

Gary Paul: Biography

Two-time New Mexico music award winner and 8-time nominee, a winner of the Xtreme Folk Scene award for his songwriting, Gary Paul is a compelling storyteller, an intelligent, insightful songwriter and a masterful performer. Accompanying himself with deceptively subtle guitar work, he takes his experiences of life on the road, combines them with the traditions of his formative years in the Northeast and filters them through his experiences of his more recent years living in New Mexico to bring you a travelogue of the American landscape. His characters, the variety of styles at his command and the music traditions into which he delves takes you from acoustic blues, traditional folk and Celtic influences straight through to bebop and gospel.

Born & raised in the slums of Brownsville, Brooklyn, NY, poor, but surrounded by music, theater & poetry, early Piano lessons taught him a love for melody. Summers working on his grandparent's farm taught him to love bucolic settings & bluegrass, but it was around Boy Scout council fires that he grew to love storytelling.

Known for acoustic work, Gary played rock guitar in his teens while studying acting at NYC's High School of Performing Arts. After high school, he continued on two tracks, acting Off-Off Broadway while playing the Greenwich Village folk scene & studying photography in his spare time. But to make ends meet, Gary played fender bass on club dates, learning the American songbook, & the traditions of Latin music. He subsequently played bass with groups whose styles included swamprock, bluegrass, Brazilo-Cuban fusion, world music, country & classic rock, all while working by day with the developmentally disabled, completing degrees in Psychology, Health Administration & Computer Science.

In 2002 he began playing original songs at open mics. By 2003, it was coffeehouses & Folk Festivals throughout the Northeast, appearing on cable TV & internet radio shows. Then came the 2006 Xtreme Folk Scene Song Contest win & a triumphant appearance at XFest. His debut CD, "Sid's Gaseteria," was released in 2007 on the Big Moose Music label (available through cdbaby.com). Most recently he's added lap slide to his arsenal.

He now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, performing solo & on bass with his friends. Active in several chapters of Folk Alliance International & a founding member of SWRFA's New Mexico subcommittee, and teaches Introduction to Lap Slide at Santa Fe Community College. He is also the Western Representative on the executive board of Local 1000, the North American Traveling Musicians Union. His second CD, "American Road," was released March 2nd 2018 on the Storm Canyon Music label, with digital distribution through Electron Farm Records. In addition to his solo career, he also plays bass with the techno band, Chill Factor-5.