

Back by popular demand

Folk music artist Gary Paul returns to regale audiences with songs and stories



THE HUM

By Ariana Kramer

Gary Paul has won awards for his songwriting from the New Mexico Music Association as well as Xtreme Folk Scene. Ripe with good storytelling, Paul's songs are set to tunes that range from acoustic blues, traditional folk and Celtic styles to bebop and gospel.

Based in Santa Fe for the past eight years, Paul has been making his way north to Taos for a number of shows this year. He returns by popular demand Friday (Nov. 24) for a 6-8:30 p.m. show at Eske's Brew Pub, 106 Des Georges Lane.

Raised in a working-class family in Brooklyn, N.Y., Paul found himself surrounded by music, theater and poetry. Although his parents were poor, they saved their funds for him to take piano lessons starting at the age of 5. He developed his love for storytelling around Boy Scout council fires, and his fondness for bluegrass and country life while working on his grandparents' farm during the summers.

"My mother was an avid reader. Early on we were introduced to the Brooklyn Public Library. We spent our childhood taking out books," said Paul, reminiscing about how the children's section of the library was filled with children reading on a summer's day.

"I can't say enough about those resources that were made available to me," he said.

"My father was a baker, but he had the soul of a poet. There was always music in the house," Paul said. His parents' record collection consisted of a range of everything from Harry Belafonte and Joan Baez to jazz and classical music.

Paul studied acting at New York City's High School of Performing Arts and played rock guitar as a teenager. After high school, he played music in the Greerwich Village folk scene, studied photography, and acted Off-Off Broadway. He was also a bass guitarist with a number of groups, playing swamprock, bluegrass, Brazilo-Cuban fusion, world music, country and classic rock. By day, he worked with the developmentally disabled and earned degrees in psychology,

health Administration and computer science.

In 2002, Paul began playing his own original songs at open mics, quickly expanding to coffeehouses and Northeast folk festivals. He also appeared on cable television and internet radio shows.

"Sid's Gaseteria," Paul's debut CD was released in 2007 on Big Moose Music label. Paul is currently working on his second CD, "American Road," which is due out in late January 2018.

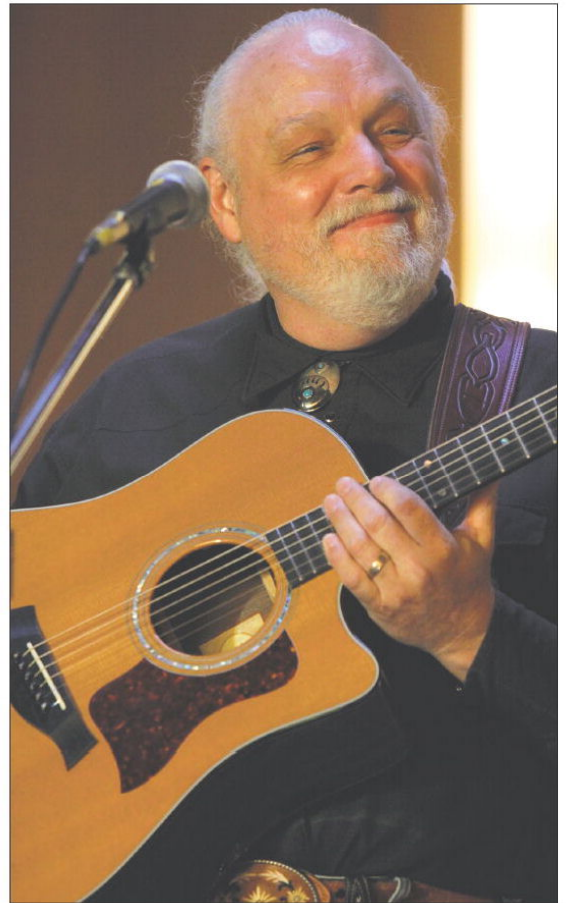
For "Sid's Gaseteria" Paul did all the production and recording work.

He played most of the instruments, but also had

friends join in. The CD was influenced by the Northeast.

"The styles and genres were more what you'd hear at a Boston coffee house or even New Jersey," Paul said.

In contrast he said, "American Road" is much more influenced by his travels across the country, and by living in the Southwest. The title track for the CD is a story about young love in the face of judicial corruption in a small town. Another song was influenced by the story of Kit Carson as told in the book "Blood



COURTESY REGGIE RUTH BARRETT

MUSICIAN Gary Paul

and Thunder." A rousing gospel song named "Witness" was inspired by a drive through Louisiana's bayou country.

Paul said he is looking forward to returning to Eske's because it has a good listening environment.

"I used to play bars and discos and play cover songs," Paul said. "I'd

rather tell a good story in my song and have people listen."

Eske's Brew Pub serves home-brewed beer, wine and pub fare (including vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options).

There is no cover for Gary Paul's show. For more information call (575) 758-1517.

STORIES IN SONG
FRIDAY
(NOV. 24) 6-8:30 P.M.
ESKE'S BREW PUB,
106 DES GEORGES
LANE
NO COVER
(575) 758-1517