

Kay Justice & Sam Gleaves

The Cabin Sessions

Kay Justice: guitar and vocals

Sam Gleaves: guitar, banjo, dulcimer, mandolin, and vocals

Reid Creek Records 002

Recorded in January, 2026

Engineered by Sam Gleaves

Edited, mixed, and mastered by Joseph “joebass” DeJarnette

1. Who’s That Knocking?

A.P. Carter, APRS, BMI

Although A.P. Carter claimed authorship, these lyrics are derived from old songs such as “Awake, Awake You Drowsy Sleeper,” “Katie Dear,” and “Silver Dagger.” Our version was inspired by the Hazel Dickens and Alice Gerrard recording.

2. Sweet Fern

A.P. Carter, APRS, BMI

A.P. Carter adapted “Sweet Fern” from the Tin Pan Alley song “Sweet Birds,” written by Thomas P. Westendorf and George W. Persley in 1876. The West Virginia Night Owls recorded “[Sweet Bird](#)” in 1927. In 1929, the Carter Family recorded “[Sweet Fern](#)” and the Grayson County Railsplitters recorded “[The Birds Are Returning](#).” We love the distinctive yodel from the Carter Family version.

3. The Poor Girl’s Story

Public Domain; Rosa Lee Carson

Rosa Lee Carson, known as “[Moonshine Kate](#),” recorded “[The Poor Girl’s Story](#)” in 1930. Kay learned her version from her friend Gail Gillespie.

4. Ella Ree

Public Domain

We learned this song from a recent recording by Norman and Nancy Blake. Originally [published in the 1850s](#), the lyrics were written by Charles E. Stewart and the music by James W. Porter.

5. Jack and Lucy

Hugh Moffatt

© 1981 Songs of Lankhmar (Admin. by Rio Bravo Music, Inc.) BMI

Hugh Moffatt penned this bittersweet song, a masterfully written story of enduring love. We learned our version from a recording by Delia Bell and Bill Grant.

6. He'll Hold My Hand

Henry Donohue, Bridge Building Music, BMI

This song, also titled “When I’ve Traveled My Last Mile,” was written by Henry J. Donohue in 1941 and published in Stamps-Baxter hymnals. We learned our version from a recording by [Ruth Bice Myers](#) of Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee.

7. Only a Miner (Poor Miner’s Farewell)

Aunt Molly Jackson, Alpha Film Music, BMI

Kay learned this song from a recording by Hedy West. [Aunt Molly Jackson](#) wrote this song after her brother’s death in the coal mines which left his children struggling to survive.

8. Lost Love

Asa Martin, Boot House of Tunes, BMI

This song was written by James T. Powers (1862–1943) in the late 19th century and originally titled “[Faded Flowers](#).” Asa Martin (1900–1979) was an influential musician from Clark County, Kentucky who was known for playing guitar on Doc Roberts’ fiddle records. Martin recorded his arrangement of “[Lost Love](#)” in 1928, one of his first vocal pieces on record. Asa Martin’s [original recording](#) can be found on YouTube.

9. Sunny Side of Life

William Bolick, Berwick Music Corp., BMI

Bill and Earl Bolick, the Blue Sky Boys, began their recording career in 1936 by cutting [this sacred song](#) written by Bill. It is now a beloved standard.

10. Some Have Fathers Gone to Glory

Public Domain, Traditional

Sam learned this song from a recording by Ramona and Alisa Jones. Ramona said that she learned this old song from Glen Branscomb who lived on Roasting Ear Creek near Timbo, Arkansas. Branscomb learned the song from his grandfather. The text is similar to “[Mother in Bright Glory](#)” recorded by Jean Ritchie. Sam’s dulcimer is tuned to G-A-D: melody strings G, middle string A, bass string D.

11. I Feel Like Traveling On

Public Domain

William Hunter, a 19th century Irish American songwriter, wrote the basis of this hymn originally titled “[I’m Going Home](#).” “[I Feel Like Traveling On](#)” was recorded by [John McGee and Frank Welling](#) in 1928 and has since been recorded by many others. Sam first learned this song from his friend Mildred Alexander of Rural Retreat, Virginia.