

## Laura Nyro – Bio

Laura Nyro was born in the Bronx, New York on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1947, and her given name was Laura Nigro. She died in Danbury, Connecticut on April 8<sup>th</sup> 1997. Raised in an Italian/Jewish family, both her parents were musically inclined individuals. Her father was a jazz trumpeter. Nyro began writing songs at an early age and went on to attend the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan. At the age of nineteen she signed a recording deal with Verve Forecast, but the commercially unsuccessful **“More Than A New Discovery”** was the only release. The twelve-track recording included a number of songs that later became hit songs for other performers - “Wedding Bell Blues” and “Blowin’ Away” [Fifth Dimension], “Stoney End” [Barbra Streisand], and “And When I Die” [Peter, Paul & Mary/Blood, Sweat And Tears]. On the opening night of the Monterey Pop Festival, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June, Nyro appeared on the bill between the Jim Hendrix Experience and Lou Rawls. Although her set wasn’t well received, David Geffen became her manager soon afterwards and negotiated a recording and songwriting deal with CBS Records. Her sophomore album **“Eli And The Thirteenth Confession”** contained further hit songs, but sadly, not for Nyro. “Eli’s Comin” [Three Dog Night], and “Sweet Blindness” and “Stoned Soul Picnic” [Fifth Dimension]. In her teen years Nyro had sung in street corner ensembles and at parties, and her *unique* marriage of doo-wop, soul and jazz was devised during this period. While none of her albums enjoyed significant chart success, her work consistently gained critical acclaim, particularly **“New York Tendaberry”** and **“Christmas And The Beads of Sweat.”** **“Gonna Take A Miracle”** was a collection of soul/doo-wop covers and featured the group Labelle, prior to their success with “Lady Marmalade.” At the age of 24 Nyro retired from the music business for the first time, got married and settled in rural New England. In 1973 Columbia reissued Nyro’s debut solo album as **“The First Songs”** and after reviving her career halfway through the decade, Laura recorded four more albums for the imprint, that combined original songs and the occasional cover. When CBS turned down her **“Live At The Bottom Line”** album she took it to the West Coast based Cypress label, and retired from the business once more. Her final album of original material for CBS arrived in the form of the critically lauded **“Walk The Dog And Light The Light.”** In February 1997, just prior to her passing, Columbia/Legacy issued the two CD retrospective **“Stoned Soul Picnic.”** A various artist, tribute compilation **“Time And Love : The Music Of Laura Nyro”** featuring contributions from Rosanne Cash, Jane Siberry, Patty Larkin and others, also appeared that year. A number of albums have surfaced since Nyro’s passing, including the Rounder Records release of her final studio recordings **“Angel In The Dark.”** The live double album **“The Loom’s Desire”** was released in the spring of 2002, and was followed in the summer of 2004 by another *in concert* recording **“Live At The Fillmore East May 30, 1971.”**

Discography : **“More Than A New Discovery”** [1967] ; **“Eli And The Thirteenth Confession”** [1968] ; **“New York Tendaberry”** [1969] ; **“Christmas And The Beads of Sweat”** [1970] ; **“Gonna Take A Miracle”** with Labelle [1971] ; **“The First Songs”** [1973] ; **“Smile”** [1976] ; **“Season of Lights”** [1977] ; **“Nested”** [1978] ; **“Mother’s Spiritual”** [1984] ; **“Laura Nyro Live At The Bottom Line”** [1989] ; **“Walk The Dog And Light The Light”** [1993] ; **“Stoned Soul Picnic – The Best Of Laura Nyro”** [1997] ; **“Laura Nyro – Live From Mountain Stage”** [2000] ; **“Angel In The Dark”** [2001] ; **“The Loom’s Desire”** [2002] ; **“Live At The Fillmore East May 30, 1971 ”** [2004] :

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Kerrville Kronikles 06/02 & 10/04

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