

SAM SLATCHER

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

THE CRACK Magazine

Sam Slatcher is a folk singer-songwriter living in Durham, North East England. His honest and reflective songwriting, delivered with a calming and delicate voice captures the warmth of humanity and a longing for peace and justice. To date, Sam has released a debut EP 'In Unlikely Places' (April 2018) as well as curated the project Stories of Sanctuary that brings together refugees and other residents of Co. Durham, including the release of a critically acclaimed album 'Stories of Sanctuary' featuring National Syrian Orchestra's Raghad Haddad (Nov 2018). Sam frequently performs across Northern England and sings and plays guitar and piano.



"His honest and reflective acoustic folk is rooted in the region... his forthcoming EP promises to be very special indeed"

NARC Magazine

Since writing and recording his debut EP – In Unlikely Spaces – Sam has been performing his material in music venues across the Northern England. Sam launched his EP to a sold-out audience at his first headline gig at City Theatre, Durham on 15th April 2018 and since 2019 Sam has begun performing more widely across the UK at various festivals (Migration Matters in Sheffield, Journeys Festival in Leicester) with the Stories of Sanctuary project. Sam has worked with artists including Gareth Davies-Jones, Steve Pledger, Joe Solo, Harri Endersby and Joseph Hammill (Cattle & Cane).

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

Steve Pledger, singer/songwriter

City of Sanctuary



Sam's work includes City of Sanctuary that became a viral sensation, with the music video having been viewed over 100,000 times (with a reach of over 162,000) since launching on 12th January 2018. 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 BBC Tees and the song will be performed at the National City of Sanctuary movement AGM in May 2018.

"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

www.samslatcher.com

Debut EP – In Unlikely Places

Sam's debut EP 'In Unlikely Places' – self-released 6th April 2018 – include five intimately recorded songs, including 'City of Sanctuary'. The EP was recorded at Simpson Street Studios (Thropton, Northumberland) with music producer Ian Stephenson. On the record guitar, piano, lead vocals and backing vocals are all performed by Sam in a simple arrangement, keeping faithful to the intimate style of Sam's live performances.

In Unlikely Places is available at the following:

Bandcamp: <https://samslatcher.bandcamp.com/album/in-unlikely-places>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Unlikely-Places-EP-Sam-Slatcher/dp/B07BLQPMTX>

As well as iTunes, Spotify, Google Music Store, among other places – full list on www.samslatcher.com

Stories of Sanctuary (April 2018 – Present)

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 in the North East of England.

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 tracks with highly acclaimed viola player Raghad Haddad from the National Syrian Orchestra as well as North East multi-instrumentalist Paul Martin. The album also features some of the participants who drum and sing on the record. The album was launched to a sold out audience at Durham Cathedral's Chapter House on 19th October 2018.



In 2019, the Stories of Sanctuary project tours the UK, visiting Sheffield's Migration Matters Festival (June 22), the University of Hull (June 23), International Festival of Glass (August 26) and Leicester Cathedral (August 27) as well as 4 venues in the North East (Durham Cathedral, ARC Stockton, The Exchange North Shields and Lanchester Parish Church).



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Citizen Songwriters CIC (December 2018 – Present)

Following the success of Stories of Sanctuary, in December 2018 Sam set up Citizen Songwriters CIC – a social enterprise which brings communities together through creating original songs. Sam has received commissions from Stronger Communities (Middlesbrough Council), ARC Stockton and Art Society Tyneside to deliver Citizen Songwriters workshops to bring people together from different backgrounds through creative songwriting.



Collaborations (March 2019 – Present)

Since the Stories of Sanctuary project, Sam has been collaborating with Raghad Haddad, viola player from the National Syrian Orchestra. Together they have produced a set of songs called **Songs of Sanctuary** which is a more stripped back and intimate arrangement of the Stories of Sanctuary songs. The repertoire includes many of the songs from the Stories of Sanctuary project arranged for guitar/piano and viola alongside ancient Syrian folk tunes and some of Sam's more recent songwriting on the theme of sanctuary.

The first 'Songs of Sanctuary' performance took place at The Cumberland Arms in Newcastle on March 24th 2019. Sam and Raghad have also appeared at the V&A for Refugee Week. In Autumn-Winter 2019/2020, Sam and Raghad will be touring Songs of Sanctuary to new audiences across the UK.



Press Quotes

"I recently 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"

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"Honest and reflective acoustic folk is rooted in the region"

NARC Magazine

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

Songlines

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

Steve Pledger, singer/songwriter

"Timely, emotional and beautiful"

Sean Cooney, The Young'uns

"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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