

Louise Taylor – Bio

Louis Taylor was born in Brattleboro, Vermont and raised there. Aged twelve her older brother gave Louise her first guitar. Three years later, and for the ensuing seven years, Taylor criss-crossed the States with her backpack and guitar, playing on street corners for whoever would listen. It's worth noting that while undertaking this voyage of self-discovery, Louise had no *underlying* plan to become a professional musician. The husky alto that she possesses these days was undoubtedly cultivated on the road. During her teenage years she listened to the music of Van Morrison, Bonnie Raitt, Neil Young and Leon Russell, and while on the road began writing and performing her own songs.

Aged twenty she settled on the Gulf of Mexico on South Padre Island, Texas for a period of six months, a period she later recalled in her song "Blue Norther." During this time Taylor worked as a waitress in a local restaurant. Aged twenty-two, Taylor returned to her native Vermont and four years later her son, Morgan, was born. For a period of eight years, Taylor was Director of Work Study and Housekeeping at the liberal arts Marlboro College in Marlboro, South Vermont. While holding down a day job, and raising a child single handed, Louise continued to compose songs and perform country music in local bars. Taylor subsequently spent some time in Nashville, in the hope of being signed as a writer/singer but returned home disillusioned.

In Vermont Taylor began studying with Frank Baker, a voice teacher based at Bennington College, and she later spent six weeks in Portugal with Baker on a voice-training seminar. Co-produced with close friend, Jack MacKay, Louise self-released, on Blue Coyote Records, her debut solo album, "**Looking for Rivers,**" a collection of ten originals [incl. two co-writes]. The folk blues slanted disc was reviewed in Dirty Linen and Performing Songwriter. At Fast Folk Musical Magazine, Wendy Beckerman heard the album and Taylor went on to appear on Fast Folk releases # 705 ["Archaeology" July 1993], # 707 ["The Angels Know His Name" October 1993], # 802 ["Thin Ice" November 1994], # 806 ["Your Face" January 1996] and # 808 ["Katy's Smile" early 1997]. Louise also performed at a number of annual Bottom Line, Fast Folk Reunions in New York City. Louise's sophomore release, "**Ruby Shoes,**" produced by the founder of the Windham Hill label, Will Ackerman, appeared four years later. It featured a dozen Taylor composed originals, and the guest players included Michael Manring, Phillip Aaberg, Catie Curtis and Wendy Beckerman. The disc is currently available from Signature Sounds.

In 1997, Signature Sounds released Taylor's third album, "**Ride,**" which was the first of a consecutive pair she co-produced with Peter Gallway [Fifth Avenue Band, Ohio Knox and solo]. It was followed in Y2K by "**Written In Red.**" In the period between those two releases, Taylor had undertaken three tours of Ireland and her writing began to reflect the traditional Irish music that she had obviously absorbed by subconscious osmosis. Further reflecting those Celtic influences, guests on the latter recording included Joannie Madden leader of the Celtic band, Cherish The Ladies. Through the late nineteen-nineties, acknowledged blues exponents Chris Smither [he played on the "**Ride**" sessions] and Ray Bonneville [he played on the "**Written In Red**" sessions] helped Taylor improve her guitar technique. The former assisted with emotional expression, while the latter improved her fingerpicking skills.

Taylor latest collection, "**Velvet Town**" co-produced with pal and fellow song scribe, Anne Gallup, was released in the Spring of 2003.

Discography : "**Looking For Rivers**" [1992] ; "**Ruby Shoes**" [1996] ; "**Ride**" [1997] ; "**Written In Red**" [2000] ; "**Velvet Town**" [2003] :

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