

50 FEET

OF SONG

"And the thing that I always tried to do with important singers when I met them was to sit down and record everything they knew, give them a first real run-through of their art."

- Alan Lomax

Inspired by both the direct cinema of the late sixties and the field recordings of Alan Lomax, 50 Feet sets out to create original sessions of the songs of our day. The 50 Feet refers to the one cartridge of Super 8 film that the sessions are shot on. 50 Feet of film equals about 3 minutes of record time.

By introducing this restraint of time, the artist has to work within the confines of the film and is forced to recreate and adapt their song to the space that is shaped by the Super 8 cartridge. Out of this space comes a more intimate and personal rendition of the song.

We also believe that behind every good song is an even better story. In addition to shooting sessions, we are deeply interested in the personal narrative that surrounds the craft and shows us the beating heart behind the song.

Sessions:

[Shovels and Rope](#)

[Barna Howard](#)

[Shakey Graves](#)

[Vikesh Kappor](#)

50 Feet of Song is a small yet mighty crew living and breathing in Seattle, WA. They are:

Max McSimov: Director, Visionary, Web Design

Stacy Amundsen: Producer, Sound Engineer

Anna Markle: Editor, Photographer, Social Media

Kithfolk Magazine excerpt -

50 Feet of Song starts with the simplest of premises: 50 actual feet of 8 film equals about 3 minutes of runtime. This 3 minutes mirrors the standard length of a song; a convention left over from the physical limitations of 78rpm records. Inspired by the visionary work of Alan Lomax, the folks at 50 Feet of Song hit the road all over the Pacific Northwest, recording artists at festivals, in hotel rooms, and on front porches creating new field recordings with old technology.

Each artist gets 50 feet of film and no more, so they'd better be sure to get their songs in at three minutes! The audio is professionally recorded on the spot, so the films sound great acoustically, but the image shimmers and flickers, and you can hear the film rolling in the background.

Super 8 is a throwback to a lost age, when everyday filmmakers could get their hands on the gear to make their own movies for the first time. We're so used to multiplex IMAX screens, HD Vimeos or pixellated YouTube videos that we've forgotten the feeling of actual film. The natural lighting filtered through Super 8 tricks the mind, reminding us of old folk music documentaries from the 70s, like the work of Les Blank.

Here at Hearth Music we've become addicted to the films of 50 Feet of Song. There's something so tangible in a medium that's lately become forbiddingly fantastical. Ghosts flicker at the edge of the film, and ghosts echo in the songs as well.