

= Amos Lee =

Amos Lee (born Ryan Anthony Massaro , June 22 , 1977) is an American singer @-@ songwriter whose musical style encompasses folk , rock and soul . He was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in English . After working as a schoolteacher and bartender he began to pursue a career in music . His manager submitted a demo recording to Blue Note Records which resulted in a recording contract and an association with singer Norah Jones .

Since that time Lee has recorded five albums on Blue Note Records and has toured as an opening act for Norah Jones , Bob Dylan , Elvis Costello , Paul Simon , Merle Haggard , Van Morrison , John Prine , Dave Matthews Band , Adele , the Zac Brown Band , Jack Johnson , The Avett Brothers , and David Gray . His music has appeared on the soundtracks of numerous TV shows and movies . He has performed on several late night TV shows and at a voter registration rally for Barack Obama . In 2011 , his album Mission Bell debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart .

= = Early life and education = =

Lee was born as Ryan Anthony Massaro in 1977 and was raised in Kensington , Philadelphia . He moved to Cherry Hill , New Jersey at age 11 and graduated from Cherry Hill High School East . Lee attended the University of South Carolina and graduated with a degree in English and a minor in education . During his college years he developed an interest in music after being inspired by the John Prine album , Great Days . During this period he began playing the guitar and bass as part of a band (Hot Lava Monster) and listening to the music of Donny Hathaway , Joni Mitchell , Luther Vandross , Bill Withers and Otis Redding .

= = Career = =

After returning to Philadelphia , Lee worked as a second grade school teacher at the Mary McLeod Bethune School and as a bartender at local music venues . He performed at " open mic " events in the area and , through his contacts with promoters , was hired as an opening act for artists like Mose Allison and B.B. King .

In 2003 , Lee 's manager sent a four @-@ song demo CD to several record labels , and the representative at Blue Note Records was " immediately struck by his [Lee 's] voice " . Afterwards , Norah Jones heard Lee 's music while visiting the record company and invited Lee to be the opening act for her 2004 tour .

The friendship between Lee 's manager and the manager for Bob Dylan resulted in Lee touring with Dylan as his opening act in early 2005 . Later Lee began touring on his own and recorded his self @-@ titled and " widely praised " debut album of " subtle , folky soul " which included vocals and instrumentation by Norah Jones and members of her band . After it was released , the album peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard Top Heatseekers chart and Lee was named one of Rolling Stone 's " Top 10 Artists to Watch . " One song from the album , called " Colors " , appeared on the TV show Grey 's Anatomy and in the film Just Like Heaven . Lee 's music received additional media attention when he performed on late night TV shows such as the Late Show with David Letterman and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno .

In 2006 , Lee recorded his second album , Supply and Demand which was produced by Barrie Maguire . An NPR Music reviewer described it as having " more complicated instrumentation and production " than his prior work . The song " Shout Out Loud " was released as a single and peaked at No. 76 on the Billboard 200 , and another song , called " Sweet Pea " , was used in an AT & T ad campaign .

Lee 's third studio album , Last Days at the Lodge was released in 2008 and re @-@ emphasized " his grounding in folk and soul " . The album peaked at number 29 on the Billboard 200 chart and Lee performed at the Change Rocks , voter registration rally for Barack Obama , in Philadelphia that summer .

In 2011 , Lee released his fourth album on Blue Note Records , entitled Mission Bell which was produced by Joey Burns of Calexico . The album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart , number one on the Digital Albums chart , number two on the Internet chart and number one on the Amazon Top @-@ Selling Albums and iTunes charts . The album 's single , " Windows are Rolled Down " , became a top 10 hit on USA Today 's adult @-@ alternative chart . However , the album also has the dubious distinction of being the lowest selling , number one Billboard album as of 2011 selling only 40 @,@ 000 copies . Guest artists on the album included Lucinda Williams , Willie Nelson , Priscilla Ahn , Pieta Brown , James Gadson , and Sam Beam . The album was described by critics as tunes placed in " a stark landscape , enveloped by rustling percussion and reverberant drones " with tones and lyrics that were more optimistic than prior albums . Other critics called it " a restless album with a gentle soul " and " another fine showcase for his [Lee 's] elegant , soothing songwriting " .

Lee appeared at Farm Aid 2013 and on the compilation album , The Music Is You : A Tribute to John Denver . He released his fifth studio album , Mountains Of Sorrow , Rivers Of Song in October 2013 .

= = Reception = =

Lee 's " folksy , bluesy sound " has been compared to that of John Prine and Norah Jones . His music is said to utilize the " supple funk of his vocals and arid strum of his guitar " while recalling " the low @-@ volume , early- ' 70s acoustic soul of stars like Bill Withers and Minnie Ripperton " . A New York Times music critic described Lee as having a " honeyed singing voice ? light amber , mildly sweet , a touch of grain " which he features " squarely , without much fuss or undue strain " in his " 1970s folk rock and rustic soul " musical song craft . According to a music writer at ABC News , Lee " has that folksy , bluesy vibe , with a bit of country twang " and a voice that is " ever soulful " . Simultaneously Lee has been both lauded and dismissed as the " male Norah Jones " and his lyrics are said to convey " the complexities of everyday emotions " without falling into flowery imagery . Lee 's songs have appeared on a number of TV shows including Parenthood .

= = Personal life = =

Lee describes himself as being of " mixed " ethnicity and maintains a residence in West Philadelphia .

= = Discography = =

= = = Studio albums = = =

= = = Live albums = = =

= = = Extended plays = = =

= = = Singles = = =

= = = Other charted songs = = =

ADid not enter the Hot 100 but charted on Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles .

=== DVDs ===

Live From Austin , Texas - (2008) New West
" Amos Lee : Live from the Artists Den " - (2013)