

Nora Brown BIO 2021

Nora plays old-time traditional music with a particular interest in eastern Kentucky and Tennessee banjo playing. Along with the banjo and guitar she also sings traditional unaccompanied ballads from southeast Appalachia and beyond.

She has played at numerous venues and festivals including TED Salon in NYC, NPR Tiny Desk, Joe's Pub, the Floyd Radio Show, Brooklyn Folk Festival, Oldtone Roots Music Festival, Irvington Folk Festival, Blue Ox Festival in WI, Mountain Song Festival in NC, and has had multiple month long residencies at famed Barbès in Brooklyn NY. She has been featured in a variety of podcasts including WNYC's Dolly Parton's America along with NPR's Weekend Edition and All Songs Considered and Apple Music has placed her on the American Best Songs, New In Acoustic.

Nora teaches both in person and online banjo classes and workshops. She has taught at the Ashokan Center's long standing old-time camp known as Southern Week in Olivebridge, NY, and currently teaches workshops through the Handmade Music School in Floyd, VA. and the Jalopy School of Music in Brooklyn, NY. Nora continues to travel and learn from old masters and has taken regular trips to Eastern Kentucky studying under the late master banjo player and former coal miner Lee Sexton and master banjo player and historian George Gibson.

Nora has won numerous banjo and folk song competitions at various fiddlers conventions including the Clifftop Appalachian String Band Music Festival and Grayson County Old-time and Bluegrass Fiddlers Convention.

In September 2021 Jalopy Records released Nora's 2nd album called ***Sidetrack My Engine*** recorded in an underground cellar and pressed by United Record Pressing in Nashville. The album is only available on limited edition 10" white vinyl and digital formats. ***Sidetrack My Engine*** landed #6 on the **Billboard Bluegrass Charts** the 1st week of its release.

"Extraordinary" (NPR Music) "Rising Star" (NPR Weekend Edition)

"Some of the most interesting and haunting traditional music we've heard... impossibly talented... One thing that I really loved about both your albums is that both your banjo technique and your vocals are amazing. You seem to be mining these old songs with emotions far beyond your years."

–Jason Verlinde, Fretboard Journal, September, 2021

"Sidetrack My Engine is both a reverent nod to deeply-rooted ole-time traditions, and an exhibit of sonic heirlooms carefully amended to meet a modern moment with vintage elegance."

–Madeline Crone, American Songwriter, September 25, 2021

"[In her playing,] an intense involvement is revealed as the music appears to wash over her. She sings of experiences way beyond her years, old songs from Appalachian

sources, stories that reflect a more difficult way of life.”

– John Cohen (Musicologist, photographer, filmmaker and founding member of the New Lost City Ramblers)

“[In Nora’s playing] this fretless version of the banjo, more in tune with its African ancestry, allows a seamless glissando, a spirited game of snakes and ladders, doggedly climbing and then slipping easily back to the start.”

-Richard Hollingum, UK Folk Radio, January 3, 2021