

## Sarah Smout - Artist Bio

### “Deeply lovely” – Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2

Celebrated cellist Sarah Smout hails from Yorkshire, and has toured internationally with acts including **Michael Chapman, BJ Cole, Bridget St. John, The Mediaeval Baebes, Rachel Ries, King Creosote, Rosie Doonan, The Magpies, Jess Morgan, and Gren Bartley**. Her cello playing has also appeared on dozens of critically acclaimed albums in the folk and roots scenes. She has appeared at many festivals across Europe, including **Primavera Sound (Barcelona), Glastonbury, Green Man, Shambala, Larmer Tree, Costa del Folk, Towersey, Shrewsbury, Cambridge** and countless others.

As a singer and poet in her own right, it was only a matter of time before she began a solo career. In 2017, her song ‘**Arctic Ground**’ was written for **Greenpeace** and used for one of their Save the Arctic campaign videos, which depicts the tremendous efforts of protestors and native tribes against oil drilling.

After touring the Highlands and Hebrides in 2017/18 with Sophie Ramsay, they set off on their most ambitious journey to date - a musical voyage over land and sea from **Orkney to Iceland, including a sail boat between Shetland and the Faroes**. This experience has resulted in Sarah developing her entrancing new **solo show, Eyjar**, combining poetry, song and looped cello soundscapes which explore our connections to nature and place. Interweaved within it are dialect words for flora and fauna from each island, and interpretations of traditional songs learnt from local musicians en-route. She has performed the show only twice due to Covid, but the future will see Sarah performing at the **English Folk Expo** supporting **Sam Lee**, the **Nest Collective**, **Timber Festival** and more TBA.

## Wild Music

Sarah’s creative career is built on a deep passion for collaboration and the environment. Wild Music combines the two in a new project between Sarah and **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**. Born out of an idea to shoot a music video on her home county’s iconic moorland, Sarah has established a unique working relationship with YWT to create a series of outdoor music videos highlighting some of Yorkshire’s most fragile environments. The first saw her single ‘**Atlas**’ released in June 2021 alongside a video set on a blanket bog restoration site, which has received press in publications such as **Living North, Yorkshire Dales Review, IUCN, Yorkshire Post** and others, including an interview and feature on **BBC Look North**. The video for the second single release is set to be filmed in the Autumn at Spurn Point.

## Reviews and Press Quotes

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Hinterlands Festival 2021:

*‘Sarah Smout offered the perfect opening to Hinterlands Festival with a set deeply rooted in time and place but containing within its apparent simplicity the power to transport the rapt audience across oceans. It was a performance born out of a combination of deeply felt experience, musical virtuosity and a captivating stage presence, and one felt very deeply by those lucky enough to witness it’ – Sarah Bird, Director, Wild Rumpus*

## The Joinery, Settle Stories 2019:

*'Throughout the evening's performance Sarah manages to bring to vivid life the variety of landscapes and the communities who inhabit them, from cries of seabirds and their pattering feet through to the howling gales and the harmonies of traditional songs, achieving wonderful and entrancing effects through her use of looped cello, song and poetry but most of all it is her clarity of vision which reaches out to the audience to draw them into her view of the world.'* – **Gill O'Donnell** – full review - <https://www.settlestories.org.uk/review-returning-home>

*'Imaginative, creative, innovative and deeply sensitive, but above all, brave.'* – **Sir John Lister Kaye, author and naturalist**

*'Sarah was a joy to work with. There wasn't one member in the sold-out audience who wasn't captivated by her extraordinary story and mesmerising music. During the Q&A, the most common question was when will you return?'* - **Charles Tyrer, Executive Director, Settle Stories**

*'A superb evening – moving, dreamy, evocative and stimulating, full of heart and soul and a deep care for the world'* – **Harriet Fraser, author, artist, and audience member**

*'simply beautiful'* - **BBC Introducing**

*'Startlingly good arrangements'* - **FRUK**

*'beautiful'* - **Greenpeace**

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### Links:

YWT - Atlas - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dai6Fr20wR8>

Greenpeace - 'Arctic Ground' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlKaOjPrMpY>

BBC Look North interview – <https://www.facebook.com/sarahsmoutcello/videos/3938402409561492>

Link Tree – <https://linktr.ee/sarahsmout>

### Website/Socials:

<https://www.sarahsmoutmusic.co.uk>

[https://www.instagram.com/bernard\\_thecello](https://www.instagram.com/bernard_thecello)

<https://www.facebook.com/sarahsmoutcello>

<https://twitter.com/SarahSmout2>