

# Claire Lynch Friends for a Lifetime



## 1. Lead Me On

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Sam Bush *mandolin*  
Alison Brown *banjo*  
Glen Duncan *fiddle*  
Jerry Douglas *Dobro*  
Keith Little, Terry Eldredge *harmony vocals*

## 2. Who Do You Know?

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
Tom Bresh *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *mandolin*  
Stuart Duncan *fiddle*  
Keith Little, Terry Eldredge, Shelton Feazell *harmony vocals*

## 3. Your Presence Is My Favorite Gift

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
Tom Bresh *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *bouzouki*  
Andrea Zonn *fiddle*  
Paul Brantley *cello*

## 4. Go and Do the Same

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *mandolin*  
Mark Schatz *frailing banjo*  
Glen Duncan *fiddle*  
Pamela Brown Hayes, Keith Little *harmony vocals*

## 5. Paul and Peter Walked

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Sam Bush *mandolin*  
Alison Brown *banjo*  
Glen Duncan *fiddle*  
Jerry Douglas *Dobro*  
Alan O'Bryant *harmony vocal*

## 6. There Is a Fountain

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
Steven Sheehan *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *bouzouki*  
Glen Duncan *fiddle*  
Rob Ickes *Dobro*  
Cathy Chiavola, Keith Little *harmony vocals*

## 7. God Spoke His Name

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Sam Bush *mandolin*  
Alison Brown *banjo*  
Jerry Douglas *Dobro*  
Keith Little, Terry Eldredge, Shelton Feazell *harmony vocals*

## 8. Friends for a Lifetime

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *mandolin*  
Glen Duncan *fiddle*  
Kenny Malone *drums*  
Rob Ickes *Dobro*

## 9. My Name Is Judas

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *mandolin*  
Alison Brown *banjo*  
Stuart Duncan *fiddle*  
Keith Little, Terry Eldredge *harmony vocals*

## 10. He Leadeth Me

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
Steven Sheehan *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *mandolin*  
Glen Duncan *fiddle*  
Paul Brantley *cello*  
Keith Little, Terry Eldredge, Shelton Feazell *harmony vocals*

## 11. Somewhere Above

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *mandolin*  
Stuart Duncan *fiddle*  
Keith Little, Terry Eldredge, Shelton Feazell *harmony vocals*

## 12. Between the Two of Them

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
Kenny Malone *drums*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Larry Lynch *mandolin*  
Andrea Zonn *fiddle*

Paul Brantley *cello*  
Rob Ickes *Dobro*

## 13. After the Storm

Roy Huskey, Jr. *bass*  
David Grier *guitar*  
Sam Bush *mandolin*  
Andrea Zonn *fiddle*  
Jerry Douglas *Dobro*  
Paul Brantley *cello*  
Keith Little, Terry Eldredge *harmony vocals*

Every great singer comes to that point in their career when their talent has reached a pinnacle, and their experience provides the wisdom to create timeless music. With *Friends for a Lifetime* Claire Lynch delivers more evidence that she has arrived at that level. Not only do these 13 songs of inspiration, faith and hope showcase her vocal and songwriting abilities, they also illuminate a refined capacity to wisely choose her material.

A self-described "progressive" among bluegrass stars, Lynch has selected a rich palate of sound for this collection that ranges from traditional gospel ("He Leadeth Me") to what's called positive country ("Between the Two of Them"). The result is an album that is inspirational rather than didactic. Lynch wrote or co-wrote four songs including "Lead Me On," an up-tempo celebration of God's ability to show the way. In "Go and Do the Same," she and co-writer, Pamela Brown Hayes, re-affirm the blessings of being a good Samaritan. Her "Somewhere Above" is another assurance of God's presence, and the title song, "Friends for a Lifetime," (written with Susan Stewart) was inspired by the birth of Lynch's daughter, but written for her son. It's full of loving advice and hopeful dreams for a future that will include remaining friends with her child for a lifetime. Lynch's joyously personal delivery sweetly pierces the heart of any parent who hears this song.

The success of this album lies not only in the song selection, but also in the impeccable production and stellar cast of session musicians, all ranked among the best in the country and gospel fields. They include the late Roy Huskey Jr. (bass), David Grier (guitar), Sam Bush (mandolin), Alison Brown (banjo), Jerry Douglas (Dobro), etc.

Ultimately, however, Claire Lynch's performance is the shining center piece of each song. If you are not paying attention, some of her vocals might seem understated. But as you listen, you notice things like her subtle approach on "He Leadeth Me" that delivers the old, traditional tune on such a velvet cushion it actually adds power to the message. You recognize that her stylistic rendition of "My Name Is Judas" actually broadens its appeal, and you finally conclude that her vocal interpretations simply flow from her naturally and are dead on. Indeed, after getting to know *Friends for a Lifetime* you'll come away with the sense that you neither could, nor would, change a single phrase or note. Claire Lynch is just that good, making this album just that special. Simply stated, she has earned her place as one of the most important female artists in American music.

—Neil Haislop

That cut is a prime example of Lynch's power to personalize messages, even in songs she didn't write like, "Your Presence Is My Favorite Gift." The wonderful imagery in this one becomes soul caressing, thanks to her loving vocals that convey an attitude of serene contentment with a world full of God's gifts with the personal experience of His presence being one of the greatest gifts of all.

Lynch challenged herself musically with the variety of songs she chose, and both she and producer Bil VornDick were up to the task. The Chris Stuart-penned "Paul and Peter Walked" leaps off the record with its energy, bluesy feel and inspired vocal harmonies by Alan O'Bryant. Chris Stuart wrote another standout that sounds like a traditional standard, "God Spoke His Name." Bracketed by wonderful a cappella open and close, it takes you from creation to crucifixion and on to salvation with an infectious, camp-ground feel.

She gives a very pretty rendition of the Civil War era tune "There Is a Fountain," a song she describes as "overflowing with emotion," because it deals with the very source of Salvation, "blood drawn from Immanuel's veins." Lynch closes the album with "After the Storm," imbuing the lyrics with an emotional urgency that implores folks not to give up, no matter what, because The Lord will never leave you and His truth will set you free.

Song Notes:

**Lead Me On** God is in the darkness... I've found Him there many times. That's what this song is about... Eventually He leads me out, though — I'm glad to report!

**Who Do You Know** Morris Hicks from Sand Mountain in Alabama wrote this inspired song about the story of Elijah and the 450 prophets of Baal. We converted it from a country-sounding version to what we have here, thanks to the incomparable guitar playing of Thom Bresh.

**Your Presence Is My Favorite Gift** A fan-favorite since the original CD was released. Written by Hershey Reeves, an old friend of mine from Huntsville, Alabama, who actually engineered our first album in his home studio, many years ago. To me, this song captures the essence of "worship."

**Go and Do the Same** I was needing to write another song for this album and producer Bil VornDick made a suggestion. He was a Boy Scout troop leader, and each Christmas he and his sons would visit the rescue mission and help feed the folks in need. Bil said, "Why don't you write a song about the Good Samaritan?" Together, Pamela Brown Hayes and I gleaned what we could from the Bible story and wrote this song.

**He Leadeth Me** Another Civil War-era tune, inspired by the 23rd Psalm ("The Lord is my shepherd...") Special thanks to Glen Duncan for his idea about the drones on the fiddle. It made the song.

**Somewhere Above** When I wrote this song, I tried to approach the issue of "the here and now" instead of taking the traditional route and writing about "over yonder, over Jordan" and "in the next life." I feel in retrospect it might be a little "preachy," but I wrote it in all sincerity.

**Between the Two of Them** If this is your story, it'll bring tears to your eyes! A beautiful tribute to one man's parents and the legacy of their love.

**After The Storm** A line from this song reads, "Lay down your defenses but don't give up the fight." That rings of truth for me... Sometimes I think when Wisdom guides you, there are many facets to dealing with your struggles — not necessarily an absolute solution. The result is the same, though — "...the winds they will bow down before you."

—Claire Lynch

**Paul and Peter Walked** It was a special treat to have Alan O'Bryant sing on this song. He was in the Front Porch String Band with me for a couple of years around 1978. Now he's with the Nashville Bluegrass Band, of course. I learned a lot from Alan during our music days together.

**There Is a Fountain** There's just something about this song that overflows with emotion and inspiration. I think it's because it deals with the very source of salvation, the Savior's blood. It was written during the Civil War, as was "He Leadeth Me" — a dark period in our history, yet an era from which so many heart-rending songs came.

**God Spoke His Name** Chris Stuart, this song's author, has such a talent for lyrics. I love what Chris says here: "God speaks His name in everything He does."

**Friends for a Lifetime** This song just came to me one afternoon while rocking my baby in my arms. As I'd grown older, I came to realize that my mom had become a close friend. The song is almost a prayer for that same blessing to be bestowed on my own children someday.

**My Name Is Judas** Harley Campbell penned this traditional-sounding song. It's very lonesome and sort of dark, with a new twist on the Easter story. Thanks, Harley.

- Lead Me On** 2:49  
(Claire Lynch/Songs of Polygram Int., Inc.-Sound Cell Songs, BMI)
- Who Do You Know?** 2:38  
(Morris Hicks/Full Court Press, ASCAP)
- Your Presence Is My Favorite Gift** 2:27  
(Hershey Reeves/Thrill Music, BMI)
- Go and Do the Same** 3:42  
(Claire Lynch-Pamela Brown Hayes/Songs of Polygram International, Inc.-Sound Cell Songs, BMI)
- Paul and Peter Walked** 2:34  
(Chris Stuart/Mountainside Music, BMI)
- There Is A Fountain** 4:02  
(Cowper-Mason, public domain, adapted and arranged by Claire Lynch-Bil VornDick/Songs of Polygram International, Inc.-Sound Cell Songs-Mountainside Music, BMI)
- God Spoke His Name** 2:12  
(Chris Stuart/Mountainside Music, BMI)
- Friends For A Lifetime (Song for Kegan)** 2:56  
(Claire Lynch-Susan Stewart/Songs of Polygram Int., Inc.-Sound Cell Songs, BMI)
- My Name Is Judas** 3:03  
(Harley Campbell/Paul Craft Music, BMI)
- He Leadeth Me** 4:05  
(Gilmore-Bradberry, public domain, adapted and arranged by Claire Lynch-Bil VornDick/Songs of Polygram Int., Inc.-Sound Cell Songs-Mountainside Music, BMI)
- Somewhere Above** 3:01  
(Claire Lynch/Songs of Polygram Int., Inc.-Sound Cell Songs, BMI)
- Between The Two of Them** 3:03  
(Mickey Cates/Alabama Band Music, a Division of Wildcountry, Inc., BMI)
- After The Storm** 3:48  
(Pam Daley/Mountainside Music, BMI)

Produced by Bil VornDick.  
Executive Producer: Ed Kee

Recorded and mixed by Bil VornDick at Music Row Audio, Nashville, TN.  
Mastered by Toby Mountain at Northeastern Digital, Southborough, Mass.

Photography by Matt Barnes.  
Design by Nancy Given.

Notes by Neil Haislop.  
Song notes by Claire Lynch.

"I'd like to thank Rounder Records for caring enough about the music to let this project have a second chance. When all my recording projects are finished and tucked away in the 'archives,' *Friends for a Lifetime* will probably turn out to have been my favorite. It's tender, sincere and stirring — and I hope it will touch your life in much the same way it has mine..." —Claire Lynch

*Friends for a Lifetime* was originally released on Brentwood Records.



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