

Eli Conley

Short Bio 2017

Eli Conley titled his sophomore album *Strong and Tender*, but he might well have been describing himself. On stage he's an earnest yet funny storyteller. His songs address big themes like love, aging, and death through the concrete and immediate details of daily life: a stolen truck, a flopping fish, a dime in the pocket.

Eli's music is grounded in folk tradition, and he comes by it honestly. He grew up in a small town in central Virginia, and got his musical education listening to his parents' collection of hundreds of albums by singer-songwriters and roots musicians.

Since releasing his debut album *At The Seams* in 2013, Eli has been featured in the *Huffington Post* and the *Advocate*. He's opened for Grammy-winner Kimya Dawson and the Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, and founded Queer Country West Coast, a regular series featuring LGBTQ country artists in the Bay Area.

For *Strong and Tender*, Eli brought his touring band into the studio for the first time. Cellist Conrad Sisk (Blue Line Highway, Rattlemouth) and multi-instrumentalist Joel Price (ellipsis, Open Hand) joined him at Tiny Telephone, an all-analog studio that has hosted such notables as tUnE-yArDs, Jolie Holland, and The Magnetic Fields.

At heart, Eli is a clear-eyed songwriter with high hopes for the human race. His songs urge us to love ourselves even when it feels like the world does not. You can't help but sing along.