



SAM SLATCHER

Folk singer-songwriter

Sam Slatcher is an independent recording artist, singer-songwriter, and community arts facilitator. Passionate about working in community and encouraging storytelling, Sam's work takes him across the North East to capture stories through music.

Sam's work includes an EP *In Unlikely Places* that features the widely acclaimed folk song 'City of Sanctuary' as featured on the BBC and *Stories of Sanctuary*, a collaborative album with people seeking sanctuary in the North East and featuring viola player Raghad Haddad, from the National Syrian Orchestra which in 2019 toured the UK with a refugee choir.

Since 2019, Sam has been curating, directing, and facilitating various songwriting projects across the North East with Citizen Songwriters, a social enterprise Sam set up that brings people together through songwriting to create original songs about people's stories and the places that matter to them.

"One of the finest up and coming singer-songwriters in the region"

THE CRACK Magazine

"Timely, emotional and beautiful"

Sean Cooney, The Young'uns

"An artist with a quiet, infectious passion for humanity and the gift to articulate it to his audience."

Steve Pledger, singer/songwriter



www.samslatcher.com

WORKS

City of Sanctuary – In Unlikely Places (2018)



Sam's work includes the song City of Sanctuary on his debut EP 'In Unlikely Places' that became a viral sensation, with the music video having been viewed over 120k times. The piece captures the city of Durham's history of sanctuary from the arrival of St Cuthbert, to the 1984 miners' strike, through to modern day refugees fleeing war in the Middle East. The song has featured on various regional BBC radio stations.

"City of Sanctuary is the lead track on his debut EP and I can see why it's caused such a stir as it's a beautiful ballad... The other four tracks on the EP show that this was no flash in the pan either as he has the ability to craft folk tunes in the storytelling tradition that really command your absolute attention"

THE CRACK Magazine

Stories of Sanctuary – collaborative album with Raghad Haddad (2018)

In April 2018, Sam curated a project called Stories of Sanctuary that brought together over 40 participants (including people from refugee backgrounds and local residents of Durham) through creating original music about people's stories of seeking sanctuary from war and the hope of creating community together.



The project resulted in a full studio album called 'Stories of Sanctuary' which was recorded at Studio One with folk producer Ron Angus. The album includes track with highly acclaimed viola player Raghad Haddad from the National Syrian Orchestra as well as North East multi-instrumentalist Paul Martin. In 2019, the Stories of Sanctuary project toured the UK, visiting Sheffield's Migration Matters Festival, the International Festival of Glass and Leicester Cathedral.

"Stories of Sanctuary speaks loudly of hope in the midst of difficulty and hardship, light in the midst of dark and dangerous times. As you journey with Sam and his co-collaborators through Stories of Sanctuary you will experience great beauty, peace and musical depth"

Gareth Davies-Jones



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Chaos & Solitude – debut solo album (2020)



Sam Slatcher

Chaos & Solitude is a personal and political reflection on the recent changes in British society from political division, to record-breaking transatlantic storms, to songs sung from balconies. Although the title came before Covid-19 pandemic its concept has since taken on a new meaning and the album invites one to reconnect with nature, discover the calm in one's breath, and find the kindness in strangers.

"Sam has made something very beautiful, that uses soft thoughtful tones to deliver a powerful overall message. Anger and frustration are transmuted into kindness and reassurance and hope. It's a lovely, perceptive, thoughtful and thought-provoking piece of work and a very promising debut solo album from a skilful and original songwriter and musician"

FATEA

Passengers & Pioneers – celebrating the Stockton & Darlington Railway bicentenary

'Passengers & Pioneers' is a collaborative album featuring original music by Sam and poetry by Lizzie Lovejoy, Carmen Marcus, Rowan McCabe and Harry Gallagher, drawing on stories from an artist in residency on the Bishop Auckland to Saltburn line gathering stories from passengers on what the railway means to them.

The album has also been written using archive history from the first passenger railway journey in 1825 on the Stockton and Darlington railway.

The album tells the story of how this short line, connecting two North East towns changed the shape of the region, the country and the world. From the global experience that railways became to the ways it brings communities together today. It draws on a letter written by a 14-year-old boy to his younger sister describing his track-side view of the first journey, on news reports from the Jubilee anniversary and from testimonies of railway workers throughout the ages (from station staff to engineers to those who work on board). The songs and poetry also feature stories of passengers who commute, holiday, encounter strangers, meditate from train windows, find love, seek work, find pride and belonging and experience a sense of homecoming, on those same 26 miles of track.

The album was commissioned by the railway companies Cross Country and Northern that now operate the line along with the Community Rail Network and Bishop Line Community Rail Partnership and will tour the North East in 2025.



OTHER PROJECTS

The Secret Garden – Musical Director and Composer

In 2019 – 2022 I was the musical director and composer for The Secret Garden, a co-commission by Queen's Hall (Hexham) and writer and producer Becci Sharrock. Secret Garden is a modern day telling of the original book which engages 8 – 12 year olds in the outdoors and the importance of nature for wellbeing.

I was commissioned to write 4 new songs as well as score the full 70 minutes for The Secret Garden, working with the director and writer/producer to create a musical response to the script and supporting the performers to learn the songs.



Link to songs: <https://soundcloud.com/samslatcher/sets/the-secret-garden>

PhD researcher in Human Geography – Durham University (2013 – 2017)

My PhD research explored how practitioners engage in intercultural community engagement. Through collaborative research with various Near Neighbours funded projects in West Yorkshire, the research identifies the potential of creative practices to bring people together and to open up new ways of thinking about faith and diversity.

The research contributes to academic literatures on urban geography, recent work on encounter and difference, as well as the intersections between policy and practice in community engagement. The research also showcases how the Near Neighbours is working on the ground to contribute to academic and public policy debates, as well as enabling participants to reflect on their experiences of encountering others in the projects and facilitate the sharing of new ideas from the projects across Leeds, Dewsbury and Bradford.

The PhD thesis is available online at: <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/12658/>

PRESS QUOTES

"I worked with Sam on his forthcoming EP. The quality of his musicianship is outstanding and he was a pleasure to work with. His songwriting is thoughtful and varied and he has such a great voice! I look forward to working with him again in the future!"

Ian Stephenson, Music Producer

"One of the finest up and coming singer-songwriters in the region"

THE CRACK Magazine

"A recurrent and very attractive aspect of Sam's music is his ability to fully confront the sometimes cold, harsh reality of life with a determined optimism and determination that things can, must and will get better. It's this lack of cynicism without any trace of cloying naivety that makes Sam's music so uplifting and refreshing."

Greg Hancock

"The deftness of collaboration is the most striking element, bringing forth the voices of those who are often overlooked and unheard through music"

Songlines

LINKS

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samslatcher.bandcamp.com



<http://www.samslatcher.com>



Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/2VqIjUN>



iTunes: apple.co/3zGDZfg

