

RACHAEL KILGOUR

Rachael Kilgour is an award-winning songwriter and performing artist whose sincere, lyric-driven work bravely walks the line between personal and political. The 2015 grand prize winner of the international NewSong Music Performance & Songwriting Competition and winner of the 2017 Kerrville New Folk Contest, Kilgour has been featured at NYC's Lincoln Center, at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and at the Sundance Film Festival.

As a young adult, Kilgour cut short a degree in music from the University of MN Duluth in order to pursue a life as a songwriter. She has studied the craft through the works of other prominent writers and thinkers of our time and has sharpened her narrative voice to a fine point in the 13+ years since she first began.



www.rachaelkilgour.com
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Married in her early twenties, Kilgour devoted her young adulthood to parenting her stepchild and building family and community. Her work from that time (*Self-Titled* (2008), *Will You Marry Me?* (2011), *Whistleblower's Manifesto* (2013)) chronicled her life as a young parent in a same-sex partnership and addressed sociopolitical issues from government corruption to income inequality and religious hypocrisy. Kilgour's music career took a backseat during those years as she lived a slow, home-focused life.

In 2014, divorce brought an unwanted end to her role as a member of the family she had helped to grow. In the aftermath, Kilgour found solace in songwriting. Her third full-length album, *Rabbit in the Road* (2017), was born out of that time.

Called "...a heartfelt slice of master crafted indie folk brimming with the battle-tested capacity to endure the worst in others" by Billboard, *Rabbit in the Road* took an intimate and often painful look at the failed marriage and loss of family. Kilgour's writing and delivery cut deep, with resolute simplicity. Ravelin Magazine observed "this sort of metonymic ability to evoke the whole of someone or the entirety of a feeling is typical of Kilgour's poetic songwriting."

In February of 2019, Kilgour follows up with the release of her new EP, *Game Changer*. The aptly titled work examines the artist's tentative first steps into a new world, post-heartbreak. With a clear head, Kilgour touches on the complicated nature of romance and relationship, sets up a stunning defense of queer love, and reassesses her priorities as a citizen of a changing wider world.

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PRESS:

"Kilgour's unapologetic lyrics are a real treat" (*Rolling Stone*)

"...a heartfelt slice of master crafted indie folk brimming with the battle-tested capacity to endure the worst in others" (*Billboard*)

"Rachael Kilgour is folk music's Next Big Thing...the finest purveyor of tear-jerkers to emerge from northern Minnesota since Bob Dylan." (*Star Tribune*)

"Minnesotan songwriter Rachael Kilgour writes lyrics that you want to hold onto forever." (*Impose Magazine*)

"Kilgour soars upward into the same kind of otherworldly, angst-ridden melismas. And she has the material to match that transcendent voice." (*New York Music Daily*)

AWARDS:

Winner of the 2017 Kerrville New Folk Songwriting Contest

Grand Prize winner of the 2015 International NewSong Performance and Songwriting Competition