

Leah Kaufman



In the 1990's, Seattle singer-songwriter Leah Kaufman released three recordings with popular acoustic quintet The Wailing Strangers and her own solo debut CD, 'Five Fingers'. Performing in festivals and venues throughout the Northwest, her songs garnered song-writing awards and accolades from the South Florida Songwriting Competition, Intermountain Acoustic Music Association, Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Competition and the Austin Songwriting Competition.



In 2015 she relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina, and in 2017 re-emerged with 'On to Something Fine', a collection of songs that pulse with rhythm and vibrant musicianship. This is eloquent acoustic music that dances between genres. From the sweetness of a lullaby to a driving honky-tonk dance tune, there's a backbone of articulate guitar playing and an ear-catching voice that pulls you in to each song's unique story. Her newest 2019 album, 'Midnight Refrain', builds on these strengths: songs with melodies that stick like glue and lyrics that tell stories you love hearing. An accomplished finger-style guitar player as well as fine flat-picker, each song holds true to a common core of exquisite lyrics, fine guitar work and a clear strong voice.



Both recent albums, produced by renowned songwriter and 2019 International Blues Challenge winner Jon Shain, feature some of North Carolina's best acoustic musicians: FJ Ventre (The Swang Brothers), Allyn Love, Ted Ehrhard, Chris Frank (Red Clay Ramblers), Bill Newton (Duke Street Dogs, Indigo Girls), Danny Gotham (Peter Ostroushko), Kaitlin Grady (New Reveille), and Isabel Taylor and Barry Gray on backing vocals.

"... 'On to Something Fine' is full of gentle folk gems. Her soothing vocals pair with clever songwriting – the jaunty "Ruby Shoes" is from the perspective of a post-Oz Dorothy – and simple yet sharp acoustic arrangement."
- Indy Weekly, Durham NC, November 2017

"After making a name for herself and loading up on folkie awards, Kaufman disappeared for a while and relocated from Seattle to Raleigh where she really makes back porch sounds with the locals who aspire to the back 40. A gentle rain of well-wrought folksiness, Kaufman finds her métier in the country where the nearest coffee shop is miles away and the good vibes stretch out like the fields before you. Delightful singing and playing that can make people that make faces at the mention of folk music stop being so rude."
- Chris Spector, Midwest Record, September 2017

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