



Sam Rae Music

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Press

[NPR All Songs Considered Tiny Desk Entry Highlight](#)

[Feature in Charleston Magazine](#)

[Song Premiere, Bluegrass Situation ... more](#)

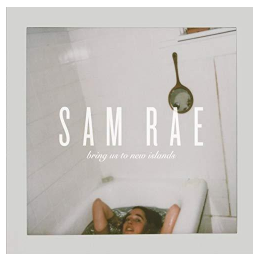
Sam Rae (they/them) blends the traditional landscape of storytelling through song with their roots in classical cello and improvisational cello looping. With a degree in cello performance Rae's roots were laid in a classical past however, Rae's strongest talent becomes obvious as they showcase their songwriting and vocal delivery, weaving tasteful lyrics and subtly complex guitar voicings into a story that a diverse audience can hold onto, providing comfort amidst chaos. Rae focuses the performance lens on their Americana/Folk driven songs with vibrant vocals and acoustic guitar painting achingly familiar melodies with strong lyrical content. Rae uses the cello as a hypnotic interlude between songs weaving the performance together with looped cello melodies that remind the audience of the beauty in the improvised, present moment. Their Americana inspired songwriting juxtaposed with interludes of portal evoking semi-psychedelic cello looping makes for a refreshingly unique musical experience.



Alongside their own performances they have doubled as cellist and back up singer for Grammy Award-winning artist Brandi Carlile (2015, 2018-2021) and have toured extensively around the US collaborating with a variety of artists including *Brandi Carlile*, *Gregory Alan Isakov*, *The Highwomen*, *Courtney Marie Andrews* and more. They have been touring and performing original music since 2011 after receiving their degree in Classical Cello Performance from the University of Iowa. On August 7, 2020 Sam Rae released their third and most poignant album with full band *Ten Thousand Years* recorded at the Hall of Justice Studios in Seattle, WA following *Stories From the Marrow* (2014) and *Bring us to New Islands* (2017). With a premier from Bluegrass Situation and a shout out from American Songwriter, Rae was described by the Charleston Magazine as an entity that '...is intentional. Once you accept that Rae is taking you on a journey, you can surrender to the ride.'

Videos ['Child of Love' Full Band](#) ['Wolf out of Water' Cello Looping](#) ['Colors of the Highway' Music Video](#)

[Bring Us to New Islands, 2017](#) [Ten Thousand Years, 2020](#)



"A classically trained cellist, Rae has been performing with Carlile since 2015, but she's also been steadily releasing her own material, including her third and most fully realized album, *Ten Thousand Years*, out on August 7. It's an intimate alt-folk slow burn, and Rae's dusky, lilting alto—inescapably reminiscent of Joni Mitchell or Cat Power—is a perfect aesthetic fit." [Charleston Magazine](#)

"She is tough love. She is the final gust that pushes the boat over the wave." [American Songwriter](#)

