

# Ricky j Taylor and the Live Roots Ensemble



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## New and Legacy Folk/Roots/Americana

Ricky j Taylor and the Live Roots Ensemble's original music is multi-genre and includes elements of folk, traditional country, bluegrass and even chamber music. Ricky's songs are grounded in the southern traditions where music is often sincere and born from matters of the heart. He has toured with noted artists including bluegrass great Claire Lynch.

Their original songs often reflect a universal search for meaning by illuminating the human condition; capturing emotions that are sincere, cathartic, sad or uplifting. All done through highly articulate lyrics and detailed musical arrangements. They also feature old-time and bluegrass instrumental fiddle tunes and even Celtic dance. They're based in Huntsville, Alabama, including members from Tennessee. Some highlights:

- Featured on nationally syndicated Heartland TV network (2 airings)
- Featured on Alabama Public TV (3 airings)
- Band includes 5 time TN State Fiddle Champion Jim Wood
- Instrumentation includes various combinations of Guitar, Fiddle, Cello, Mandolin, Viola, Bass, Drums and even Dance
- Performing festivals & concert-hall venues in the southeast including:

### 2017 Festivals:

Riverbend Music Festival, Chattanooga, TN  
National Cornbread Fest So. Pittsburg, TN (also 2016)

### Other Performances of note:

Dugger Mountain Music Hall, Nationally Televised, 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance recorded Aug 2017, & 2016  
City Lights and Stars Concert Series, Huntsville, AL  
Boom Days Heritage Fest, Fort Payne, AL  
Mountain Valley Arts Concert Series, Guntersville, AL  
Crockett Theater Performing Arts Concert Series, Lawrenceburg, TN  
Park Theater Concert Series, McMinnville, TN  
South Jackson Civic Center, Concert Series Tullahoma, TN

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## History

The Live Roots Ensemble's initial form took shape in 2014 following the recording of Ricky j Taylor's album "A Journey to Here". This recording was initially done simply for the purpose of archiving songs written by Ricky with intent to then walk away from music all together. Fate seemed to have different plans as exceptional musicians would coalesce around Ricky's now recorded but previously unheard songs. The band evolved, finding its ideal lineup in 2017.

## Reviews

*"The Live Roots Ensemble brings a fresh blend of acoustic music that reflects a heritage that includes all folk styles from blues to bluegrass, while presenting well crafted songs with bright arrangements suited well for Taylor's tenor vocals. I love the Celtic traditional strands that flow through the music as well."*

-Russell Gulley, Muscle Shoals Music Veteran, Kamama Music Series

*"Ricky, thanks for bringing your band to play for HTMA. I especially enjoyed the new songs you presented. Your band sets a high standard for performance quality. Not sure we will have even one other this year that will be comparable."*

-Jerry LeCroy, Huntsville Traditional Music Association (HTMA)

*"Oh my goodness it was so awesomely amazing!! I felt like a dying plant set in a forest mist, and the rains came gently down and filled in all thirsty roots and leaves...It's been so long since I've heard good music!! Just getting to sit and soak in is such a rare treat, the whole evening filled me with wonder!! Every member of your band is very talented and you all are blessed to have each other!! Acoustically I think you are pretty darn amazing on your own, so don't hesitate to put out your own acoustic CD (I'll take 3 !!:) ) but with everyone sharing their talents and interpretations it's just outstanding"*

- Robin, Singer Songwriter

*"I belonged to the songs. To the sounds. To the stories. Each masterfully unleashed by the collective talent of this band. I had not asked for such wonder. Yet it came. From the haunting melody of long-ago Ireland in "The Ghost of Rory O'Moore," to the upbeat-yet-sober reality of heartache in "I Do It For Love," to the poignant and nearly indescribable pain that comes from observations of the sometimes dark, always broken nature of the human condition in "The Ballad Of Katie Lynn," and "I Move On."*

-Justin Newman, Screenwriter