, the best young songwriter around, heads into new territory with his brilliant album *AIN’T WE BROTHERS*, joined by a group of world-class musicians and singers. Varied, intelligent, moving – these songs stay with you." **-Lee Smith**, novelist, Queen of Appalachian Literature

“If a remake of ‘O, Brother!’ is made some decades from now, it is quite likely that Sam Gleaves will be standing where Ralph Stanley stood. This music, this culture, this history, and mainly this spirit will live forever in Sam's magic. He's got so much mojo to give you." **-Gaye Adegbalola**, Blues Woman, Blues Music Award Winner.

“Sam Gleaves is an amazing new talent. To think that someone so young can understand the ancient tones of this music with such a deep and profound sense of honor makes me have a whole new kind of hope for the future. When Sam sings, we hear the generations before him: the joys, the sorrows, the strength and defeats. When Sam plays, we hear the land that has informed this music: the jagged, dark mountains, the meandering creeks, the even-rowed fields. *A LITTLE WHILE IN THE WILDERNESS* announces a new artist with an old soul, and a soul that has a keen understanding of what makes this music so powerful.”

-Silas House, NEH Chair Appalachian Studies at Berea College, bestselling author



Left to right: Sam and Gaye Adegbalola, Sam and Sheila Kay Adams (photo by RL Geyer), Silas House and Sam.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES:

Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour (guest of Tom Paxton), Lexington, Kentucky, May 2015.
 Carter Family Fold (with the McLain Family Band), Hiltons, Virginia, 2013, 2014.
 Galway International Arts Festival (with Bertha Hope and Mary McPartlan), Ireland, 2014.
 Thomas Wolfe House (with Sheila Kay Adams), Asheville, North Carolina, 2011
 Keynote Performance (with Silas House), Appalachian Studies Association, Marshall University, 2014.
 Crooked Road Youth Music Series at Heartwood (with Leigh Beamer & Tyler Hughes), Abingdon, VA, 2014.
 Red Barn Radio, Lexington, Kentucky, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 (including programs broadcast on KET).
 -With the Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble-
 Paul Rusch Festival and Yatsugatake County Fair at KEEP, Hokuto City, Japan, 2014.
 Tennessee Fall Homecoming, Museum of Appalachia, Norris, Tennessee, 2010, 2011, 2013.
 Helen Mills Theater, New York, New York, 2011.
 Berea College Celebration of Traditional Music, Berea, Kentucky, 2010 – 2014.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Instructor, Common Ground on the Hill, McDaniel College, Westminster, MD, 2012, 2014, 2015.
 Teaching Assistant, Swannanoa Gathering, Warren Wilson College, 2012.
 Teaching Assistant, Cowan Creek Mountain Music School, Letcher County, Kentucky, 2014, 2015.
 Guest Instructor, *Now Is The Cool of The Day* with Michael and Carrie Kline, Elkins, WV, 2012, 2013.
 Guest Musician, Irish Music and Diaspora class, National University of Ireland Galway, 2014, 2015.

HONORS:

Red Foley Award, Berea College, 2014.
 First Place, Folk Song Competition, Galax Old Fiddlers Convention, 2013.

ON OTHER RECORDINGS:

“Johnny Is My Darling” (2014) composed by Susan Stenger and Sam Gleaves
 Score for L’EXPOSITION D’UN FILM by Mathieu Copeland.
 “Greenwood Laddie,” *Shirley Inspired* (2014) compilation tribute to British folksinger Shirley Collins.
 “Law in the West Virginia Hills,” *Blair Pathways* (2012) compilation, music of the West Virginia Mine Wars.

CONTACT SAM . . .

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<https://soundcloud.com/sam-gleaves>





Left: The Sharkey Farmers, Sam and Al, Alice and Ruth, photo by Rachel White. Center: photo by Mary Sue Scott. Right: Cathy Fink, Sam and Janis Ian in the studio, photo by Ben Surratt.

RADIO, VIDEO, & PUBLICATIONS:

Project description / crowdfunding campaign for AIN'T WE BROTHERS, Sam's first record of original songs, 2015.
<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/ain-t-we-brothers-by-sam-gleaves>

"Haunting Banjo Tune Inspired By Coal Miner's Struggle," producer Roxy Todd, West Virginia Public Radio 2015.
<http://wvpublic.org/post/haunting-banjo-tune-inspired-coal-miners-struggle-o>

"Rooted In Music" produced by Veronica Weber, Western Kentucky University's Mountain Workshops, 2014.
<http://www.mountainworkshops.org/2014/video/121/veronica-weber-rooted-in-music/>

"Go Folk Yourself," by Jason Howard, LEO Weekly, 2013. <http://www.leoweekly.com/2013/09/go-folk-yourself/>

Red Barn Radio's Appalachian Christmas VI, aired on Kentucky Educational Television December 2014.
<https://youtu.be/ZppMqDKvioo>

Red Barn Radio Archive (programs as Sam Gleaves, The Sharkey Farmers, Appalachian Christmas programs)
<http://www.redbarnradio.com/programs.html>

"Hard Times Inspire Kentucky College Students to Action" by Noah Adams, National Public Radio, 2011.
<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/29/142889056/hard-times-inspire-ky-college-students-to-action>

"A Down Home Diva Cosmology" with Ethan Hamblin, Still Journal, 2014.
<http://www.stilljournal.net/downhomedivas-cnf.php>



Tyler Hughes and Sam. Photo by Jesse Anderson.

ALSO PERFORMING WITH:

The Sharkey Farmers (old time stringband)

<https://youtu.be/CahsyOPwtqQ>

Tyler Hughes (old time duo)

<https://soundcloud.com/sam-gleaves/buildin-slow>

Leigh Beamer (vocal duet)

<https://youtu.be/i18-gZVruk>

The Down Home Divas (Fabanachian duo)

<https://youtu.be/5vz-hb1k5yc>