

### **Sawyer Lawson Extended Bio**

“His tunes are carefully composed to aim straight for the heart, and he hits his mark squarely song after song,” says Metronome Magazine. And indeed songwriting is the heart of Sawyer Lawson’s craft. Based out of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Lawson’s sound can best be described as folk rock. From the poignant melodies in his acoustic songs to the energetic guitar riffs in his full band material, the music is tied together by an underlying warm authenticity and thoughtfulness of lyrics. His songwriting may call to mind artists like Amos Lee and Martin Sexton.

‘Shine,’ his debut album, has made its way onto over sixty radio station playlists (primarily AAA and AMA) all over the U.S., and some in Canada and Europe. Every single song off the album has received airplay. Centered around a sturdy backbone of acoustic guitar, and sometimes colored with mandolin, banjo and fiddle, the album has an unmistakable folk/Americana aesthetic. Lately though, Lawson has steered his sound more towards rock, incorporating his electric guitar and teaming up with lead guitarist, Imam Hamdani, whose slide playing is reminiscent of Duane Allman.

On his house concert tour across the country, from Anchorage to Austin, Lawson honed his live performance craft. He plays regularly in Massachusetts, including a residency in Somerville where he’s been growing a local following. In 2017 he toured through Ireland. Other venues that he’s played range from Bates College in Maine to Boston’s Berklee Performance Center and Club Passim, to New York City’s Rockwood Music Hall. His shows come in a variety of incarnations, from intimate solo acoustic performances to lively full band concerts.

Born into a gigging family band, he started performing at the age of 6. The family business was the nationally acclaimed Blue Jay Recording Studio, where Lawson got to learn the ropes of the recording process, and make many of his own recordings. Growing up, he explored anything from classical to classic rock, to Celtic, blues, funk, bluegrass, jazz, and folk. He went for any instrument he could get his hands on. First it was drums and violin, and later he picked up guitar, mandolin, harmonica, and discovered his singing voice.

As he got older, Lawson began to focus primarily on guitar and vocals, and this, he says, is really what opened up the world of songwriting to him. He soon realized that songwriting was the way he could put all his musical interests and skills together, drawing a little from here, a little from there, and crafting it into a polished creation. Says Lawson, “I strive to write genuine songs, and I want people to know that there’s a real person behind them.”