

CLAUDIA NYGAARD MINI-BIO

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Claudia Nygaard is a mesmerizing storyteller and a cinematic lyricist who writes songs that are heartfelt, humorous, scrappy, and sensual; and she does so with a daredevil's vulnerability and a complete lack of self-censorship. Nygaard, with her powerful, resonant, and deeply emotive amber honey voice, is a master at putting a tear in your eye with a song that breaks your heart, and then with a quick wit and an outlandish sense of humor, she'll replace it with tears of laughter. It is no wonder she was chosen an **"Emerging Artist" by the 2022 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival**, and has a performance history that includes over 250 fairs and festivals in forty-eight of the United States and ten foreign countries.

Building on the craft she learned while a **staff songwriter on Nashville's Music Row**, Nygaard has won numerous awards including the prestigious **Kerrville Folk Festival Songwriting Competition**, and with the title cut of her last album "Lucky Girl", the **Tumbleweed Music Festival Songwriting Competition**. "Lucky Girl" charted at **#3 on the Folk Alliance Radio song chart** and **#5 on the album chart**, and gave her a significant debut on the Americana chart. It also received impressive press reviews. Legendary folk music magazine "Sing Out" claimed the songs "rival the likes of Guy Clark or Ian Tyson".

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".

After a busy year of touring, she is currently taking time off to record "To Race The Wind", a Western/Folk hybrid album that draws imagery from a childhood spent growing up on a ranch in California. Also in the works are a recording of her "Little Red Riding Hood" musical, and a Christmas album.