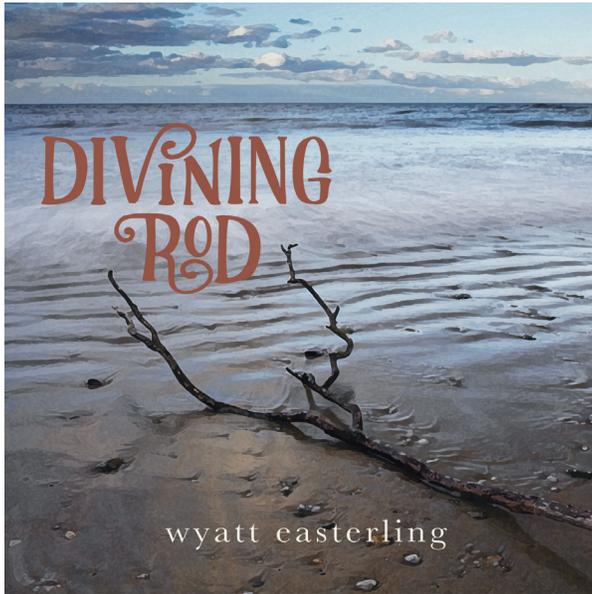




# Wyatt Easterling *Divining Rod*

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Phoenix Rising Records #002



Like a divining rod, Wyatt Easterling has the uncanny ability to pinpoint his search for buried treasure: lost love, grace, peace and justice for the wronged.

In this, his third acoustic release, Wyatt's songs take on a remarkable range of people and situations: he's a traveling

man who's missed out on love – and a man relieved to be single again. He's the scorned lover of a married woman – and a guy alone on the beach, desperate for a sign. He's a boxer, scarred but still standing -- and a mother, desperate to cross the southern border.

DIVINING ROD's themes span from reigniting love in *It Was You All Along* and *Somewhere Down the Road*, to the final moments of a love affair in *Sure Smells Like Rain*. Finding one's place in a complex world is tricky, as in *Stumbling Towards the Light*, *Some Days*, and Bruce Cockburn's *Pacing the Cage*. So is surviving life's slings and arrows, as in *Scars* and *Stay in the Boat*.

Wyatt's songs also revisit and twist such time-honored folk tropes as the Spanish corrido *An American Dream*, the murder ballad *Josephine's Last Breath*, and the modern hymn *Came To Believe*.

Producer **Chris Rosser** lends his talent with his masterful dotar and acoustic guitar playing and adds to Wyatt's melodies and guitar work with: **River Guerguerian** - Jimb , congas, percussion; **Eliot Wadopian** – upright and fretless bass; **David Henry** – cello, violin; **April Verch** – fiddle; **Rod Abernethy** – slide guitar; **Carter Minor** and **Todd Breck** – harmonica. Accomplished recording artists **Beth Wood**, **Laurelyn Dossett**, **Lisa Brokop**, **Paul Jefferson**, **Jen Smith**, **Rebecca Newton** and Wyatt provide background vocals.

In the creative community of Chapel Hill, NC, Wyatt was inspired by music in the coffeehouse scene and recorded his first album in 1981. His dream of becoming a folk singer and songwriter took him to Nashville, where after writing for publishing companies in the early years, he was recruited as the head of A & R at Atlantic Records. There, he signed and also produced many top-selling albums, with artists ranging from **John Michael Montgomery** to **Michael Johnson**. After rising to the top as a Music Row executive, he and Sting's manager, **Miles Copeland**, opened their own publishing company, where he signed now-country great **Keith Urban** and roots rocker **Paul Thorn**, producing Thorn's first CD and getting Urban his first record deal.

Returning to writing, Wyatt penned country hits for stars like **Joe Diffie**, **Dierks Bentley**, and many others. However, yearning to write songs for himself, he moved back to Chapel Hill and reignited his own muse. *Divining Rod* is Easterling's third release after *Where This River Goes* (2010) and *Goodbye, Hello* (2014).

As Wyatt puts it, "I've been lucky enough to find a creative divining rod and locate a new well. I seem to have tapped into a pretty deep one with this new body of work."