

sam rae

Cello

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Education

Bachelor of Arts in Cello Performance, Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with emphases in Global Resources and the Environment and Latin American Studies, honors, Spanish Minor, School of Music and School of Liberal Arts, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa (2011)

Principle Teachers, Cello

Carey Bostian, 2004-2007
Tony Arnone, University of Iowa, 2007-2011

Contracted Work with Bands

- Touring, contracted cellist for [Brandi Carlile](#) since 2015
- Touring, contracted cellist for [Gregory Alan Isakov](#) June 2016-August 2016
- Toured, contracted cellist for Jen Gloeckner 2011
- Contracted cellist for Red Rocks, [Elephant Revival](#) May, Gregogry Alan Isakov, Brandi Carlile 2016-2019
- Contracted studio cellist, 2014-present

Other Artist Collaborations

- Performed with [Tanya Tucker](#), [Sheryl Crow](#), [Highwomen](#), [Lukas Nelson](#) 2019-2020
- Guest cello performance with [Elizabeth Moen](#)

Solo Work as Singer-Songwriter, Alternative Folk

- 30A Songwriters Festival, 2019
- Girls Just Wanna Weekend Festival, Mexico 2019
- Regional tours; June 2018, Nov 2018, May 2019, June 2019
- National album release solo tour April 2017
- National solo tour April 2016
- Opening slot for Andrea Gibson, Chautauqua 2018
- Singer-songwriter solo performances 2013-present
- National tour feat. improvisational performances on the cello with loop pedal and voice throughout the US, 2011

Work as Classical Cellist

- Performed with the University of Iowa Mantis String Quartet at many events and weddings as well as classical recitals, including the University of Iowa Honors Convocation Recital, 2007-2010
- Performed with the Chamber and Symphony Orchestras at the University of Iowa, 2007-2010
- Classical solo recital for Bachelor's degree in cello performance, 2010

Recording Experience

- Recorded debut solo album *Stories From the Marrow*, 2014 at Wind Over the Earth, Longmonth, CO
- Recorded sophomore solo album *Bring Us to New Islands*, 2017 at Wind Over the Earth, Longmonth, CO
- Recorded third solo album *Ten Thousand Years*, 2020 at Hall of Justice Recording Studio, Seattle, WA
- Recorded on Secret Sisters album, *Saturn Return*, 2020
- Recorded on jacob james album, *Ballads from the Bonny Western Buffalo*, 2019
- Recorded with Brandi Carlile and band on Stephen Colbert, Ellen Degeneres Show, Samantha Bee, Seth Meyers, Howard Stern, Austin City Limits, Underground Bluegrass and more.
- Recorded Solid State Rocket Album, *Lush Life* as a member of the band, 2015
- Recorded Many Rivers Ensemble album, *Blood Moon* as a member of the band, 2015
- Recorded multiple solo tracks with River Drive Records, Rock Island, Illinois, 2011-2012
- Collaborated with multiple film artists including Sophia Lou in her short film, *Pet Milk* 2011-2012

Honors and Awards

- Recipient of University of Iowa Pelzer Music Scholarship, 2009
- Performed at the University of Iowa Music Honors Convocation, 2007
- Accepted into the Iowa All-State Orchestra three consecutive years, 2004-2006
- Gold Key recipient at Iowa City City High School for excellence in orchestral leadership, 2007
- Received second place in the Cedar Rapids Symphony Concerto Contest, 2006

Artist Statement

What inspired me through music school was the variety of emotions that I could express when paired with technical fluidity. However, I always felt the classical realm was far too tangible as I focused all of my artistic energy on music that was placed before me on paper, the structure and bones already planned out. After graduating with a degree in Classical Performance on the cello at the University of Iowa I began translating my classical training into an improvisational setting. I dove into the exploration of my own personalized sound which slowly grew into an improvisational performance career from 2011-2014. Within this time I discovered the feeling of boundlessness, applying technical skills to an inspired and contemporary afterthought. What I found was that I could more effectively communicate to the audience when I was improvising a spectrum of layers with a loop pedal and cello and thus my creative process was forever expanding and always in line with my present emotion. Since then my musical style has evolved to focus more on telling my story through songwriting and voice however my musical past will be ever influencing my desire to create music that does not have defined measures. I have been experimenting, performing and naturally morphing my style across genres and instruments for over a decade. As I am inspired to rise alongside mentors like Brandi Carlile I continue to develop a performance that is symbiotic and rich with presence.

References furnished upon request

