

# SAM BARBER

Now that Sam Barber has your attention, he's looking forward to holding onto it a while.

"I love making anything that can affect someone emotionally," Barber says.

The 21-year-old singer-songwriter from Southeast Missouri has already seen his career begin on a meteoric rise, and his debut album, *Restless Mind*, released in November 2024, is poised to send him into orbit. The ongoing Restless Mind Tour has already featured Barber's Ryman Auditorium debut and a showcase slot at the GoldenSky Festival. The tour will reach the U.S., Europe and Australia in 2025 introducing tens of thousands of new fans to Barber's energetic and emotional live show.

Barber is also entering 2025 on a high note following the release of "Indigo (feat. Avery Anna)," which marked his debut on the Billboard Hot 100 while amassing more than 80 MILLION global streams (and counting), and notching 1 BILLION+ views and 400,000+ creates on TikTok.

Recorded in Nashville and in Barber's bedroom during breaks in his hectic 2024 touring schedule, *Restless Mind* features music that dates to the first songs Barber ever wrote. "It sums up my whole music career, and everything I've done," he says of the record. The album ranges from stripped-down acoustic to fill-the-room melodies, so he tapped multiple producers, including Eddie Spear (Zach Bryan's *American Heartbreak* as well as Barber's 2023 EP, *Million Eyes*) to create the album, as Barber wanted to bring multiple perspectives to his sound.

Barber announced the album with the single "Thought of You" in October 2024. The raw, acoustic-first track places Barber's showstopping vocals front-and-center for diehard fans and casual listeners alike. It was written with Amy Allen (Sabrina Carpenter "Espresso," "Please Please Please" and "Feather," Tate McRae "Greedy," Harry Styles "Adore You" and more)

*Restless Mind* also includes the song "Better Year," which Barber released in August 2024 along with a B-side cover of Tyler Childers' "Jersey Giant."

"It's kind of about my life," Barber says, "leaving home and struggling at the start, like anybody does. And I'm just hoping that next year's a better year, that it's all going to be worth it."

But it is the album's title track that Barber holds dearest to his heart and believes fans will feel the same way about.

"'Restless Mind' is a song that's on the album. It's my personal favorite song. It means the most to me. It's a very raw song, and I just love the absolute world out of it," Barber says. "As soon as I found it, I knew that I wanted it to be the album title."

Barber grew up in a town of 200 people, on a 400-acre farm, surrounded by a supportive family and with his grandparents in the next house over from his parents. His youth was spent playing baseball, football, basketball, or hunting and fishing. He recalls a ton of Steel Drivers and early Chris Stapleton being played around the house. Eventually, an old Gibson guitar in his parents' home struck Barber's fancy.

"My great grandpa used to play guitar, and my parents kept his guitar in the house like a showpiece," Barber says. "One day when they weren't home, I just thought, 'It would be fun to play guitar.' So, I just picked it up with no clue how to play it, started strumming, trying my hardest at it."

Not long after, his mother caught him singing in the living room, and she told him it wasn't half bad. Barber took that as a compliment and decided to give music a go. While enrolled in a technical college, a friend suggested he post some music to TikTok. Barber caught on: "After like a month, one video just took off. Playing for a living was never even a possible thing in my mind, I was just doing it for fun."

He began releasing original music in 2022, including "Straight and Narrow," a bedroom recording of a song he'd written when he was just 16. A powerful acoustic track about overcoming life's countless hurdles, "Straight and Narrow" proved an RIAA PLATINUM-certified sensation, reaching #1 on viral charts worldwide while landing on such multi-format Billboard charts as "Hot Rock Songs," "Hot Rock & Alternative Songs," and "Hot Country Songs."

"It's done everything for my career. It's the whole reason that I'm here," Barber says of the song.

In the three years since, a log has happened. He just missed the cut for the 20th season of *American Idol* in early 2022. He made his live debut in June 2023 at The Basement in Nashville — which sold out. Three months later, he made his Grand Ole Opry Debut. In between, he played at Bruce Springsteen's BST Hyde Park series. *Million Eyes* followed in October 2023, and Barber found himself in nearly every conversation about Country music's next big thing.

"In my mind, people still don't know who I am," he says. "It's still weird when people walk up to me and go, 'Oh, you're Sam Barber!' I still don't think about myself like that."

After the *Restless Mind* album and tour, Barber may have no choice. For now, however, he's just enjoying the ride and the thrill of sharing his music with fans.

"I'm looking forward to meeting more fans, meeting more fans, and selling my career," Barber says of his touring plans. "Playing live is one of the coolest things. It's a feeling you can't really replicate or explain, but being on stage with a crowd screaming back to you your own music is a feeling that will definitely never get old."

---

# SAM BARBER

Now that Sam Barber has your attention, he's looking forward to holding onto it a while.

"I love making anything that can affect someone emotionally," Barber says.

The 21-year-old singer-songwriter from Southeast Missouri has already seen his career begin on a meteoric rise, and his debut album, *Restless Mind*, released in November 2024, is poised to send him into orbit. The ongoing Restless Mind Tour has already featured Barber's SOLD-OUT Ryman Auditorium debut and a showcase slot at the GoldenSky Festival. The tour will reach the U.S., Europe and Australia in 2025 introducing tens of thousands of new fans to Barber's energetic and emotional live show.

Barber is also entering 2025 on a high note following the release of "Indigo (feat. Avery Anna)," which marked his debut on the Billboard Hot 100 while amassing more than 80 MILLION global streams (and counting), and notching 1 BILLION+ views and 400,000+ creates on TikTok.

After the success of his PLATINUM-certified 2023 single "Straight and Narrow," Barber combines raw honesty and youthful enthusiasm in a way that has forced him into nearly every conversation about the future of country music. In the wake of the *Restless Mind* album and tour, that future may well belong to Barber.

---