

sadie johnson music

singer | songwriter | guitarist

Sadie's musical journey began at the age of six. She wasn't all that into piano lessons, but one day stumbled upon her sister's acoustic guitar and everything changed.

Sadie began lessons with Aaron Chandler at Smith Holden Music in Bloomington, Indiana, where she'd show up each week with a mix of excitement and nerves. Keeping focused was a bit of a struggle at first, but that didn't deter her.

Then came Saturdays with Joe Lisinicchia at Vance Music, a routine Sadie, Sam and the whole family got in on. With her dad and younger sisters, Grace and Molly, in tow, they made it a weekend tradition. Starting off at The Bakehouse, those early mornings became less about dragging themselves out of bed and more about gearing up for some serious guitar fun—and, of course, plenty of whipped cream to fuel their jam sessions.

Under Joe's guidance, Sadie and Sam, began to hone their technique and delve into the depths of music theory. Joe's teaching style was a mix of trial and error, spiced up with a bit of friendly competition between the sisters. It was a dynamic environment that not only fostered their musical growth but also brought the family closer together over their shared love for music.

Saturday mornings turned into a full-blown music immersion once Sadie started homeschooling in 8th grade. Joe Lisinicchia's influence extended beyond the weekend, as he began visiting the house daily for lessons. These sessions weren't just about scales and chords; Joe shared insights on music theory, technique, and even life lessons along the way.

Along with her sister, Samantha, Sadie embarked on a journey through the rich tapestry of musical genres, from blues to jazz and beyond, captivating audiences wherever they went as the Sad Sam Blues Jam. Their shared love for music became a conduit for shared experiences, bonding them not just as siblings but as artistic collaborators.

During 8th grade she auditioned for Janis Stockhouse's jazz program at Bloomington High School North. She was given the guitar chair in Jazz 1, North's premier jazz band from 9th-12th grade. She went on to perform with Jazz 1 and the top combos, winning awards at Jazz Festivals throughout the midwest and beyond. Some notable moments were being named to the Hamp's Club at the 2012 Lionel Hampton Jazz Fest at the University of Idaho and receiving the Frank Mantooth Award at the 2014 Ball State Jazz Fest. While in high school, she had opportunities to take lessons with incredible musicians and guitarists including Cory Christiansen, Ben Mathews,

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The opportunity to join the Ruf Records Blues Caravan was a pivotal moment, propelling Sadie into uncharted musical territories and exposing her to a kaleidoscope of cultural influences. This led her to graduating early from Bloomington High School North and embark on a journey of discovery, both musically and personally, as she found herself immersed in the universal language of music, transcending boundaries and connecting with people from all walks of life. She toured for the better part of 2015.

Yet, amidst the whirlwind of performances and accolades, Sadie remained grounded by a deeper calling: the transformative power of music therapy. Her journey took her from the stage to the classroom, as she dedicated herself to studying music therapy at Marietta College and later becoming a certified music therapist. Sadie was at Marietta from 2015 through 2022 due to the pandemic.

Through her work with Blue Star Connection and other philanthropic endeavours, Sadie has embraced music as a force for healing and social change. Her commitment to using her musical talents to uplift others is a testament to her compassion and empathy.

Releasing her first solo project, "Natural Distractions" her journey comes full circle, a testament to the enduring power of music to inspire, heal, and unite. With each chord she strums and every note she sings, Sadie embodies the spirit of artistic expression and social responsibility, leaving an indelible mark on the world around her.

Sadie looks forward to the future with her band, solo projects and saying "yes" to requests for her time and to assist with projects involving future young musicians.