

# Iron and Wine plays Peel

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Sam Beam is the rare sort of artist who inspires even when he changes his style mid-show.

## Concert Review

“The campfire sing-a-long is over,” Beam said with a chuckle while switching styles. “Now it’s time to get nasty.”

Beam, under his stage name Iron and Wine, played an hour-and-a-half set to a sold-out crowd at The Orange Peel on Nov. 15.

Known for his mellow and melancholy acoustic numbers, Beam has released four studio albums under the Iron and Wine moniker.

Beam’s Southern roots came through in both his music and stage banter. Originally from Chapin, S.C., Beam began making demos on a four-track recorder before signing to Sub Pop records to record his first album, *The Creek Drank the Cradle*. His popularity has grown steadily with each album released, along with use of his music in movies such as *Garden State* and *Twilight*.

“I can’t remember these words sometimes,” Beam joked after one number. “Sometimes you end up singing these songs so many times that you’re like, ‘I don’t remember what’s coming next,’ but the way the words fall out is like, ‘Well, that’s cool.’”

**Hannah Grace, an art student at UNC Asheville,** applauded Beam’s stage presence and humorous interactions with the crowd.

“He’s hilarious and has that crazy Southern drawl and was obviously there to please his fans,” Grace said. “His jokes made the show more personal, seeing as they were mostly responses to comments and yells from the crowd.”

The 36-year-old performed the first half of the show alone with his acoustic guitar, playing crowd favorites like the somber “Trapeze Swinger” and the hopeful “Naked as We Came.”

Trevor Metcalfe/staff writer

Sam Beam, otherwise known as Iron and Wine, performs at the Orange Peel. Beam began his concert with his acoustic guitar, but by the second half of his show he showed his fans another side of himself as a musical artist with an electric guitar and a full band behind him.

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