

Taivi Bio - Short

“I bet they’d pay you to come sing”... or so said Pete Seeger. Rich in imagery and metaphors, Taivi's music evokes sustained emotion and elevates. With influences from throughout North America and beyond, Taivi’s release, *Rising Tide* - recorded in Toronto, Guelph, Nashville, Nova Scotia and Frankfurt, Germany brings a fresh approach to Americana and roots music.

TAIVI - *RISING TIDE*

There's a *Rising Tide* on the horizon and it's the emotional epicentre of Toronto-based Americana singer and songwriter Taivi's refreshing new album.

Thirteen songs deep and recorded in North America and Frankfurt, Germany, the *Rising Tide* sessions were mentored by Grammy-nominated internationally renowned bluegrass star Claire Lynch, whose incredible band served as support on the album, along with a few other notable musicians.

Engineered by Nicolas Tjelios (Basia Bulat, Jenny Whiteley, Ken Whiteley,) the intriguing and topical self-penned songs reflect "life and connections," Taivi says, ranging from taking stock ("Red Moon Rise") and ecology ("The Clearwater") to romance ("When I'm With You, a duet with Nova Scotian Ryan Roberts) and rumination ("One More Dance.")

"I feel lucky to have a body of work like *Rising Tide* out there," says Taivi. "From the inspiration for the songs through the production, it has drawn from- and brought together- beautiful influences in my life."

"It's a continuing journey – and I'm looking forward to where the next step is going to take me."

Keep an eye peeled for Taivi as she brings *Rising Tide* to local stages - a fresh wave of excellent music that will leave you pining for more.

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There's a *Rising Tide* on the horizon and it's the emotional epicentre of Toronto-based Americana singer and songwriter Taivi's refreshing new album.

"We may face challenging times," the veteran folk circuit performer explains, "But this can draw people to what really matters, and lead to a new momentum and energy. The notion of a rising tide captures this for me – like movement beneath the surface that can be imperceptible but keeps raising us up."

Thirteen songs deep and recorded in different locales on the planet, ranging from Toronto, Guelph and Nova Scotia in Canada to Nashville, Tennessee and even Frankfurt, Germany, *Rising Tide* is a culmination of a lifetime of music and expression of Taivi, who composes on both guitar and piano.

And in an interesting twist, much of what made it onto this album was inspired by an unlikely friendship with internationally renowned bluegrass star Claire Lynch.

Taivi first became aware of Lynch when a fellow musician gifted her a compilation of female bluegrass artists – *O' Sister! (The Women's Bluegrass Collection.)*

"Claire's rendition of Gretchen Peters' - 'If Wishes Were Horses,' – had me listening on repeat. I loved the energy of that recording and even brought it into my repertoire," Taivi explains at her Toronto home, adorned with a beautiful grand piano in the living room and sitting next to a mandolin on her couch.

"Years later, Claire started to date a fellow I knew, up here in Toronto so we had a chance to meet. I introduced myself and asked if she would consider a mentoring session," says Taivi. Lynch, the Grammy-nominated and three-time International Bluegrass Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year, said the choice to work with Taivi was easy.

"She's sort of a kindred spirit in a lot of ways," says Lynch. "She writes straight from the heart and she has a bare-bones sincerity in what she wants to say. She speaks out from her own life experiences and it was fun to help her interpret those experiences and work with her in the capacity of mentorship. I enjoyed the challenge."

Taivi and Lynch struck up an advisory relationship on Skype, but when it came time to record the actual tracks for *Rising Tide*, Lynch went a step further – and connected Taivi with her own band members for the core instrumentation for the project.

Hence, Taivi's new album has the incredible Claire Lynch Band musicians included on the sessions, including bass player Mark Schatz (Nickel Creek, Tony Rice, Tim O'Brien, Maura O'Connell); guitarist, fiddler and mandolin player Bryan McDowell (Sierra Hull, Alison Brown, Mountain Heart); guitarist and mandolin player Jarrod Walker (Missy Raines) and guitarist Matt Wingate (Greencards.)

The standard of excellence on the album sessions continued with chief engineering by Nicolas Tjelios (Basia Bulat, Jenny Whiteley, Ken Whiteley). "And Nicolas' engineering and mixing made this multi-country/multi-studio recording feel seamless." Ken Whiteley's Casa Wroxtton, housed the Toronto branch of the recording, with Lynch advising sessions in Nashville and even Frankfurt – where she and Taivi met up during a European tour. It was mastered back in Toronto by Grammy winner Peter J. Moore (Cowboy Junkies, *Bob Dylan & The Band - The Complete Basement Tapes*).

Other celebrated musicians include veteran drummer Bucky Berger (Murray McLauchlan, Colin Linden); esteemed album artist and producer Scott Merritt (Fred Eaglesmith, Garnet Rogers) who during a mixing session at his Guelph studio - The CottaGe - added a needed banjo touch to a tribute to Pete Seeger's Hudson River clean-up project, "The Clearwater;" Ken Whiteley, whose Dobro swings in "Strawberry Lane" - a jaunty whimsy about turning the corner in romance; Katherine Wheatley, who contributed backing vocals to an uplifting track about her hometown, Parry Sound; as well as Toronto-based musicians, Garth Douglas, Jayne Mitchell and Mary Bennet.

As for the music itself, Taivi says the songs reflect "life and connections." Whether it's a song about taking stock like the easygoing, up-beat "Red Moon Rise," the infectious exuberance of "When I'm With You" - her duet with Nova Scotia recording artist Ryan Roberts - or the sobering waltz "One More Dance," reflecting the awareness of time and its fleeting fragility, Taivi bares her soul and heart with every note of her beguiling alto.

"I've always felt most at home with music," says Taivi, whose Estonian heritage has always made singing and musicianship a priority.

"So for me, it's just natural to write and play. I feel lucky to have a body of work like *Rising Tide* out there. From the inspiration for the songs through the production, it has drawn from and brought together beautiful influences in my life."

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TAIVI TALKS *RISING TIDE* - TRACK-BY-TRACK

1) "Red Moon Rise:" *This melody came in one summer night, sitting with friends by Georgian Bay.... the images were descriptors of that evening, although I didn't know that shadows crawled, until my friend Garth Douglas told me they did.*

2) "I'm Here:" – *It took two years and a recording session for the real melody to come through for this song. And Bryan McDowell, with his haunting fiddle, added the dimension craved by this piece.*

3) "Keep on Moving:" *There are lots of different ways I've looked at the geography of my life – but red shoes have always been important to me as a metaphor for traveling and moving forward in life."*

4) "Rock My Heart:" *That's Matt Wingate kicking this off with that driving guitar. Garth Douglas added the "rock" to "rock my heart" and Claire sent the invitation to get moving with the tide.*

5) "Parry Sound:" *I love this part of the world – it's held a special place in my life – and Parry Sound native, Katherine Wheatley was the gentle midwife as this song was wending its way into the world.*

6) "One More Dance:" *It seems like we can always use one more dance... Many moments from the Woods Music and Dance Camp fueled this waltz.*

7) "Turn My Light On:" *I was handed a piece of paper with the word "illumination" on it.... The third verse reminds me of a dear friend - Susan Lawrence -- and she loved playing the piano. Mark Schatz's bass brings out beauty in this sparse song (especially with that arco bowing!)*

8) "Get on Home:" *I heard Emmylou Harris say that no matter what she was going through, if there was just one more song for her to sing, that's all she would need to take her further. And then I put pen to paper...*

9) "The Clearwater (for Pete Seeger:)" *The cleanup of the Hudson River had been championed by Pete Seeger for decades. Its momentum centered around having a sloop, Clearwater, sail up and down that river, with people singing and making music. What a legacy.*

10) "When I'm With You:" *Sharing this duet with Ryan Roberts of Nova Scotia, I wrote the bridge ("keeping our soul's flame alive") after I returned from singing with 30,000 people in Estonia – a nation known for having kept its identity and culture alive through song. But don't songs do that for so many of us? (and that's Jarrod Walker's mando chop propelling its rhythmic momentum.)*

11) "Roses & Thunder:" *Sometimes metaphor holds more truth than fact ever can. Recording this song was pure odyssey – Toronto – Nashville – Frankfurt – Nashville – where we found its groove...*

12) "Strawberry Lane:" *This song found its genesis under a moon in Asheville, North Carolina, where I walked a path lined with strawberries. No doubt I was subconsciously affected by the 'double A- sided Beatles single' of John Lennon's 'Strawberry Fields Forever' and Paul McCartney's 'Penny Lane.'*
By the time I put the finishing touches on the song, I was back together with the fellow who inspired it.

13) "Rising Tide:" *The phrase 'a rising tide raises all ships' had been with me for years. Then one day, in a B&B in Guelph, Ontario, it morphed into a song. Years later, Stephen Fearing suggested I hold the line of the tide 'raising us all' until the end. Good call.*