

Gary Paul: Biography

Author, essayist, three-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 insightful storyteller – be it in long form novels, essays or in song, 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). His Sophomore CD, "American Road," was released March 2nd, 2018 on the Storm Canyon Music label, with digital distribution through Electron Farm Records. It debuted 38 on the Folk DJ Charts. In addition to his solo career, he also plays bass with the techno band, Chill Factor-5.

Gary has also finished his first novel, The Port Edgerton Chronicles, is working on a second novel in that series and is writing a science fiction/fantasy novel that he hopes to turn into a series. He posts a monthly essay about his experiences in the music industry entitled, "Road Work: A Memoir of a Life in Music."