

CAN YOU HELP US WITH RADIO PLAY?

[View this email in your browser](#)



## In this issue:

- The Power Of Live Performance
- James Reams on AirPlay Direct
- Like A Flowing River: A Bluegrass Passage available for Pre-order on Amazon



**Book NOW for future events!**

Contact 718-374-1086  
OR  
[info@jamesreams.com](mailto:info@jamesreams.com)  
to book James Reams & The Barnstormers for your festival, venue, concert series, or event.

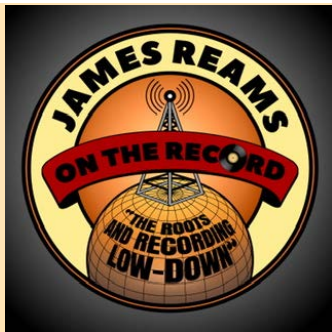
## The Power Of Live Performance

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, social distancing has left many people yearning for the good old days and the collective joy of enjoying the concert experience. We know it's a special feeling to be part of a community. Part of what makes us human. The relationship between the audience and the performer has always been unique and special. I have been to festivals across the United States as both a performer and fan, and I always find it amazing to think that the bond has been around since the beginning of time. It allows people to experience something that they don't get every day and to escape into a deeper understanding of the musicians' world.



**When I was growing up, I experienced some early particular performances that truly inspired me.**

I had witnessed my family and neighbors playing music in our home and community. But for some reason as a kid, I



## "On The Record" With James Reams

Listen to Jimmy Martin and Paul Williams on our first episode of "The Roots and The Recording Low-Down" Available now on [iTunes](#)



### Member of:

- [Arizona Bluegrass Association](#)
- [Desert Bluegrass Association](#)
- [Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music](#)
- [South West Bluegrass Association](#)
- [California Bluegrass Association](#)
- [Bluegrass Music Society of the Central Coast](#)
- [Bluegrass Association of Southern California](#)
- [San Diego Bluegrass Association](#)
- [San Diego and North County Bluegrass and Folk Club](#)
- [San Diego Folk Heritage](#)
- [Colorado Bluegrass Music Society](#)
- [Southern Nevada Music Society](#)
- [Northern NV Bluegrass Association](#)
- [Central Texas Bluegrass](#)

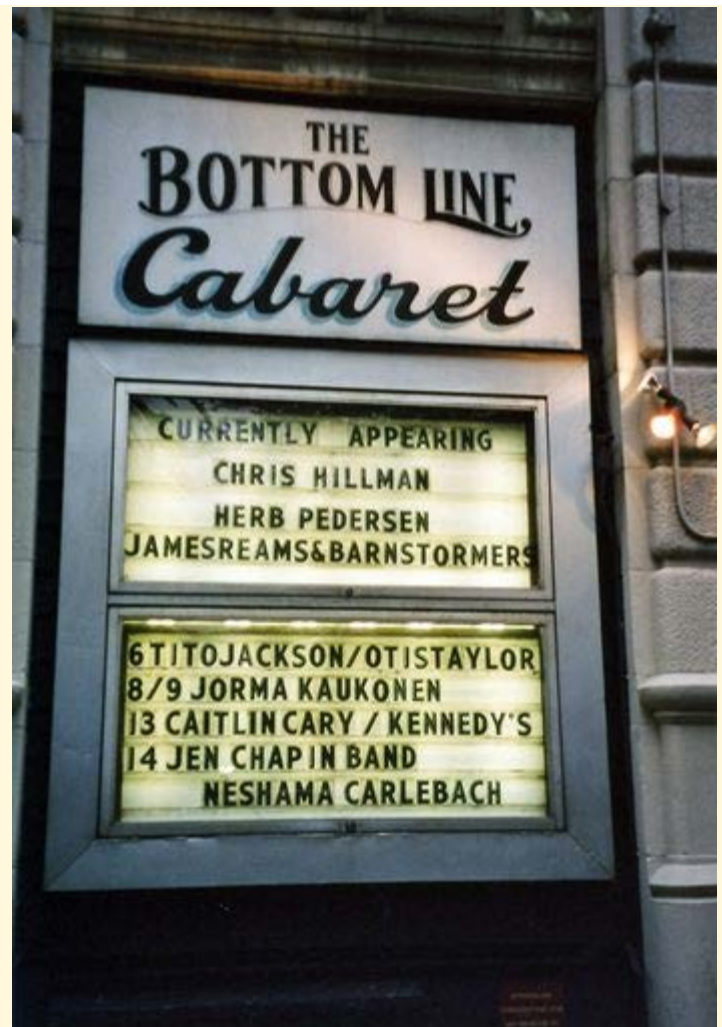
just couldn't get enough of Hank Williams; he fascinated me. My parents knew this and knew that Hank Junior, or as Hank would call his son, "Bocephus" was coming to our small town. How exciting was that!? I had never seen an actual theater show, and the venue held about 300 people. I remember when he appeared from behind the curtains that everything seemed magical and surreal as he sang the old Hank's songs. I was awestruck. That moment marked me as a kid and led me to understand how my family thought about music. It touched me like I never had been before, and it changed my life. We never did think about music as a career, but as a way of life. For that reason, we could see music everywhere; we were able to enjoy our life to the fullest and enrich it with the music. Music became more of a practice than a profession. Almost like a religion, where you can find comfort, you can explore and get a better understanding about life. Music allowed you to connect with people and express yourself. I always say singing is like crying in public, and it sure feels good! When I finally arrived in New York, things changed, and I got called to perform more often and travel more.

### Covid-19 has really changed how I've thought about music.

The downtime surrounding the current pandemic has allowed me to become more introspective and to appreciate the live performances that I've done in the past. Listening back to the recordings of those live performances I value them more, I realize that sometimes you must accept different ways of collaborating to bring out the music. Everything changes us, but this pandemic has forced us to transform. Before the pandemic, my life was moving almost too fast. I now see this as a time of reflecting; to reach out and try to stay in touch with people and communicate in different ways. Whether I'm playing at a festival or small club or to a bigger audience, there never is a way to replace people as part of a performance. As musicians, we have to find new ways of connecting with people, and that's why I love music as a vehicle to do that.

[Association](#)

- [Bluegrass Music Association of Maine](#)
- [Far West Folk Alliance](#)
- [Folk Alliance International](#)
- [International Bluegrass Music Association](#)



**I feel something special when I perform in the same room as an audience, in contrast to recording music in a studio.**

The atmosphere impacts a performance on a psychological and spiritual level, and it's an uplifting experience when the audience, performers, and venue staff are all into their roles in the evening's events. The connection within a musical neighborhood is the true success of an artist, and that connection with fans, musicians, and everyone involved, solidifies one's status as a successful member of the community.

Sometimes I just love to walk in a theater or walk into a club and think this is a moment that will have no end and soak in all the other performances that lived there. I enjoy playing, and the physical reaction of joy comes from a deeper level of spirituality with the music itself. To me, that really tells the importance of music and why it's been with us since the beginning of time. Don't get me wrong. There's nothing wrong with selling albums and T-shirts

and going on the road to play venues, but the real truth is that music is a way to transform and to uplift you. It's a way to shift our spiritual condition radically if we pay attention. In fact, music therapists have tapped into this a long time ago. Music is a powerful thing that can heal and change, and therefore I feel even more now that we can't take things for granted. Somehow, we don't see or touch it, but a song can change our outlook on life and make us react in your own way. It makes us want to dance with someone or smile. It's impossible to really describe the power or the forces that you deal with when experiencing music.

### **Specials moments where music really impacted my life.**

So many special moments! I think on the time I saw Bill Monroe and Doc Watson play together. I remember the times I've been backstage with people like Larry Sparks, Doc Watson, Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin or Ralph Stanley or when I was growing up and heard the first string band at home. I felt a real connection and fellowship between all these performers. All of these artists were taking a chance, and when you realize that people were giving up something to make their music, you begin to understand why community is so important in the music. These artists were dedicated to the music and to each other, which is even more important.

### **The true uniqueness of a live show is hard to describe.**

The power of the live show is hard to describe. There's a shift I remember when Tina (my partner who has passed) first started traveling with me, and she would ask me if I knew anybody at the place we were performing. I would say no and that I just spoke to the promoter on the phone. She would ask, "What was going to happen?", and I thought and then said, "When we go in everybody will be a little cold, nervous, or maybe even distant, but at the end of the show, people are going to want to hug us, take photographs with us and give us food." sure enough, on the way home, we would have sandwiches or pie. Not really the best diet, but it was truly satisfying to know we had performed made new friends that would become old

friends.

It's powerful to be on stage as a performer and bare your soul and share something personal and vulnerable. Nothing compares to being able to connect with an audience before you leave. The music you play is not just a product your selling, but it becomes part of humanity and culture. I remember performances that exist in my mind and heart long after the performance are over. Music has the power to transform; it's very powerful and timeless.

---

***James Reams* On AirPlay Direct some of these you can listen to the entire album.**

**COULD YOU HELP US? If you have a folk DJ or Bluegrass DJ in mind send them this newsletter and request that they play some of James Reams & The Barnstormers, info on Airplay Direct all of these albums are highly rated by DJ's that use this service and FREE!**

Do not miss any of our great albums! Our music is available on AirPlay Direct with downloadable content. Click below to hear more!



Listen to One Foot In The Honky Tonk



Listen to Wild Card





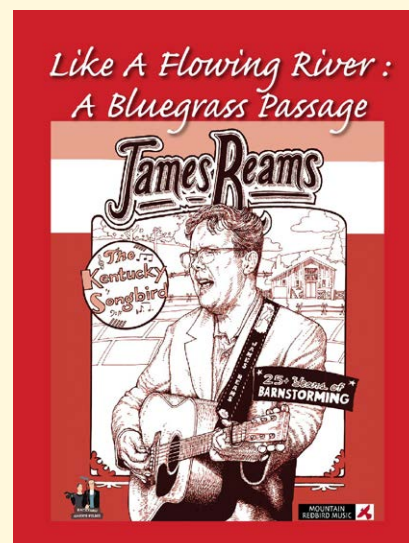
Listen to Rhyme & Season

---

## Like A Flowing River: A Bluegrass Passage available for Pre-order on Amazon

James Reams & The Barnstormers are happy to announce that the documentary [Like a Flowing River: A Bluegrass Passage](#) is available for [pre-order](#) on Amazon

Click below to pre-order yours!



**Pre-order Now!**



---

Copyright © 2020 James Reams & The Barnstormers, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

