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Kelsey Rae ... Country music, circa 1950s reborn

Nashville based Kelsey Rae writes and sings country music 1950s style. Or as one reviewer describes her..." Country music, circa 1950s reborn, that's Kelsey Rae."

Four years living in Music City USA, this Southwest Virginia native performs at Layla's Honky Tonk on Broadway, and she's a regular at American Legion Post 82's Honky Tonk Tuesday Nights, the place to be in Nashville to hear traditional country music. Back in Bristol at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, she was featured along with Chuck Mead at Bristol Radio's (WBCM) July 2019 Farm and Fun Time show, performed at Rhythm & Roots (2014, 2018 and 2019) and since 2013 has appeared every October at Home Craft Days in Big Stone, Gap, Va.

In her recent endeavors she teamed up with Bristol's Bigtone Records for release of its first 45rpm vinyl record – Kelsey Rae singing "Release Me" on A side, "We Buried Her Beneath the Willow" on B. This record is one of the first 45s out in a long time and one of the first by a local label in the Bristol region in countless years. Kelsey Rae is also working on a hymns album.

In Nashville she's had a residency at The Nashville Palace and helped kick off Women in Country Music with two shows at Acme Feed & Seed during 2019's CMA Fest. She was the winner of the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival earning her a night at Nashville's Bluebird Cafe joining Leigh and other Nashville Hall of Fame songwriters Keith Sykes and Mark Sanders where she introduced her own songs like contest winner "This Old Town," "Mr. Fortune Teller," and "Social Media," her tribute to Dolly Parton with contemporary lyrics wrapped in a sheen of retro vibe. These original tunes are featured on her album FORTUNE TELLER.

Kelsey Rae lived for a few years deep in the Southwest Virginia mountains where she discovered a gem in the Mountain Music School in Big Stone Gap, and entered into a whole new realm of traditions, roots music, instruments, sounds and songs of the Carter Family, Dr. Ralph Stanley and others. It was there and then, singing Hank Williams "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," accompanied by mountain dulcimers, Kelsey Rae decided traditional tunes and 50s pop country were what she wanted to write and sing. It was also a time of healing after the loss of her brother Clay, and where she wrote and recorded her first EP that included "Satan's Toy," her first recorded original.

Listen to Kelsey Rae:

Kelsey Rae - "Mule Skinner Blues" - Radio Bristol Sessions

Kelsey Rae on the jukebox: "Please Release Me"

"Social Media" by Kelsey Rae: