



## BLUE COLLAR FOLK

*"Strangebyrds are a true gift to the ears, this duo has a knack for tight arrangement and keen production. There are moments when the two singers voices blend and induce chills."*

— The Boulder Weekly

*"Singer-songwriters Cari Minor & Ray Smith make their own Americana music together under the moniker Strangebyrds. Check out the duo who have gained a reputation for putting on excellent live shows."*

— The Camera, Boulder, CO

*"Living and working in Colorado, Strangebyrds are that area's most popular folk duo. Their blue collar folk resonates with authenticity, meaningful lyrics and life affirming subject matter"*

— Local Sounds Magazine, Madison, WI

*"Strangebyrds music is like the denim and flannel of blue collar life, one is hard but one is soft, but both are comfortable to wrap yourself in"*

— Brian Johnson, Marquee Magazine, Boulder/Denver

Based high in the mountains of Colorado, Cari Minor and Ray Smith have flown together as Strangebyrds since 2010. They've created a large, instantly recognizable catalog of songs built upon a solid foundation of poetic lyrics, mesmerizing harmonies and highly skilled musicianship. As committed as they are to their craft, their music appears to effortlessly weave together the powerful acoustic root traditions of folk-Americana rock and blues. In a nod to their workingman (and woman) approach to music and life, Cari and Ray have created a sound they call "Blue Collar folk". Before live audiences and in their recordings, Strangebyrds heartfelt talent and chemistry is a captivating brew. Their songwriting prowess and recordings have garnered highly sought accolades in national singer-songwriting competitions.

Their debut recording "Strangebyrds" was awarded a top ten local release for all of 2011 by Marquee Magazine (Boulder/Denver). Subsequent releases, "Migration" (2013) and "Devils And Desires" (2015) received four out of five stars in reviews from that same journal.

Strangebyrds latest release "Star Crossed Lovers" (2018) was recognized by both The Rocky Mountain Folks Festival-New Song Competition and The Telluride Bluegrass Festival-Troubadour Singer-Songwriting Contests for Minor's song "Willy", a song dedicated to the women who fought in the Civil War disguised as men. Smith's song "Back Road" also won Honorable Mentions at both at both festivals in 2016 & 2017. In all, Cari Minor has been a top ten finalist at The Rocky Mountain Folks Festival-New Song Competition in 1999, 2002, 2008, 2013 and 2016. Minor has also been a top ten finalist at The Telluride Bluegrass Festival-Troubadour Contest in 2004 and 2017. Ray Smith has garnered numerous Honorable Mentions at both Festivals and wrote and recorded the original score for the full-length film documentary Muscle Shoals (Magnolia Pictures), distributed world-wide.

While crafting and honing songs & ballads about life, both past and present, Strangebyrds operate their music studio, Byrd Nest Recording. They perform both locally and throughout the US. In 2016 Cari and Ray traveled to County Kerry, Ireland and recorded two of their songs for "Star Crossed Lovers" with Donough Hennesy in his studio Mhic An Dail.

Cari & Ray were wed on June 2nd, 2018 just two weeks after their "sold out" release of "Star Crossed Lovers" in Boulder, CO. Strangebyrds are currently performing and touring with "Star Crossed Lovers". In between touring and performing, Strangebyrds are currently writing and recording their 5th album together due out this Summer-2020.

**BOOKING:**  
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