Gary Paul - "American Road"

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Join Gary Paul's musical cross-country journey on his new release, *American Road.*

Two-time New Mexico Music Award winner Gary Paul takes us on a pilgrimage through a landscape of colorful characters and musical influences ranging from blues to big band, gospel to funk, Western to bebop, with a few side trips along the way. An insightful songwriter and a compelling storyteller, Gary Paul presents cinema for the ears on this wonderful travelogue. Each of the 11 songs on *American Road* is a tale unto itself for the listener to savor. Taken as a whole, they are a tapestry of Americana to delight you, and insights into the broad, deep wellspring of experience behind this songwriter's work.

With *Big White Panama Hat,* we take light-hearted romp on the border between big band and bebop. We journey through the Southwest with a bittersweet country waltz, *Goodnight, Texas* the award winning *Santa Fe Trail (Kit Carson's Last Ride).* We take bluesy trips through sleepy hamlets in *Hot Coffee, The Madman From Arkansas* and the award-winning *Delaware County.* We board the *Southwest Chief for a traditional blues inspired ride,* visit a rust belt town in the title song, *American Road* and Bayou Country to a Meters-inspired backbeat in *Witness.* We even take a comical off ramp into rag-time with *Relocatin' My Situation* and ride through the great prairie in the haunting ballad, *The Winds of Oklahoma.*

This recording was crafted over several years with some of New Mexico's finest musicians, who brought their 'A' game to give Gary Paul's vision life. Keyboardist Kevin Zoernig evoked images of smoke-filled jazz clubs and sultry bayou churches. Michael Handler, a master blues man in his own right, added grit with his harmonica. Jeff Sussman on drums/percussion brought drive to everything he played on, without stepping on the story to do it. And, when upright bass was called for, he called on Justin Bransford for his tasteful, rich sound. He turned to Caitlin Thomas to add seasoning and commentary with her violin and turned to Lisa Carman and Adrienne Bellis to bring period vocal stylings to life. Lydia Clark brought her bluesy free style to *Witness* and C. Daniel Boling lent his mellifluous baritone both in the 'choir' and around the campfire. Engineer Scott Shane, worked tirelessly to bring out the richness of each mix. And the production team of Gary Paul and Lisa Carman brought subtlety and unity to the project.



About Gary Paul

With decades of professional experience as an actor and musician playing guitar and Fender bass in a wide variety of musical genres, it wasn't until 2001 that Gary began writing in earnest and not until the following year that he began performing his original songs. A Northeasterner by birth, he moved to Santa Fe, NM in 2010, where his writing took on a deeper perspective, focusing on his experiences on the road and incorporating influences from the American Southwest.

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