

Shattering preconceived notions of youth that embrace "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" imagery of optimism and innocence, **RAGGED DREAMS** showcases Emi's "knack for abstract" and her ability to address subject matter that reaches well beyond her years. Bringing to life the creative fiction in her mind, all 15 tracks (written or co-written by Emi) spotlight Emi's youthful yet mature perspective and insight. Emi tells wondrous, tall tales of love scorned and murder while alternatively touching on social issues close to her sensitive and empathetic heart (such as abuse, abandonment and suicide), as well as her emotional embrace and interpretation of the tragedy and loss precipitated by recent devastating events in Appalachia (the Tennessee floods and Gatlinburg fires). Each musical composition is painted with deep textures and colorful hues heightened by potent, lonesome lyrics and stark dramatic storylines; **RAGGED DREAMS** is poised to become an EmiSunshine signature classic!



**RAGGED DREAMS**  
(produced by EmiSunshine)  
Cut-by-Cut

## Ragged Dreams

"Pictures on the wall...they mostly make me blue..."

*This song is about the emotion you feel when someone you love is gone. In our mind, we know it is over; but our heart has not let go. So, we cling sadly onto what is left of our "ragged dreams." While I wanted to be detailed in painting this picture, I was intentionally abstract. I hope everyone hears something different.*

## Sinners Serenade

"When he dropped that gavel, my life unraveled; I'm still trying to pick the pieces up..."

*Sinner or saint, we all make mistakes; it's real life. ...and then it's on us to make amends with others, seek forgiveness and work to be better people. This track is about a prisoner who has come to grips with his/her incarceration and the resolve to do what's "right" to put their life back on track.*

## Strong Armed Robbery

"I want everybody gone except for Room 810"

*I love a great ghost story; I thought it would be fun to write this from the perspective of the ghost. The lyric (above) is my favorite because everyone can envision the hotel door in the storyline and realize that the ghost has a definitive plan. Listeners might catch themselves cheering for the ghost; can you recall "cheering for a ghost" in any other story? That's one of the greatest things about this song.*

## Porter Wagoner Blues

"Kick up your boots, sing me green grass of home, me and you are gonna be good friends..."

*This song just makes me happy; I think Porter and I would have been good friends. This is my way of paying tribute to him...and yes, I might just order a blue jacket with all the rhinestones and wagon wheels. I loved his sense of style.*

## Resting Place

(Written and Recorded to Support 2016 TN Natural Disaster Relief: Gatlinburg Wildfires)

"Tho the embers took much away..."

*I saw the embers first hand during our evacuation from Gatlinburg; it was terrifying to see the fires take so much. While these fires took lives, homes and turned breathtaking properties into dark gray dust, the mountains are "strong" and so are its people, and we have come together as a strong people to help one another recover.*

## Johnny, June And Jesus

"100 dollars in my boot now..."

*This lyric is a recollection of the days when I played the streets for tips and one hundred dollars in my boot was a really big deal. (It still is!) When I think about my musical dreams and the folks, and blessings, that paved the way before me, this track portrays my humble gratitude.*

## Carry Me Home

"When I was a young girl, I danced light and fair; the boys would all follow me home..."

*This line sets the tone for the song and opens the page for listeners to want to learn more about "the young girl." The choice of the wording along with the military cadence of the drums supports the storyline. It's about a woman who reflects upon how her soldier/husband was killed on the field of battle and was buried on their property hilltop at his request. The young girl, who has now become a woman, reflects back on her life with no regrets and her greatest hope for the future is to be laid to rest beside her love.*

## Ninety Miles

"I'm sitting still...everything's moving but my feet..."

*I wanted to write a song for my friend who suffers with Autism--to tell his story. The lyrics are as truthful as I have come to understand what she goes through. I hope the song will stop listeners in their tracks to really think about what our friends and their families endure as they suffer with this unforgiving and indescribable illness.*

## Tennessee Killing Song

"I'm gonna write me a Tennessee killin' song..."

*And I did! It's fun and dark and country. It's me and "write" up my alley! Need I say more?*

## Little Blackbird

"My sweet Grayson left early on that wagon train..."

*I hope this lyric makes folks eager to hear the next line. The blackbird serves as a friendly ear during the musical journey. It might resemble a children's song, until... "trouble" arises. "What shall I do?" I ask the bird; the blackbird flees danger leaving the singer to drown.*

## As The Waters Rise

(Written and Recorded to Support 2016 West Virginia Flood)

"Such pain and devastation we have rarely seen as we watch the waters wash away our dreams..."

*So many people lost their dreams in the flood and I wanted to share their pain in song to help others feel what they had been through. This past year has been particularly devastating for our Appalachian neighbors. I wrote this song as a bit of self-therapy and hope that it will help others in the healing process.*

## KatieBelle

"Many a maid has had my heart, but the devil won't let me be..."

*Murder ballads are always shocking, but often, the stories are strangely appealing. This track is "cutting" and this line reveals just how dark the tune is. Believe it or not, it's a fan favorite and I LOVE performing it LIVE.*

## Shame Shame Shame

"The truth isn't always so lovely..."

*While we are all taught to tell the truth, sometimes the truth is tough to deliver and even harder to take, especially when the deception is close to you. This song captures the sting of deceit as a bitter truth is discovered and rage burns like a "fire on a bunch of autumn leaves."*

## Stepping Stone

"I could see she was a lot like me, running wild but not free..."

*This musical poem is from a real-life story. It's about a dear friend who, at just eight years old, suffers to find comfort here on earth; she live in darkness and anguish, and is flooded with the pain--stranded in loneliness.*

## Danny Ray

(feat. in the film *Promised Land* / Charlotte Street Film Co.)

"Rest a spell at Cafe Du Monde...Big Easy rock me to sleep..."

*I wrote this song because I love New Orleans; I love Cafe Du Monde and I'm a big Nanci Griffith fan who introduced me to New Orleans through her music. I wrote this about a woman who is NOT compelled to stick around because "Danny Ray" had always been good to her. It feels a bit cruel, but it also is very empowering.*