

## Amanda Shires – Bio

Amanda Shires was born during 1982, and raised in Mineral Wells and Lubbock, which are respectively located in North East and North West Texas. At the age of ten she saw a fiddle for the first time – curiously it was coloured green and orange. It was a case of love at first sight and hearing, and Amanda quickly became adept at playing the instrument particularly western swing and country fiddle. Tutored by Lanny Fiel, she joined his Ranch Dance Fiddle Band, and while attending Lubbock High School also performed in school, city and regional orchestras and symphonies. Aged sixteen Shires began performing with Tommy Allsup and The Texas Playboys. Following graduation from high school Amanda enrolled at South Plains College School of Music in nearby Levelland. Her studies continued at Texas Tech, where, during 2004, she graduated with a degree in geography.

At South Plains she met the musicians who would eventually form the nucleus of The Thrift Store Cowboys, a country band with an energetic and youthful edge. Formed during 1999 by Daniel Fluitt [vocals, acoustic guitar, lap steel, saw] and a ranch raised kid from Fluvanna - Colt Miller [guitar, accordion, banjo, hammond], the foregoing pair included, the current performing line-up includes Colt's brother Clint Miller [bass, dance moves], Kris Killingsworth [percussion, glockenspiel], Todd Pertll [pedal steel guitar, weissenborn, banjo], Cory Ames [wurlitzer, various] and of course, Amanda Shires [violin, vocals]. To date the band has released three studio recordings and one now out of print 'limited edition' live album. The band has toured extensively across the southern states of America performing in venues large and small.

Shires recorded and released her debut solo album **“Being Brave”** with studio assistance from Fiel, Kenny Maines, Andy Wilkinson and Alan Munde, plus Colt and Daniel from the TSC. The set included several traditional tunes, plus the much covered Fred Rose composition “Low And Lonely” [Roy Acuff 1943, Ernest Tubbs 1944, Ramblin' Jack Elliott 1962, The Louvin Brothers 1967, Ricky Scaggs 1981] and four of her own songs. During the Spring of 2006, Amanda was spotted performing at the annual SXSW Music Conference in Austin by Maine bred, Nashville based singer/songwriter Rod Picott, and they began working as a duo soon afterwards. She toured the U.K. and Europe with Picott in the Fall of that year, and they returned two years later to launch their delectable debut set as a duo **“Sew Your Heart With Wires.”** A ten song collection, Messrs Shires and Picott co-wrote all the material. It's worth mentioning that Amanda's song publishing company is [amusingly] called, Little Lambs Eat Ivy.

Her sophomore solo release, the intriguingly titled **“West Cross Timbers”** was recorded in Nashville and co-produced with Rod Picott and David Henry. Released toward the close of 2008, the eleven song collection featured eight Shires' penned originals and “Keep Them Dogs From Barkin” co-written with Fiel, plus a cover of Picott's “Angels And Acrobats,” and the collection closed with the standard “Whispering.” Amanda has performed on concert stages with Billy Joe Shaver, Gary P Nunn, Old 97s, Ian Moore, Blue October, The Flatlanders, The Rowan Brothers, Andy Wilkinson and Whit Smith's Hot Jazz Caravan. Musically speaking the world is her oyster, and she is a perfect pearl.

### Discography

Solo : **“Being Brave”** [2005] ; **“West Cross Timbers”** [2008] :

with Thrift Store Cowboys : **“Nowhere With You”** [2000] ; **“The Great American Desert”** [2003] ; **“Live At Sabala's”** limited edition release [2005] ; **“Lay Low While Crawling Or Creeping”** [2006] ;

with Rod Picott : **“Sew Your Heart With Wires”** [2008] :

### Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 11/08

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