



JULY 2006

Fifteen Minutes With Karen Taylor-Good

by Amber McDonald

Author, Speaker, Award Winning Singer/Songwriter

Karen Taylor- Good is Making a Difference...One Song at a Time.

AMBER: *You've had many hit songs; do you have a particular favorite?*

KAREN: Actually, it used to be "How Can I Help You to Say Goodbye," and I love "Not That Different" as well. Collin (Raye) has recorded seven of my songs and I love every one of his renditions. I think my favorite song that I've ever written though is "On Angels Wings." Actually, Collin did record it once, and he called it "She's Gonna Fly." His version was never a single. That's partly why I'm doing this whole thing again. Twenty-three years ago was the last time I did this radio thing! I was nominated for an Academy of Country Music Award in 1983, and I desperately wanted to be an artist. I was so young, and stupid. I didn't know who I was and I wasn't writing my own stuff. It was a painful time. So, I took a twenty year break, and wrote songs for other people. But one of the reasons I'm back is "On Angels Wings". Frankly, the song needs to be out there in the world. I wrote that song with Jason Blume.

AMBER: *Who have been your major musical influences in songwriting?*

KAREN: Well, I loved Joni Mitchell. That was my era. I loved Simon and Garfunkle, and Carol King of course

AMBER: *What advice do you give upcoming writers who are trying to break into the business?*

KAREN: I would say they need to have a thick skin. I would tell them about the major pop record label head in the 90's , who flew me up to NYC after he heard my demo of "How Can I Help You Say Goodbye" . He was crazy about it! He was going to make me the Carol King of the 90's. When I got up there, he took one look at me, and that was it! He thought I was too old! I was all of THIRTY!!! I would say, do your homework. Go to the really fine seminars. One of my favorite co-writers is Jason Blume, and he teaches some wonderful workshops through BMI. He's written some great books. I always recommend that they study Jason's stuff. Just keep getting better at your craft. If you're really good, you don't want to do anything else, and this is your passion, then you got to hang in there, and do whatever it takes, and keep doing it. .

AMBER: *Does your faith play a role in your songwriting?*

KAREN: Absolutely. I wrote a book entitled "On Angel's Wings". There's a CD that accompanies the book. There are fourteen songs, and fourteen chapters. (Each one of them having to do with one of the songs) But, I've noticed after the fact that there's a lot of spiritual stuff in there. That's one of the reasons I'm more of a pleasant, happy, grounded person than I was twenty years ago.



AMBER: *When people look back at your life 50 years from now, what do you want people to say about you?*

KAREN: I want them to say "remember that song by Karen Taylor-Good? That touched me, helped me, moved me, or made me laugh."

AMBER: *Is there a particular song you wished you would have written or performed?*

KAREN: That's a really good question. I guess I could say I wish I would have written "I Swear" since that's what beat me out of my Grammy. But, I've forgiven them! (laughing)

AMBER: *What's next on your horizon?*

KAREN: I'm just so excited about this new CD and the fact that my songs are being heard in Australia, New Zealand, England and Germany. We just got some charts yesterday and "On Angels Wings" (which has only been out for three weeks) is on those two charts, and its #1 again on the charts in the U.K. So, that's really thrilling. Next on the horizon is just getting these songs heard by as many people as possible.....did someone say, the Oprah show????

A Grammy-nominated songwriter, Karen Taylor-Good's songs have been recorded by Collin Raye, Patty Loveless, Neal McCoy, Mark Wills, Diamond Rio and many others. "How Many Women" is Karen Taylor-Good's sixth full-length album which includes the newest single, "On Angels Wings." Books and CD's can be purchased at www.karentaylorgood.com

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