

# CLAUDIA NYGAARD BIO

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**CLAUDIA NYGAARD** is a mesmerizing storyteller and cinematic lyricist, whose work reveals a daredevil's vulnerability and a complete lack of self-censorship. On her latest album **Lucky Girl** she tackles unwanted pregnancy, dysfunctional relationships, statutory rape, alcoholism, and betrayal. But there are also songs in this collection that are heartfelt, humorous, scrappy, and sensual; and all thirteen of these little slices of Americana are delivered with a lush amber honey voice that is powerful, resonant, and deeply emotional.

Claudia's writing has won her numerous awards; and radio chart success. The awards began in Los Angeles during the early years of her career, and they propelled her move to Nashville. In Music City she landed a job as a **staff songwriter for Greenwood Music Publishing on Nashville's Music Row**. The position gave her the chance to polish her craft, and she went on to win both the prestigious **Kerrville Folk Festival Songwriting Competition**; and, with the title cut from her latest album **Lucky Girl**, the **Tumbleweed Music Festival Songwriting Competition**. The song rose to **#3 on the Folk Alliance Radio song chart** and the album to #5. It also received generous airplay on the Americana and roots music charts. The press raved about the recording, the songwriting, and her vocals, and Making A Scene magazine included **Lucky Girl** in their **Top Albums of the Year list**, as did several radio stations.

In October of 2023 Claudia added playwright to her list of accomplishments, with the **premiere of her children's musical "Little Red Riding Hood" by the Academy of Performing Arts in Massachusetts**. The work is part of a series she is creating called "Time Tested Tales Told in Tunes".

Nygaard's previous album **Let The Storm Roll In** achieved similar success grabbing **#1 on the Cashbox Roots/Country Chart**; and **five stars from Maverick magazine**. Legendary folk music magazine *Sing Out* praised her voice and said her songs "*rival the likes of Guy Clark or Ian Tyson*". Her freshman effort **Somewhere Else To Go**, released on the UK recording label Round Tower, charted in **the top five on the European Americana charts**. It was also one of **the top twelve records of the year** in 2001 for the UK magazine *Country Music Roundup*.

Claudia is a quick witted and charismatic performer, with a twinkle in her eye that convinces everyone in her audience that she is sharing a secret with them alone. And her storytelling doesn't end when the song does. Sharing both the inspiration behind the tunes, and also frequently creating outlandish, irreverent, and humorous monologues, her patter is as important a part of her performances as the songs themselves. A veteran road warrior, she has performed at over 250 fairs and festivals in forty-eight of the United States and ten foreign countries.