



## Isabel Taylor

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**Produced by** Jon Shain

**Recorded and mixed by** FJ Ventre at Good Luck Studio, Chapel Hill, NC

**Mastered by** Jeff Carroll at Bluefield Mastering, Raleigh, NC

**UPC:** 193428880931

**Release date:** May 4, 2019

*Isabel Taylor* is the self-titled sophomore album by North Carolina singer-songwriter Isabel Taylor. After the success of her debut release, *Awake Again* -- which

reached #15 on the Folk DJ charts in January 2017 -- Taylor teamed up once again with producer and award-winning singer-songwriter Jon Shain and engineer FJ Ventre. What started as Taylor's idea for an EP featuring a handful of songs -- some written around the time of her first release -- grew to a nine-track album that includes a song written during the course of the project, 'Perfection.' The album was recorded in January-February 2019.

Taylor started her musical career at 45, singing at her first open mic in 2010, accompanying herself on guitar. She performed songs by artists she grew up listening to, like Neil Young, Judy Collins, and James Taylor. Within a couple of years she was playing her own shows and writing songs. Taylor served as president of the NC Songwriters Co-op for over three years, and is on the board of the Southeast Regional Folk Alliance.

The new album's instrumentation is sparse -- the intent was to present the songs as Taylor might perform them live with a small ensemble. In addition to Shain on guitars and Ventre on bass and backing vocals, contributors include esteemed songwriter and vocalist Laurelyn Dossett, additional backing vocals by singer-songwriters Barry Gray and Leah Kaufman, Doug Hammer on piano, percussionist Jim Roberts, and Taylor's sister, Carmen Valls, on violin. Continuing in the lyrical style of her first album, the tracks on the new release tend toward the personal:

1. ***My Heart Delivers Me*** (2:53) - Mid-tempo; the imagination and spirit possess limitless possibilities
2. ***Roan Mountain*** (4:03) - A joyful description of a beloved place, in the voice of one who lived there
3. ***Perfection*** (3:44) - The songwriter's gentle reminder to herself to persevere and let go of control
4. ***The Crow Bird*** (3:18) - Mid-tempo waltz; a transformational message from an unlikely source
5. ***Before You Left Us*** (4:09) - A bittersweet remembrance of a dear parent
6. ***Hold Her Like Sand*** (4:16) - Mid-tempo; a mother's cautionary message to her son
7. ***Midnight Prayer*** (3:03) - Uptempo Latin; a heartfelt message to a sister, or to sisters everywhere
8. ***Song in a Minor Key*** (3:27) - Slow bluesy tune; about music's ability to meet us where we are
9. ***Amber Christmas*** (3:08) - Nature's beauty, fellowship, and family co-exist amid joy and melancholy