

Carrie Rodriguez

"...her fiddler's vocabulary of old modal melodies centers her songs about faraway loves and spiritual prospects, bringing concision and gravity to every one of them."

- *Jon Pareles, New York Times*

"She's a wonderful artist, very creative. She plays beautifully, she sings beautifully, and she's a real nice person."

- *Alejandro Escovedo*

"Hailed by Lucinda Williams, recruited by Alejandro Escovedo, and nurtured by Lyle Lovett, singer-songwriter Carrie Rodriguez has rapidly emerged as one of the most compelling new voices on the roots-rock scene."

- *Andrew Gilbert, Boston Globe*

★Has successfully shared bills with **Lucinda Williams, John Prine, Bruce Hornsby, Los Lonely Boys, Alejandro Escovedo** (also playing in his band), **Chip Taylor** (with whom she has collaborated on five full albums and an EP), as well as performing as a featured member of **Jeff Bridges' Band** and many others.

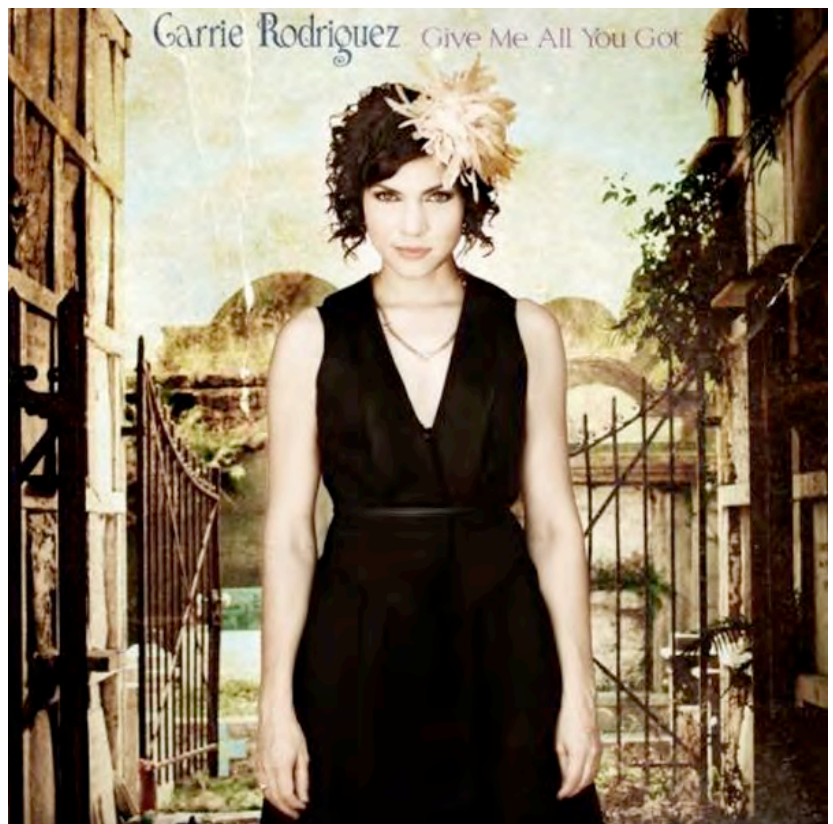
★Carrie was honored by the **City of Austin** with a proclamation declaring January 17, 2013 as **Carrie Rodriguez Day** in Austin, Texas.

★Carrie was honored to perform two of her songs as arranged exclusively for **the Austin Youth Orchestra** at their annual Spring Concert in Austin, TX on March 7th, 2010. As a youth, Carrie was an AYO member.

★The Americana Music Association picked **Love And Circumstance** in their Top 20 Albums of 2010.

★PAZZ & JOP Music Critics Poll recognized **Love and Circumstance** and **Live in Louisville** among their Top Albums of 2010

★**Roots Music Association's 2008 & 2009 Folk Songwriter Of The Year**



★Carrie Rodriguez's **Give Me All You Got** released January 22 on **Ninth Street Opus**

★ **#1 on Americana Radio Airplay Chart** - after one of the strongest debuts of the year, **Give Me All You Got** hit #1 on the Americana Radio Airplay Chart on March 4, 2013.

★Carrie's versatility is further exemplified by her inclusion in 2 charts on **Roots Music Report's Most Radio Airplayed Albums of 2011**:

- Roots Country (#5 with **We Still Love Our Country** with Ben Kyle)
- Roots Rock (**The New Bye & Bye** with Chip Taylor)

National TV and Radio Appearances Include:

- Mountain Stage (NPR) (9/12/11, 10/08)
 - Live! With Regis & Kelly (NBC) (8/17/11) w/ Jeff Bridges' Band
 - Colbert Report (8/17/11) w/ Jeff Bridges' Band
 - Today Show (NBC) (8/16/11) w/ Jeff Bridges' Band
 - Austin City Limits (PBS) (8/16/11) w/ Jeff Bridges' Band
 - Rolling Stone Offices (8/16/11) w/ Jeff Bridges' Band
 - World Café Live (NPR) (1/10)
 - Austin City Limits (PBS) (7/08)
 - Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour (2008)
- Among many others...

Cover Features

- TODO Austin (January 2013)
- Extra (Fox) (April 2010)
- Maxim online (February 2010)
- Pollstar magazine (October 2008)

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Carrie Rodriguez

Give Me All You Got

NINTH STREET OPUS, January 22, 2013

At each stage of Carrie Rodriguez's career- as a fiddler, singer, and songwriter - the Austin, Texas, native has learned the importance of letting go. That was certainly true when it came to recording her fifth solo album, *Give Me All You Got*, her first of largely original tunes in several years. "In the making of *Love And Circumstance* in 2008, I chose to sing other people's songs," Rodriguez explains. "I needed to take a step back from songwriting and think about the kinds of songs that feel important to sing. Doing that inspired me to write again."

On *Give Me All You Got*, she says, "I'm laying out some extreme emotional highs and lows, which feels good. Take 'Brooklyn' [co-written with guitarist **Luke Jacobs**]. It's very autobiographical, and I remember thinking, would I really want to share this? I decided, of course, why hold this back? It's something that a lot of people can relate to - the acceptance of failure in a relationship, learning from it, and moving forward. 'Brooklyn' is also a song about taking a pause in order to really experience what you are feeling, something I find increasingly difficult in this modern era of constant communication and stimulation."

Rodriguez, who came to attention a decade ago performing with singer-songwriter **Chip Taylor**, has established an impressive roster of touring, recording, and co-writing affiliations - with **Lucinda Williams, Rickie Lee Jones, John Prine, Mary Gauthier, Alejandro Escovedo**, guitarist **Bill Frisell** and others. Although she has issued three albums under her own name and enjoyed major label support for 2008's *She Ain't Me*, the release of *Give Me All You Got* marks a giant step for Rodriguez. The album was recorded with her own band and produced by the renowned **Lee Townsend**, with whom she has worked closely in the past. And the songs - which she wrote, co-wrote, or handpicked from the repertoire of longtime collaborators - establish her musical identity more powerfully than ever before.

While Carrie's father, **David Rodriguez**, was an accomplished songwriter, and took her on tour with him in Europe when she was a teen, song craft, like improvising on fiddle and singing, didn't come automatically to Carrie. After sitting in on a sound check with her dad's old Houston pal **Lyle Lovett**, she detoured from a degree as a classical violinist at Oberlin Conservatory and set herself on course to become a fiddler at the Berklee College of Music. There, her teacher, **Matt Glaser**, and her fellow students, including roommate **Casey Driessen**, helped her "find my groove and let go of that wall I had put up as a classical player."

Another turning point came when Rodriguez met veteran songwriter Chip Taylor ("Wild Thing," "Angel of the Morning"), who soon had Rodriguez touring and recording, and encouraged her to sing and write. "I've been a reluctant writer ever since I started, never quite feeling like I was supposed to be doing it," Rodriguez confesses. "But I'm drawn to songs that are emotional

and direct, and from working with Chip I learned that when you can just be open and not analyze too much, that's when the truth comes out."

After recording four studio albums with Taylor, Rodriguez made her solo debut in 2006 with *Seven Angels on a Bicycle*. "All of a sudden I found myself in this position of being called a singer-songwriter, which felt so strange," she says. But she returns to that role quite comfortably on *Give Me All You Got*. The album includes songs by **Taylor** and **Ben Kyle** (with whom Rodriguez recorded the 2011 EP *We Still Love Our Country*), but its emotional core resides in originals drawn from Carrie's personal experience. "I feel less afraid to write about what's really happening, both to me and to people around me," Rodriguez says. The song "Sad Joy," for instance, arose from a conversation with Taylor about a loved one who was maintaining a "bright, beautiful attitude" while dealing with Lou Gehrig's disease. "Chip and I were talking about how, when we are faced with those kinds of things, as sad and difficult as they are, they can also bring about a type of joy. The simple joy of people loving each other and holding each other up - in times of both celebration and in mourning. We started strumming some chords, and there it was, a song that lays out those raw emotions without being shy about it. Celebrating them, in fact."

Give Me All You Got deals with a few dark themes, which is not surprising given that one of the first songwriters who inspired Rodriguez in her early teens was **Leonard Cohen**. "I listened to Leonard for a year and dwelled in the deep lowdown feelings he helped me feel," she recalls. The *sound* of the new album, however, is "a little more infectious, rather than contemplative," says producer Lee Townsend. "It still addresses Carrie's roots in Americana, but also with a bit of a pop edge. I think it is her most mature record - every direction that is explored is distilled to an essential kind of expression."

Townsend, known for his work with Bill Frisell, **Loudon Wainwright III, Kelly Joe Phelps, Crooked Still**, and many others, captured the band - Carrie on fiddle, tenor guitar, and vocals; Luke Jacobs and **Hans Holzen** on acoustic, electric, and lap steel guitars, mandolin, and vocals; **Kyle Kegerreis** on upright and electric bass; **Eric Deutsch** on piano, Rhodes, and Hammond B3; and **Don Heffington** on drums and percussion - essentially live in the studio. "The live energy of the band is central to this album," he says.

"Ever since I first met and worked with Lee at a music festival in Germany, I have known he was the perfect producer for me," Rodriguez says. "His approach to making an album is almost like a composer writing a symphony. He has the ability to group songs together and shape them so that the story they tell is a complete one, and even greater than the individual songs themselves. And like my favorite conductors, he manages to get the absolute best from each musician by making us all feel at ease and appreciated."

With the release of *Give Me All You Got*, Rodriguez is ready to say the same thing about herself: "As a singer-songwriter, I feel like I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing. It's a lifelong learning curve, and I hope I always stay as excited about it as I am now."

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on Carrie Rodriguez

"She's got something unique in her voice that's very subtle and a little smoky and sweet...[and] a refreshingly spunky attitude to go along with it."

- *Lucinda Williams*

"There's a fine line in everything. Perhaps the most dangerous one in American roots music divides "tasteful" from "polite". Bestriding it deftly is Austin's Carrie Rodriguez, a singer-songwriter and fiddle player of great accomplishment and tastefulness,"

- *The Independent (UK)*

"There's a real earthiness to both Carrie's singing and fiddle. She's hot and steamy one minute and pure Nashville the next."

- *MOJO*

"...Rodriguez is a triple-threat artist who sounds more formidable with each successive release."

- *Garry Graff, Billboard (Critic's Pick)*

"A tireless, gracious and versatile performer. Usually sounding delicate and demure on record, Rodriguez turned into a full-blown, passionate chica on "La Punalada Trapera," eliciting whoops, hollers and whistles from an adoring audience in Boulder."

- *NoDepression.com*

"Carrie is like a vintage red that improves with time. A skilled violinist with girl-next-door tenderness disguising spunky self-possession...Stylistically, she recalls Suzanne Vega transplanted from Luka's apartment building to the dusty Southwest, where her alternately delicate/rocking folk flirts with lonesome twang and the balladry of loping ache."

- *Chris Parker, Philadelphia Weekly (Critic's Pick) 1/2/2012*

"'Fiddle' and 'deadly' don't usually appear in the same sentence together - unless you're talking about Carrie Rodriguez. Austin-born and bred and ready to take on the world. She closed out the night with some attitude on stage---she brought the crowd to their knees with her songs of love and regret, and a bit of vengeance."

- *Jason Claypool, Denver Post*

"Rodriguez has mastered the power of vocal dynamics; it's hard to believe she was just a backup singer a few years ago, given how naturally and fluidly her voice grew from a whisper to a belt."

- *Catherine P. Lewis, The Washington Post*

"...Rodriguez's flexibility is her saving grace, and she shows it off subtly: Her voice can go from dramatic to flippant on songs that span from country to gospel influences, or to shiny pop singles."

- *The Onion*

"She is a refreshingly honest singer, decidedly unflashy in her warm, direct alto - none of the baby-bird coos, old-hag warbles, or precious-me little-girl affectations so common in female Americana artists these days. Instead, she can bring subtlety and power with equal, winning effect."

- *Popmatters.com*

on Give Me All You Got

"her voice - at full throttle on the album's first single, 'I Cry for Love' - is now her primary instrument."

- *The New York Times*

"Rodriguez at her freewheeling best, an inspired mix of passion and energy that captures the spirit of her feel-the-burn live shows."

- *The Huffington Post*

"What is most impressive about Rodriguez's singing is something unexpected: her diction, which can be slurred with emotion one moment and crisply analytical the next ... She creates beautiful music that is always slyly smart, which in turn makes it more beautiful."

- *The New Yorker*

"[Rodriguez] sounds in complete command...the resulting album sounds richer, more spirited and more genuine than ever, giving the best account yet of Rodriguez's considerable talent."

- *Daily News, Los Angeles*

"The weary wisdom that underlies the best songs here is country songwriting at its best, taking heartbreak and regret and making it redemptive and therefore hopeful."

- *PopMatters*

"Carrie Rodriguez has grown and blossomed [into a] poised and confident vocalist [and a] mature, confident, and extremely moving and graceful songwriter...everything on this impressive outing fits together like honey and smoke in a warm but vibrant Texas breeze."

- *allmusic*

"her finest, most poignant and accomplished album in an already impressive seven year solo career."

- *Hal Horowitz, American Songwriter*

"Carrie Rodriguez is one of the brightest talents in Americana, and Give Me All You Got finally captures that on a record."

- *Twangville*

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We Still Love Our Country

Carrie Rodriguez & Ben Kyle
2011

Critically Acclaimed singer/songwriters – Austin-based Carrie Rodriguez and Ben Kyle, front man of Minneapolis' own Romantica – pledge devotion to their Americana roots on **We Still Love Our Country**, an album of duets that tips its hat to a few of the genre's songwriting legends (Townes Van Zandt, John Prine, etc.) while the duo's originals meld in complete harmony.

Produced by Carrie Rodriguez and Ben Kyle with Lee Townsend (Bill Frisell, etc.),

We Still Love our Country was recorded at Opus Studios in Berkeley with Carrie (vocals, fiddle, tenor guitar), Ben (vocals, acoustic guitar), Hans Holzen (electric and acoustic guitar), Kyle Kegerris (bass) and Rick Fataar (drums).

"With Kyle and Rodriguez sounding, in a powerful dialogue, as if they're on the verge of tears, the narrative's sorrow is underscored by the distant cry of pedal steel and the lonely twang of electric guitar."

- *David McGee, The Bluegrass Special (2/11)*

"Rodriguez and Kyle bring back to country music some of that old romantic and much missed sparkle."

- *Allan Wilkinson, Northern Sky UK (11/11)*



Love and Circumstance

2010

Love and Circumstance scored in the Top 20 albums of 2010 on the Americana Charts!

Love and Circumstance was produced by Lee Townsend (Bill Frisell, Loudon Wainwright III, etc.) with special guests joining in on the recording including Bill Frisell, Buddy Miller, Greg Leisz, and Aoife O'Donovan. The first single/video is "Big Love."

"...simply an understated triumph. Grade: A."

- *Glide Magazine (6/7/10)*

"This is masterful musicianship, with primacy given to the guitars, which blend beautifully yet inhabit different spaces within the songs, so that the character of each – tremolo, acoustic, electric, tenor – shines...A stunner."

- *Celine Keating, Acoustic Guitar*



The New Bye & Bye:
Chip Taylor &
Carrie Rodriguez
2010



Live in Louisville
2009



She Ain't Me
2008



7 Angels
On A Bicycle
2006

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