

Episode Title: Jenee Fleenor's Pimento Cheese

Episode Summary: In this week's episode, Sid Evans, Editor-in-Chief of Southern Living Magazine, talks to award-winning fiddle player Jenee Fleenor about her dad's chili recipe, touring with Blake Shelton, and how she's paved the way for female musicians as the first ever woman to be named CMA's Musician of the Year.

Episode Transcript:

(Biscuits and Jam Theme begins - Fiddler's Barn on Epidemic Sound)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: *Welcome to Biscuits and Jam, from Southern Living. I'm Sid Evans, editor-in-chief of Southern Living Magazine. Today's guest has been making a name for herself ever since she picked up the violin at age 3. And her early love for country music was rewarded by her parents, as long as she made time to practice classical.*

JENEE FLEENOR: I'll never forget hearing "Whiskey River", Willie Nelson. And it was actually kind of like my treat. If I practice—I was supposed to practice an hour a day, and if I did, I could listen to Whiskey River and jump on the bed and be crazy. I don't even know what it was about, but it just felt good. I just, um, who doesn't love Willie Nelson? (laughs)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: *Jenee Fleenor grew up in Northwest Arkansas, and as a child, her obsession with the fiddle led to her performing with musicians often generations older than her. As she attended Belmont University, she split time between her studies and jamming with bluegrass bands around Nashville. And though she's now toured the world backing up stars like Blake Shelton, Martina McBride and Rascal Flatts, she's also an acclaimed singer/songwriter in her own right -- with legends like Dolly Parton, Kathy Mattea and Gretchen Wilson all recording her songs. And if that weren't enough, she's the first woman ever to win the CMA's coveted Musician of the Year award -- and she's done it twice.*

On today's show, Jenee shares what it's been like to break that glass ceiling and pave the way for female musicians everywhere.

JENEE FLEENOR: I just hope it lights a fire in a lot of these girls that that it can be done. Um, I certainly have had some times, especially when I first stepped in the studio and they're like, "oh, gosh, here's the girl. The girl." And, I always say the proof's in the pickin'. So I just let my fiddle do my talking.

Voice Over from SID EVANS: Plus her dad's chili recipe and much more this week on Biscuits & Jam.

(Theme music ends)

SID EVANS: Welcome to Biscuits and Jam.

JENEE FLEENOR: Thank you. I love biscuits and jam. Just in general.

SID EVANS: Well, we're excited to have you on.

SID EVANS: So tell me a little bit about growing up in northwest Arkansas.

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh, man. It was a great place to grow up. I guess some people just expect that I grew up in the country, but I really didn't. I mean, I grew up in a little neighborhood.

SID EVANS: And this was in Springdale, is that right?

JENEE FLEENOR: Mm-hmm. Springdale. Some people call it Chickendale because Tyson Chicken is based there and there's a lot that goes on there. Wal-Mart is based in Bentonville, which is up the road. Um, JB Hunt. So there's a lot going on there. But it's just a great place to grow up. My high school I went to was just a few blocks away. My elementary school was, just a block down the road. I still love to go back. And, my mom lives in Van Buren now, which is just an hour away. So I love getting to drive over the mountains there, over the Ozark Mountains. They're so beautiful. And right now it's snowy. So I know they'd be treacherous, but beautiful.

SID EVANS: So is Springdale in the mountains or just kind of nearby?

JENEE FLEENOR: No. it's not really mountainous there, but it's, you know, it only takes 20 minutes really to get in the Ozark mountains there. When I go home, I love to go to Devil's Den State Park and go hiking there. There's some wonderful bicycle trails too. My husband loves to cycle. We like to ride our bikes. So they built a trail that goes from Bentonville to Fayetteville and, yeah. Lots of good food, music, great place to visit.

SID EVANS: So what did your folks do, uh, when you were growing up?

JENEE FLEENOR: My dad was actually retired when I was born and mom retired by the time I was, I think, ten-years-old or so. But they worked at the VA in medical records. And so Dad took care of me when I was really little. He sat me in front of Sesame Street and while mom went to work and basically every weekend. I started playing violin when I was three-years-old. So every weekend was music involved. We'd go to talent shows and bluegrass festivals and we always had a camper. So every weekend we were, uh, going to all kinds of music stuff, fiddling. I played classical music. I started in classical music. So, there was also a lot of traveling for workshops for

classical music, as well. But, uh, yeah. We were always moving. That's what I remember. And it was a lot of fun. I got to spend a lot of time with my parents and I'm really grateful for that.

SID EVANS: And your parents were both pretty musical, right?

JENEE FLEENOR: Well (laughs) — mom — she didn't have an ear, although she could read music. She grew up taking piano lessons and she could play some chords on the piano, but it didn't really come natural. And I think my dad really had the ear. He started playing violin after I did. And, um, Dad was 55 when I was born. So he was...

SID EVANS: Wow.

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah. So he picked up the violin, which is not an easy instrument to pick up. So I'm like five-years-old, learning "Faded Love", and he's kind of learning alongside me. But he...he really sounded pretty good for just picking it up and he could play the guitar some. So mom would play the piano and dad would play fiddle or guitar. And, um, I never really wanted to be that family band kind of thing. And I don't think they did either. But it was kind of fun for them to to jam, my dad's fiddle playing was pretty rough. But, um, even when I hear some old recordings of fiddle playing. It just brings me to tears because it reminds me of my dad playing in the house.

SID EVANS: Aww.

JENEE FLEENOR: Mm-hmm.

SID EVANS: So, Jenee, you have a song called "Fiddle and Steel".

SID EVANS: And you talk about Sunday dinner on the ground. And I'm just wondering if church was a big part of your upbringing?

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh yeah. Big time. I went to First Baptist Church of Springdale, which is — I guess you'd say one of those megachurches. But they still would have like, Sunday singing. And I remember taking my fiddle, of course, and we had an orchestra, actually. And I played in orchestra in all these things. So I didn't grow up in one of those little country churches. But, uh, they were always so kind of let me play fiddle. And um, I remember I was very active in the Children's Youth Choir and those things. So I would always get a speaking part or a singing part. And um, I think that's really some of the first times I sang in front of an audience was at that church. And it was a little intimidating because it wasn't just a little... (laughs) a little church. I

mean, we had cameras and um, lights and the whole set up. So, uh, I really cherish those times. Um, And I think it shaped me as a musician for sure.

SID EVANS: So it sounds like it was a big crowd.

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah, Thousands of people. As far as playing in front of a huge audience, those were some of my first times dealing with nervousness. Um, I remember one of the first times I ever sang in front of the big crowd was like in front of those people. And just the lump I got in my throat and I had to work through that. Um, And, you know, I forget about that sometimes now. I definitely -- I still get nerves and butterflies. But um, those were some of the first times -I went through that.

(Instrumental music break)

SID EVANS: So, Jenee, when did you take the turn toward country music? You know, you said you started out, playing classical. I think you were in the Suzuki program, right?

JENEE FLEENOR: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Yup. I started Suzuki when I was three. My parents saw some kids in the newspaper, I think, and thought they look cute. And that's why they got me involved in Suzuki classical music. And Mom's dream for me was to go to Juilliard and all these things. But it's really when I heard um, Bob Wills records and Ray Price and Willie Nelson playing in the background that my dad was playing, that I started to pick up those songs by ear. I'll never forget hearing "Whiskey River", Willie Nelson. And it was actually kind of like my treat. If I practice—I was supposed to practice an hour a day, and if I did, I could listen to Whiskey River and jump on the bed and be crazy. I don't even know what it was about, but it just felt good. I just, um, who doesn't love Willie Nelson. But I always say the turning point for me was learning "Faded Love" and learning it by ear. And then I remember standing on this like a cedar chest and playing it for mom and dad. And I think they saw that I had developed an ear and could kind of play whatever I heard. So they started getting me involved in the Arkansas Fiddlers Association, which was down the road for me. It was like me being, you know, five, 10 years-old, jamming with these 70, 80-year-old fiddle players, and um, those are some awesome memories for me and sometimes my friends would go. And they're probably like, what is this girl doing? What is going on here? But I love it, man. It was great. And I think I saw that in Mark O'Connor, that he could just play any style and just play a bluegrass song. It sounds bluegrass. And play Cajun. It sounds Cajun. So, you know, that really impacted me and realized that when you play in the studio that that's how it goes. You might go from one session playing bluegrass music. And the next one is I mean, I played with Steven Tyler. So these kind of rock rock ish fiddle licks.

SID EVANS: Which is so crazy.

JENEE FLEENOR: Is it crazy, right?

JENEE FLEENOR: So, yeah, he definitely influenced my playing and, um, he was so sweet. I met him by chance in New York City. We were doing The Tonight Show or something. Actually, that's the time in New York I was playing with Blake. It was like I was playing with Blake on the Fallon show and Steven Tyler on Seth Meyer the same night. It was like, what? And um, and we were walking to get lunch or something. And I saw this thing on the door and it said O'Connor School of Music and had a violin. And my buddies that were with me, I'm like, that's—do you think that's Mark O'Connor's place? And I'm like, what are the chances? You know, like we're just wandering down the street and we walked in, sure enough that was my really—my first time to get to talk to Mark. I'm sure as a kid at that camp, I would have been too shy to actually talk to him. But yeah, that was a neat moment for me.

SID EVANS: Well, so, it sounds like your parents were just so instrumental in moving you along on your journey, and I'm just wondering when you decided to kind of make the leap to Nashville...

JENEE FLEENOR: Mm-hmm.

SID EVANS: Was that...was that hard for them that, you know, you were finally leaving town and, you know, taking off?

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah. I mean, for me, I would have moved to Nashville, I mean, when I was 12. Or when I first realized that when you're in school dreaming of what you want to do, um, you know, some kids are just kind of willy nilly—I'm like, I'm moving to Nashville and I'm going to be on the radio someday. Um, And they'd kind of look at me like, yeah, OK, whatever. They didn't know what a session musician was anyway. But, um, so I—when I decided to move, I knew so many people here but you don't just move here and get a job. Like...so I want to go to Belmont, was my goal to go to Belmont. And so I enrolled at Belmont. And, you know, my dad passed away my senior year.

SID EVANS: Yeah.

JENEE FLEENOR: It was—that was really, really, really hard and then, of course, when mom dropped me off to go to college, um, I know that was just horribly hard on her to have to leave. I was the last kid to fly the coop and, um, you know, she went back home, but she was so proud of me and seeing my—hopefully my dreams come true. And two weeks after moving to town, I walked in the station in where I still play weekly now. And Larry Cordle and Lonesome Standard

Time were playing in there, and I didn't know who Larry was, but a buddy of mine was playing with Larry, Brandon Rickman, who is now the lead singer of Lonesome River Band. And he goes, do you have your fiddle? And I said, Yeah. And he said, well, don't leave in your car around here. Because at the time the station ends in the gulch. But at the time that area was not a good area to leave an instrument in your car. And um, I went and played my fiddle in the green room, not knowing it was maybe an audition because Larry's fiddle player at the time was wanting to stay in town more. And...and I'm fiddling backstage and the next week, Larry calls me to ask me if I want to join his band. And I was like, is this real life? So I was able to go to Belmont and juggle being in a bluegrass band for a good year and a half, played the Opry like a month after moving into town, which is just crazy.

SID EVANS: Wow.

JENEE FLEENOR: I truly believe in God—that's a God thing. How all that happened. That was really wild, but that's what set my path.

(Instrumental music break of Biscuits and Jam theme “Fiddler’s Barn”)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: There’s lots more with Jenee Fleenor, after the break.

BREAK

(Instrumental music break of Biscuits and Jam theme)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: Welcome back to Biscuits & Jam. I’m Sid Evans and we’re talking with two-time CMA musician of the year, Jenee Fleenor.

SID EVANS: Why do you think women have not been recognized in this category for so long? I think you're the first woman in 50 some years to win this award, is that right?

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah, um, that's such a hard question. I knew it growing up, but um, they're just as far as in the studio side, there's just not a lot of us. you have to have so many songs in the top 10 or, you know, there's criteria. And, my gosh, I know so many amazing women musicians. Alison Prestwood, Wanda Vick, Jennifer Wrinkle, Tammy Rogers. There's so many of us. But I don't know why it took this long. The only thing I can think is there's just not a lot of us. And a lot of times that award, I feel like, goes to guitar players. Um, I feel like it's rare to see bass and drums in that category. I need to go back and really look at the category. But back in the day, there was a lot of fiddle....fiddle players—Mark O'Connor and Buddy Spiker and um, Johnny Gimble and those heroes of mine. But as a kid, I never was, thinking about how it might be hard for me to break into this. Um, and I'm thankful that my parents never told me, hey, this might be a hard thing for you because you're female and there's just not many females doing this. Um,

I just saw it as my goal and—not the award, but just being a session musician. And then the CMA Award was just the icing on the cake. I still can't believe it sometimes. I really can't.

SID EVANS: What do you think that award meant to young girls who are falling in love with the fiddle just like you did?

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh, my goodness. Um, , I'm pretty active on Instagram and I get so many messages weekly from young girl fiddle players, specifically, but just musicians that are there, like you're such an inspiration. I don't know. I'm just very, very thankful. And I try to help them any way I can. There's a girl that messaged me one day and I said, let's just jump on a Zoom call because I want to teach you fiddle. And I just want to give her some free lessons because her story was amazing. And I just couldn't believe that I could be an inspiration like that. But, I'm very thankful to God that he's put me in this position.

JENEE FLEENOR: I just hope it lights a fire in a lot of these girls that it can be done. Um, I certainly have had some times, especially when I first stepped in the studio and they're like, oh, gosh, here's the girl. The girl. And, I always say the proof's in the pickin.

JENEE FLEENOR: So I just let my fiddle do my talking. So anyway, I try to give all the encouragement I can and just hope another gal wins this award someday.

SID EVANS: Well, I want to ask you about your song "Good Ol Girls".

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah.

SID EVANS: Which is kind of an anthem for girls who want to do what you do and who are inspired by that. What's the story behind that song?

JENEE FLEENOR: Well, I guess, um, what inspired me to write that I went and saw Doug Kershaw play in Nashville. I guess it's been a couple of years ago now. And Doug is in his 80s. And I'm telling you, he lit that stage on fire. My mom's from Louisiana. And so Doug Kershaw and Jimmy C. Newman and Joel Sonia, Rufus Thibodeaux fiddle player. I loved all these Cajuns. But his song, "Louisiana Man", I've always loved that song. And it's his story song. And so I thought, I want to write me a story song. And it was around the time of the CMAs. Um, I didn't know if I was going to win the award, but I was like, I should write a song that's my story and put it out. So I did. And it's just my story and three and a half minutes. And it's kind of Cajun and it's kind of, uh, old country and it's got a Bob Wills holler in it, I think. And I talked about "Faded Love". I play a little "Faded Love". I play little "Ragtime Annie", these songs I grew up with. So it's a little of everything. And I feel like that's what I am. I got to play that song the other day at for a bunch of

little kids. I was at Church of Indian Lake here outside of Nashville, and they want me to tell my story. I was honestly really nervous. I'm like, oh gosh, these kids like might not give a care what I'm doing, but they love that song and they were singing it by the second chorus and those little girls, I just, oh, I love seeing their little faces light up. So anyway, I hope that inspires some young girls, too.

SID EVANS: I got to ask if you would mind sharing a little bit of it with us.

JENEE FLEENOR: Sure. Why not. Let's see.

JENEE FLEENOR: *[Plays fiddle, sings]* Well, he went too far in the tall grass, chasing them birds and bees. Nine months later, Arkansas had a brand new baby, me. Daddy played me a Bob Will's song. Mama gave me a bow. And I was a fiddling "Faded Love" by the time I was five-years-old. Good ol' girls, good ol' girls, good ol' girls like me. Southern fried, cut and dry, country as a black eye pea. We pray and cuss, fix our hair, wear tight fitting jeans, I guess that's why them good ol' boys love good ol' girls like me.

JENEE FLEENOR: There's a little piece of it.

SID EVANS: Oh, that is fantastic.

JENEE FLEENOR: Thank you. Oh, man, that's fun.

SID EVANS: Oh I just love that.

JENEE FLEENOR: I wanted the melody to be really simple and old timey. And I think we captured that.

SID EVANS: There is something about the sound of that fiddle that really just raises the hair on your arms.

JENEE FLEENOR: Well, good. That's what I hope it does. Well, this fiddle in particular is this is my baby. She's over 100-years-old. It was my first full-sized violin. Actually, I started out on a cardboard box. Suzuki method starts you out—just so you don't break the thing.

SID EVANS: Right.

JENEE FLEENOR: So when I was around, I don't know, 10 or 11, you graduate to the full-size instrument. And this is—this was my full-sized instrument. And, yeah, it's played on a lot of

records. And I know every scratch, there's a little piece of wood here even that a cord got yanked out and they had to glue it back. And, you know, it's got a lot of character to it. But I love this instrument.

SID EVANS: Got a lot of miles on it.

JENEE FLEENOR: No, it sure does.

(Instrumental music break)

SID EVANS: So, Jenee, I want to ask you about touring with Blake Shelton.

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah.

SID EVANS: You have been playing, of course, before COVID times for some huge crowds. I mean, really, really big crowds. And I'm just wondering what it's like to have twenty thousand people clapping along to a fiddle solo?

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh, my gosh, it is electric, is the first word that comes to mind. I miss it so much. There was a time—I played with Martina McBride before Blake. And when I got that gig, they told me, “OK, there's this part in the show where you play for three or four minutes because she has a costume change.” And I'm like, what do I play? And they're like, just whatever you want. What? I'm like, no one ever says that. So, that was a fun moment. It's actually on YouTube somewhere, probably if you typed my name in and Martina's, but very first show was in Little Rock, Arkansas, which was a thrill because my whole family was there. But I think I really started to understand what the camera and the lights and everything—like, I realized that camera is your connection to that guy way, way, way out that can't see your eye. So I knew if I look in that camera like they can, you know, feel the emotion that I'm trying to make them feel. And with Blake, we have a fun part in the show where I get to solo and - I hope I don't forget it. It's been so long since I've done a show.

JENEE FLEENOR: We played the Opry the other day and I think that's the most songs we played for a live audience in a year, which was like five songs. And it was, of course, a thrill. - but the biggest audiences I play for right now are -- I play at the Station Inn every Tuesday night and - if you know the station, it's just a little venue.

SID EVANS: Oh, absolutely. I need to come up.

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh, please. Please. Johnny Meyer and friends and but, you know, it's half capacity right now, but we'll take anything. We're just so glad we're getting to play for people and it's on a live stream, as well. But man, I'm ready to get back on tour. I'll tell you, I miss it.

SID EVANS: Well, you seem to be staying busy. I mean, you also last year, recorded with Jon Pardi.

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh, yeah.

SID EVANS: Who was a guest on this show. It was his song "Heartache Medication".

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah.

SID EVANS: And and the fiddle is really kind of out front and center. And I'm just wondering if that was something that Jon was kind of vocal about as y'all were doing that?

JENEE FLEENOR: Yes. That song, well, he wanted to kind of have this sound of "Fool hearted memory", George Strait. And right when he said that, I was like, I think—I was doing a overdub session. So the band had already tracked. And, - sometimes I track with them, I think I might have been on the road with Blake. So that's why it was an overdub. - but, you know, that's just the way some sessions go. But,-so he's like I think I kind of want that Heartache—that "Fool-hearted Memory" thing. And uh so...

JENEE FLEENOR: And then when they told me it was going to be a single, I was like, oh, my gosh, if this thing doesn't do good, don't blame it on me.

JENEE FLEENOR: Because a fiddle hadn't been—gosh—on the intro of a song in a long time so I was thrilled to death. I was just real nervous that maybe the country fans, I didn't know if they were ready for it yet, but I guess they were. There was a time there where there wasn't a whole lot of fiddle on radio—country radio. So, I hope it's coming back a little bit.

SID EVANS: Yeah, I wanted to ask you that. I mean, do you think the fiddle is making a little bit of a comeback? And are you seeing it pop up a lot more?

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah, I definitely do. but even newer stuff, I feel like it's got an edge to it, but they'll want a steel guitar fiddle in there, as well. And I love to do stuff like that. In fact, with John the other day, I can't probably spill the beans exactly on what we were working on. But oh, my gosh.-there's a song that will be out before long and it's probably not what you expect a fiddle to be on. And probably not expect.

SID EVANS: Oh, really?

JENEE FLEENOR: What you'd expect Jon to be singing, but I'm so excited for that to come out. but, yeah, I hope fiddle's making a comeback, man. There was a time I remember when banjo, it kind of became the popular thing. But, you know, everything has its phases. You walk through the Country Music Hall of Fame and you see how things ebb and flow. So, that's just kind of the way it goes, I think.

(Instrumental music break)

SID EVANS: Well, Jenee, this wouldn't be Biscuits and Jam if we didn't talk about food for a second. And, you've talked about food in some of the songs that you've written.

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah.

SID EVANS: Was that a big part of your childhood? And was your mom a big cook or your dad?

JENEE FLEENOR: : Food! My favorite! People watch me on Instagram like so many times I'm Instagramming what I'm cooking. My dad actually did most of the cooking growing up. So I remember him making, oh my gosh, chicken and dumplings was one of my favorite dishes. And I remember helping him cut the dumplings into little strips and we'd hang them over the sides. That's a great memory for me. And his chili? We would go to these fiddle conventions and stuff and mom would say all the ladies would come over and go, "George, like that chili's so good. Give me that recipe." And I have his chili recipe. I'm not sure why I haven't actually made it. I have my own that I've made for years. But I want to frame it because it's, it's got stains on it, you know, from the chili, I'm sure drippin on the paper and stuff. And it's -- Oh my gosh. And it's in his handwriting, of course. - so I definitely want to frame that.

JENEE FLEENOR: But the one thing my mom did make a lot was pimento cheese. And my family is going to laugh because over the quarantine when we were really locked down, I would talk to my family on the Marco Polo app and pimento cheese would come up, I swear, every other day. and her recipe is so simple. It is just Colby cheese. Well, she shreds it. You don't buy it pre-shredded. Pimentos and miracle whip and that's it. And it's real good. And when we want snack fast, that's what we snack on.

SID EVANS: So not really spicy. Some people like it spicy.

JENEE FLEENOR: No, I guess cream cheese can be in a lot of pimento cheese recipes, but it wasn't—nope. She—I don't even know if she put salt and pepper. Lord Knows, mom loves the salt. - but I think that was it. And actually, on my Instagram page over the summer, we did a pimento cheese party because a lot of people didn't know anything about pimento cheese. So, we had a party talking about pimento cheese. So that—and I don't think pimento cheese actually originated in the South. I think...

SID EVANS: Oh, really?

JENEE FLEENOR: I don't think so. I think it was...

SID EVANS: All right, that may require some extra research.

JENEE FLEENOR: Mm-hmm. I think made in New York—hmm. It snuck in there, so....

SID EVANS: All right. We're going to follow up on that one.

JENEE FLEENOR: Please do.

SID EVANS: So you're a cook yourself, have you been doing a lot of cooking in the last year?

JENEE FLEENOR: Yes, a lot more. And my husband's very happy about that. I have a taco soup recipe that is—I probably do that every other week. - really easy. let's see, what else do I make? I even wrote some stuff down. Oh, you know what? Martina McBride called me a couple of weeks ago. I was actually at Jimmy Fortune's house. Jimmy was in the Statler Brothers. Legend. Jimmy's a legend. And I'm like Martina's calling me and she was making my biscuit recipe and, she showed—Martina, I'm telling on you. - so I had made it, I guess, on my Instagram but her cast iron skillet was so big like they didn't fill the pan. So she's like, do I just put them on the outside or. And we're like, no, just push them all in the middle. And - I don't know if I heard from her, if they came out OK. So I hope they did, Martina, - but I think I make a good biscuit recipe.

SID EVANS: Well, not everybody that comes on this show has a good biscuit recipe.

JENEE FLEENOR: Ok.

SID EVANS: But that's, that's good to hear.

JENEE FLEENOR: Yeah. I got to add the jam part to it. I guess the jams, the fiddlin maybe.

SID EVANS: All right. Well, Jenee, I want to end with a simple question.

JENEE FLEENOR: Mm-hmm.

SID EVANS: So if you had to pick your last meal right now, what would it be and where?

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh, my gosh. You know, I ate at Amerigo's the other night and this is so random, but as I was eating that meal, I think it probably because I was so hungry, I was like, this could be my last meal. It was so darn good. Have you been to Amerigo's?

SID EVANS: No.

JENEE FLEENOR: No? In Nashville?

SID EVANS: No.

JENEE FLEENOR: Oh, my gosh. And it was something not even like that I would normally order, but it was a salmon with this herb butter on top and black beans and green beans. Oh, my gosh. Amerigo's, you owe me a gift card. It was so, so, so good though. And their tiramisu was, get out of town. So maybe that or if I could have my dad's chicken and dumplings then that'd make me just happy.

SID EVANS: Yeah.

JENEE FLEENOR: 'Cause I just miss that.

SID EVANS: Well, Jenee Fleenor, it's been a real privilege having you on Biscuits and Jam. Thanks so much for joining us.

JENEE FLEENOR: Thank you. This has been awesome. I've really enjoyed talking to you.

(Biscuits theme music "Fiddler's Barn" from Epidemic Sound)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: Thanks for listening to my conversation with Jenee Fleenor. You can find her singles "Good Ol' Girls" and "Fiddle & Steel" wherever you get digital music, plus follow her on Instagram, @JeneeMusicFiddle.

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Biscuits and Jam is produced by Heather Morgan Shott, Krissy Tiglias and me, Sid Evans, for Southern Living. Thanks also to Ann Kane, Danielle Roth, Erica Wong, Jim Hanke, Matt Sav and Rachael King at Pod People.

We'll see you back here next week for more Biscuits & Jam!