

Chip Taylor Bio (short)

The *New York Times* says it best about Chip Taylor. “If you only know him as the as the guy who wrote ‘Wild Thing’ and ‘Angel of the Morning’ — you don’t know him! Chip Taylor is making some of the most distinctive acoustic music around today.”

Creating distinctive music that is also enduring and influential has been Chip Taylor’s *métier* over the course of what is closing in on five decades as “one of America’s finest songwriters as well as a masterful singer and performer,” says *Rolling Stone*. His two best-known songs are only some of the many pop, rock, country and R&B chart hits he wrote in the 1960s. Taylor was then one of the pioneers of the pivotal country-rock movement as a recording artist in the 1970s. His 1973 album, *Last Chance*, remains a beloved cult classic. But after refusing to play by the Nashville establishment rules, Taylor gave up music for full-time professional gambling in 1980.

"Chip Taylor could've rested on his laurels years ago and still been way ahead of everybody else today. Lucky for us he didn't and he's making some of the most relevant music out there," said Buddy Miller just last year. Since returning to music in 1995 he has enjoyed elder statesman stature within the Americana, contemporary folk and singer-songwriter scenes as an artist in his own right as well as in collaboration on albums and in performance with Carrie Rodriguez, Kendel Carson and John Platania. In a remarkable and prolific run, Taylor has released nearly an album a year since his return. As England’s *The Guardian* notes, “Chip Taylor, like Johnny Cash, is well worth rediscovering by a new generation.”

Taylor's world tours have inspired some of his best music. His most recent album, *F*** All The Perfect People*, came out of his shows and encounters at Swedish prisons and his final tour with Carrie Rodriguez is chronicled in the book/CD *Songs From A Dutch Tour*. The Grammy-nominated *Yonkers NY* shows his facility with storytelling within songs. Taylor's regular podcast *Church of the Train Wreck* also demonstrates his natural abilities as a performer.

As Taylor’s muse continues to fire on all pistons, musical tastemakers agree that fans and listeners should tune their ears into the continuing creativity of a true musical master. “If names like Willie Nelson, Guy Clark, Kris Kristofferson and Townes Van Zandt mean anything to you, you should make a point of discovering Chip Taylor,” urges critic Anthony DeCurtis. “Whether you know it or not, he’s earned his way into that exalted company.”