Originally hailing from the high desert of Northern New Mexico, Cahalen has made a name for himself. Over the past decade touring solo, as a duo with [Eli West](http://eliwest.fyi/), or with his band [Western Centuries](http://www.westerncenturies.com/), Cahalen has played shows and festivals all over the world and performed on stage with the likes of Tim O’Brien, Kelly Joe Phelps, Hot Rize, Crooked Still and Kris Drever. Equally at home on guitar, banjo, mandolin, singing three part harmony or unaccompanied, he has carved out a place for himself as a unique voice in American music.

***Wealth of Sorrow*** was recorded in an abandoned adobe chapel in the remote village of Jaroso, on the border of New Mexico and Colorado. Cahalen's childhood home, lies only 50 miles away as the crow flies. In the sagebrush flats at the foot of the Sangre de Christo mountains, Erick Jaskowiak set up a mobile recording rig in the old church, and they went to work. In just a day and a half they tracked the ten songs that make up Wealth of Sorrow.

It was a small sanctuary from the wind, a light filled, drafty room with a woodstove burning and a chair with some microphones in the middle. It is Cahalen's first, true solo recording. The collection of songs were mostly new, written in the year leading up to the recording, while a couple were revamped from much older ideas, and one cover of a traditional Scottish ballad. Raw, emotional and haunting to match the high desert landscape. Nothing virtuosic, nothing tamed, just real songs.

**"Month of May"** is a banjo driven song written in hard times, about knowing there would be better times to come. The lyrics and the music were composed separately, but fell together seamlessly, which stoked the fire of optimism that already fueled the song.

The title track**, "Wealth of Sorrow"** is Cahalen's attempt a true ballad.  At once old and familiar, but fresh in perspective, the song evokes the feelings that everyone hopes they’ll have about someone. Undeniably about the truest of love, but heartbreakingly sad at the same time. That seems what life is like sometimes, and it's where Cahalen is at his very best.

Cahalen has played all over the United States, Canada, The United Kingdom, Ireland and much of Western Europe, and at festivals such as MerleFest, Red Wing Roots, Rockygrass, Wintergrass, Celebrate Brooklyn!, Strawberry Music Festival, Sisters Folk Festival, Meadowgrass, Timber!, Shetland Folk Festival, Larmer Tree, Kilkenny Roots Festival, TradFest Edinboro, Celtic Connections, Bluegrass Jamboree