

Born in the American South, Louis Ledford has carved out a career writing and performing literate folk songs. He began as an adolescent playing occasionally in venues he wasn't old enough to drink in. He learned by listening. His heroes were artists both famous and obscure. Pop songs, blues, country and rock and roll all informed his compositions, as did films, poetry and fiction.

In the last decade of the 20th century Ledford found himself fronting Used Carlotta. His band spent weekends running up and down the eastern seaboard playing little stages often with likeminded friends. While a few of his peers excelled and enjoyed their pursuits Ledford felt unsettled and he withdrew yet continued to write and perform on his own - at times in remarkable circumstances. There was a show booked well in advance scheduled the week following the catastrophe of 9/11 in New York. The performance space was adjacent to a fire station which housed NYC latter company 105 that lost seven members in the trade center collapse. The gig became a memorial fundraiser. After grieving with survivors and playing hopeful and sad songs Ledford wrote "September" which chronicled the experience. That song and others comprised his debut album "Reverie".

Ledford met Waterbug Records chief Andrew Calhoun at Texas' Kerrville Folk Festival gaining a fast friend as well as an outlet for his next three recordings. Kerrville is also where he met Anais Mitchell. Anais recorded his song "When you Fall" for Righteous Babe's release "Country EP" with Rachel Ries. She later invited Ledford to sing the part of Hades on an early road tour performing songs that are the bones of her Tony Award winning Broadway musical Hadestown.

Ledford was spending time in New Orleans in the summer of 05' when hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the gulf coast. He moved there soon after and spent the following years restoring his ex's house in Holy Cross joining friends and neighbors rebuilding that magical city. His daughter Gracie lives in Nola with her husband Richard in a house surrounded by nightlife with their menagerie of pets.

Since 2011 Ledford has lived in Bellingham Washington with his sweetheart Julia and twin cats Oz and Ramsey. He still writes, makes recordings and fills his sketchbook with colorful images of the verdant PNW landscape. He helps out at his friend's letterpress shop and schedules original music at a little cider house where he can usually be found playing his own music. If you cannot come see him perform there he may be convinced to travel. Give him a shout at [louballou@gmail.com](mailto:louballou@gmail.com).