

Claire Lynch – Bio

Claire Lynch was born on February 20th 1954 in Poughkeepsie, New York. Lynch has two female siblings, and would sing harmonies with them from an early age. Aged twelve her parents moved to Hazel Green near Huntsville, Alabama. While a teenager, Claire was inspired by the music of Joni Mitchell and The Beatles. She joined the Alabama based band Hickory Wind, which later became The Front Porch String Band, and both bands were led by Larry Lynch. Claire had met Larry in high school and they subsequently married. The first and sophomore recording by The Front Porch String Band were self-released efforts and respectively titled **“Smilin’ At You”** [1977] and **“Country Rain”** [1977]. **“The Front Porch String Band”** [1981] was a Rebel Records release, while the small Ambush label issued Claire’s solo debut **“Breakin’ It”** [1981].

The Front Porch String Band played the bluegrass circuit between the years 1974 – 1982, following which Claire retired in order to raise her two children. Claire and Larry went on to work as a duo, and later teamed with John Sterling, former lead vocalist in The Seldom Scene. Sterling, who had contributed to **“Breakin’ It,”** had retired to become a practising physician, and he arranged for Claire to send some of her songs to Nashville publishers. Claire went on to score cuts by Stephanie Davis [“Moonlighter”], Patty Loveless [“Some Morning Soon”] and Kathy Mattea [“Hills of Alabam”], and was signed as a staff writer by Polygram. Nashville also beckoned Lynch as a backing vocalist, and she worked on recordings by Ralph Stanley, Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, Pam Tillis, Emmylou Harris, Patty Loveless and more. At turns, Claire’s voice is reminiscent of Nanci Griffith, Dolly Parton and Alison Krauss.

In the nineteen-nineties the Lynch’s became touring bluegrass musicians once again with the reformed Front Porch String Band and the album **“Lines & Traces”** [1990] was released by Rebel Records. Claire went on to sign with Rounder Records, and by Y2K had recorded four solo albums for the imprint. **“Moonlighter”** [1995] and **“Silver And Gold”** [1997] were nominated for Best Bluegrass Album Grammy awards. 1997 saw Lynch pick up the International Bluegrass Music Association’s “Female Vocalist of the Year” award. Apart from Lynch, the late-'90s line-up of The Front Porch String Band featured Michael McLain, formerly of the McLain Family Band [banjo, mandolin and vocals], Missy Raines formerly of Eddie and Martha Adcock's Band [upright bass] and Jim Hurst who had worked in touring bands with Holly Dunn and Trisha Yearwood [guitar and vocals].

“Breakin’ It” her traditional sounding country album reappeared as **“Out In The Country”** during 2001, on the Copper Creek imprint. Recorded in Roanoke, Virginia the album was produced by long-time George Strait and Lyle Lovett sideman, Gene Elders. In 2000, “retired” again, and returned in late March 2006 with the self-produced and appropriately titled recording **“New Day.”** On the recording Lynch is supported by Missy Raines [bass], David Harvey [mandolin, fiddle] and Jim Hurst [guitar, banjo].

Discography :

Solo : **“Breakin’ It”** reissued as **“Out In The Country”** during 2001 [1981] ; **“Friends For A Lifetime”** [1993] ; **“Moonlighter”** [1995] ; **“Silver And Gold”** [1997] ; **“Lovelight”** [2000] ; **“New Day”** [2006] :
with The Front Porch String Band : **“Smilin’ At You”** [1977] ; **“Country Rain”** [1977] ; **“The Front Porch String Band”** [1981] ; **“Lines & Traces”** [1990] :

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