



The Journey So Far **Sabyn Honors His Past While Looking Forward to a New Path**

For over two decades, Sabyn has built an impressive career in the worlds of cinema and music. His journey has taken him through feature films, shorts, music videos, albums, and an impressive array of single releases. His new album, *The Journey So Far*, is a look back on his musical career to date and an embrace of his family musical heritage.

A Tennessee native, Sabyn's love of both film and music was bred in his bones. He's the son of Emmy-award winning casting director Laray Mayfield, and a member of the renowned Owens/Parton musical family — the son of country hitmaker, Randy Parton, and the nephew of Dolly Parton.

Though born between the bright lights of Tinseltown and the rhinestone glitter of Music City, USA, Sabyn first witnessed the film industry from the ground up when he spent most of his formative years with his mother in Los Angeles.

"In the 80s, music videos were the point of entry for younger talents, like my mom," Sabyn says. "So my childhood was spent on set for videos — Madonna, Billy Idol, Paula Abdul, Aerosmith — all these iconic artists and iconic videos. That was just normal for me, but I was a terribly shy kid. It wasn't until I graduated high school that I embraced my creativity and started working with film."

Working in both film and television, Sabyn quickly built a reputation as a skilled production assistant, then grip, and expanded his career into casting, screenwriting, directing, and producing. He made his feature film directorial debut in 2017 with *Boomtown*, which he also produced and wrote, and continues to be active in film development. At the same time, he also embraced the musical side of his heritage.

"Maybe in an alternate universe where I grew up around more direct musical influence, I would have been more musically inclined," Sabyn says. "I think it was always in my DNA to be musical and creative, but I'm an 80's baby, and hip hop and sampling became my entry point to music."

Along with creating music for a variety of film and TV projects, Sabyn released his debut single "It's a Long Dark Road" in 2010. Fusing hip hop with country and bluegrass, Sabyn carved out his own unique niche in the country rap scene. "It gave me the ability to create a sound that wasn't pigeonholed into being rap," Sabyn says. "Hip hop fans can appreciate it, but also people who aren't hip hop fans per se, can dig it too."

His music also provided him a path to connect with the musical heritage of his father's family, which served as a source of inspiration. "I did '9 to 5 to 9' back in 2021 which was built on Dolly's '9 to 5,' and then I did 'Oh Tennessee' which sampled my dad's song, 'Tennessee Born.' When Richie Owens hit me up about recording something for *Smoky Mountain DNA*, he gave me options for a few songs. I chose Dolly's 'The Seeker,' which became 'Holy Water' for the album, but I also did a version of my Uncle Floyd Parton's song, 'Foolin' Around.'"

Sabyn's new compilation album, *The Journey So Far*, collects his four family collaborations alongside some 16 of his favorite recordings from earlier in his career. As with any good journey, it tells a story of change and growth.

"Some of these recordings are very reflective of my youth," Sabyn says. "But one of the best things about getting older is that you usually develop better and wider tastes. I want to do things now that are more timeless. I feel like that's the opportunity that was given to me by *Smoky Mountain DNA* and what has come since then. My first records were true to form hip hop records, but when I ventured into the 9 to 5 thing, the lyrical content was different because I was piggybacking off this already established recording. My hope is I can continue to expand on my style."

For now, Sabyn continues his work on film projects as the head of his production imprint Stay Fly LLC, along with serving as CEO of The Bridge to Recovery, a trauma and codependency treatment center located in Bowling Green, Kentucky, while also looking forward to new musical projects.

"It is a great honor to be at the forefront of carrying the torch of my Aunt Dolly's and my father's musical legacy," Sabyn says. "I feel very fortunate to be able to put a unique spin on our family tradition and appeal to audiences both old and new."

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