

Iron & Wine [Sam Beam] – Bio

Sam Beam was born in the nineteen-seventies and was raised in Columbia, South Carolina. Growing up, Beam listened to Tamla Motown music – his dad was a big fan. Other musical influences included Carole King, Fleetwood Mac and Howlin' Wolf. After graduating from high school, Beam attended college in Richmond, Virginia. Later, he lived in Orlando, Florida for around a year, while working at Universal/MGM studio freelancing on shoots for commercials. Beam went on to attend Florida State University in Tallahassee where he majored in filmmaking. Following graduation from University, Beam returned to South Carolina for a short time and then moved to Miami, where he set about working on a screenplay with a close friend.

Beam is still based in Miami and currently works as a lecturer in cinematography at Miami International University Of Art & Design, and also occasionally teaches script writing – when he's not playing music. He is married, with two young daughters. In the mid/late nineties in his spare time, and initially for his own amusement, Beam began making *stripped down* recordings of his folk/pop songs, on a four-track recorder, and circulated them among friends. Ben Bridwell, a childhood friend of Beam's who runs his own label, Brown Records, based out of Seattle [and was onetime drummer for Carissa's Weir], sent one of Sam's recordings to Mike McGonigal, the Editor of the Seattle, Washington based magazine, Yeti. The magazine went on to issue a compilation CD that featured the Iron & Wine track, "Dead Man's Will." Jonathan Poneman at Sub-Pop heard the track and contacted Beam. Beam sent the Seattle based label two full CD's of material, and was then signed by them. The two discs were refined to the eleven songs that appeared on Iron & Wine's debut album "**The Creek Drank The Cradle.**" The 12" vinyl album version of the foregoing release came with a free 7" single featuring "Carissa's Weir" b/w "Her Tea Leaves." In the summer of 2002, Sub-Pop issued a now deleted 7" Iron & Wine single that featured the non-album cuts "Call Your Boys" b/w "Dearest Forsaken." The disc that accompanied Issue # 2 of Yeti magazine, included Iron & Wine covers of Stereolab's "Peng 33" and The Flaming Lips "Waiting For Superman."

When Beam toured the States in 2002, he sold the six-song CD, "**Tour EP,**" and in late 2003 Sub-Pop issued a five-track CD, "**The Sea And The Rhythm**" which featured three of the songs from the "**Tour EP.**" On the road, Iron & Wine have played as a four and five piece band, and Sam has also performed as a solo act. Beam's sophomore album, "**Our Endless Numbered Days**" was cut in his Miami home and in Chicago's Engine Studios with producer, Brian Deck. Sam is supported on his third recording by members of his touring band - Sara Beam [his sister], Patrick McKinney, Jeff McGriff, E.J. Holowicki and Jonathan Bradley. Early copies of Beam's third album included a four-song bonus disc. Beam has indicated that he still plans to work in movies in his later life.

Beam released an extended single in late 2004, and two EP's during 2005. The three track Sub Pop single "**Passing Afternoon**" appeared in November 2004, and was followed by the six song EP "**Woman King**" in late February 2005, while the seven song EP "**In The Reins,**" released in September 2005 by Overcoat Records, was a collaboration with the Arizona based band Calexico.

Discography : "**The Creek Drank The Cradle**" [2002] ; "**The Sea And The Rhythm**" [2003] ; "**Our Endless Numbered Days**" [2004] ; "**Passing Afternoon**" extended single [2004] ; "**Woman King**" EP [2005] :
with Calexico - "**In The Reins**" EP with Calexico [2005] :

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