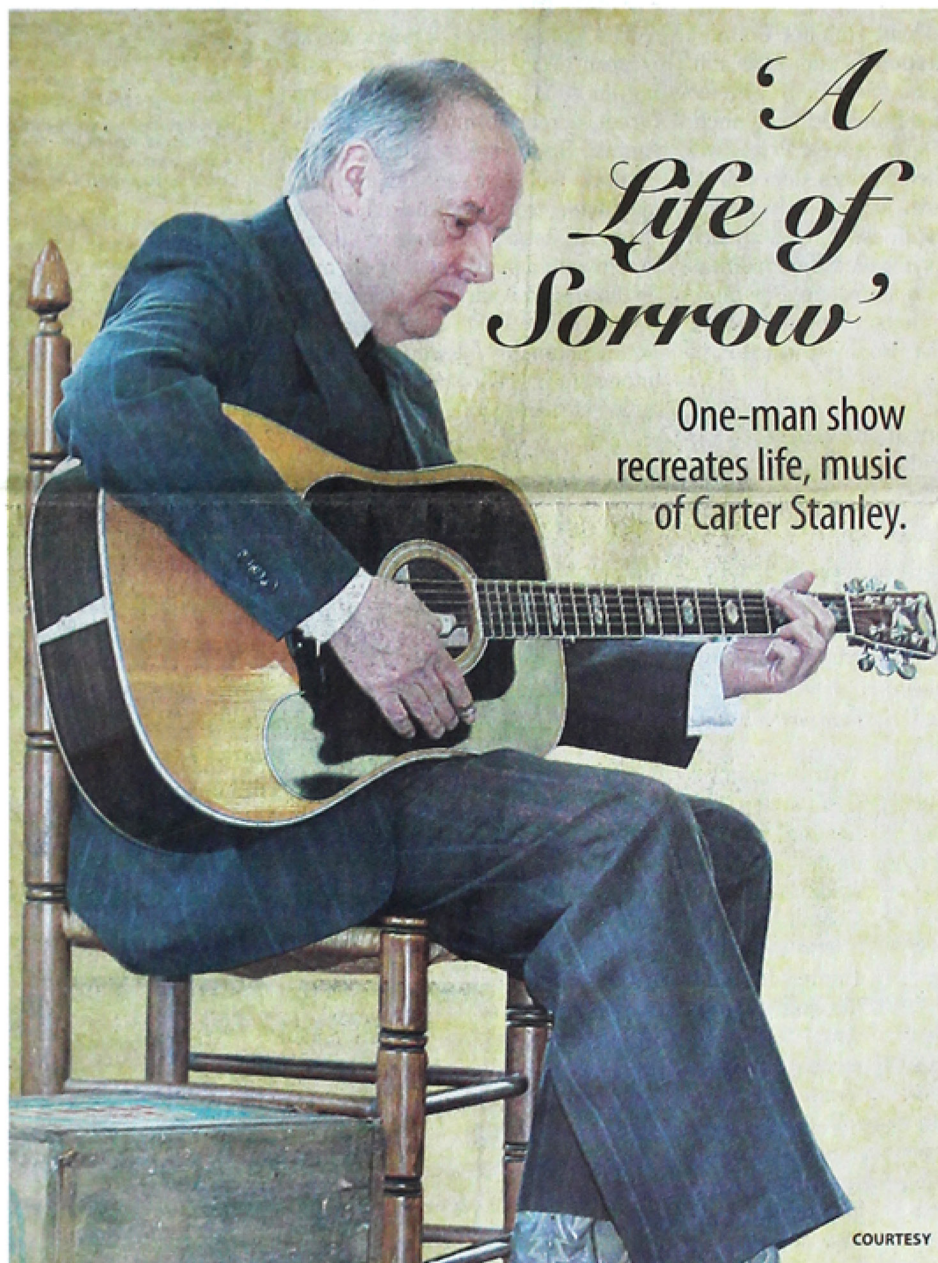


Lake City Reporter

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 11 & 12, 2016



A Life of Sorrow

One-man show recreates life, music of Carter Stanley.

Gary Reid performs Sunday at downtown library.

By NICK ROLLISON

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THE ROAD TO Stanley Brothers fandom started for Gary Reid in 1973 with a 33-cent record purchased from his Maryland high school political sciences teacher.

According to Reid, his teacher had won a stack of records at a police auction and had invited young Reid to take a gander.

"And I was just going through the stacks, listening to about five seconds each," Reid said.

The stacks contained music from legendary bluegrass musicians such as Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and, of course, the Stanley Brothers, whose sounds immediately impressed Reid.

"... And it just hasn't let go," Reid said. "There was something about their musicianship, and the honesty in their voices."

Reid, who would go on to make his livelihood with his own record company, Copper Creek Records, will be performing a free, one-man play, "A Life of Sorrow: The Life and Times of Carter Stanley," at 2 p.m.

IF YOU GO

• **WHAT:** "A Life of Sorrow: The Life and Times of Carter Stanley," a one-man show performed by Gary Reid.

• **WHEN:** 2 p.m. Sunday.

• **WHERE:** Main branch of the Columbia County Public Library, 308 NW Columbia Ave. in downtown Lake City.

• **DETAILS:** Free and open to the public. The 90-minute performance will include storytelling, musical performances and a Q&A session.

• **INFO:** 758-2101 or ccpl.ent.sirsi.net/

Sunday at the main branch of the Columbia County Public Library.

Carter Stanley, who was one-half of the Stanley Brothers and passed away in 1966, was said by Bill Monroe (himself the Father

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STANLEY

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of Bluegrass) as the best natural lead singing voice he had ever heard.

Reid's act is split into six segments, in which he explores the many facets of Carter's career, from his time growing up in Virginia to his first exposure to music.

Reid has studied bluegrass for over 40 years, which led him to write "The Music of the Stanley Brothers." The book traces their 20-year musical history song by song.

However, Reid wanted more Stanley Brothers lore and figured that he would just get it to come to him.

Inspired by Hal Holbrook's one-man show about Mark Twain, Reid took a few semesters of community college acting classes in Virginia. He learned to sing and play the guitar and performed his first play about Carter Stanley in 2014.

"I realized that a play about the front man of the Stanleys might bring



Gary Reid has studied bluegrass for over 40 years, which led him to write "The Music of the Stanley Brothers." The book traces the duo's 20-year musical history song by song. Reid's one-man show was inspired by Hal Holbrook's famous stage tribute to Mark Twain.

people to me," Reid said. "I didn't really have the story from a fan's perspective."

One particular fan that will be watching Reid's performance is Jeanie Stanley Allinder, Carter Stanley's youngest daughter.

Allinder, who recorded an album about her father titled "Baby Girl: A Tribute to My Father Carter Stanley," has been trying to get her father and uncle into the Country Music

Hall of Fame in Nashville. She and Reid have written emails to each other, and Reid said one reason he was touring in Florida was to perform for Allinder, who was only 4 when her father died.

"He's the greatest man I never knew," Allinder said. "I'm fascinated to see what Gary's put together because this will probably be the closest to seeing what my dad was like."