

American® MASTERS



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THIRTEEN's *American Masters* Premieres New Documentary *Carole King: Natural Woman* February 19 on PBS in Honor of 45th Anniversary of Her Landmark Album *Tapestry*

Four-time Grammy Award-winner, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, recent Kennedy Center Honoree and the first woman to be awarded The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, Carole King's (b. February 9, 1942) career as a singer-songwriter is unparalleled. To date, more than 400 of her compositions have been recorded by more than 1,000 artists, resulting in 100 hit singles, including songs co-written with Gerry Goffin: "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" (The Shirelles), "Up on the Roof" (The Drifters) and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" (Aretha Franklin). Now, King tells her own story in the new documentary *American Masters – Carole King: Natural Woman*, premiering nationwide Friday, February 19 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings) as part of the 30th anniversary season of THIRTEEN's *American Masters* series. This year also marks the 45th anniversary of King's landmark solo album *Tapestry*, which was released February 10, 1971, and spawned the hits "It's Too Late," "I Feel the Earth Move," "You've Got a Friend" and "So Far Away."

Weaving previously unseen and rare performances and home movies with a new, exclusive interview with King, *American Masters – Carole King: Natural Woman* delves into her life and career. New interviews with friends and colleagues, including fellow songwriters Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, *Tapestry* producer Lou Adler, drummer Russ

Kunkel, guitarist Danny “Kootch” Kortchmar, daughter and manager Sherry Goffin Kondor, lyricists Toni Stern and Carole Bayer Sager, and former manager Peter Asher, complete the biographical tapestry.

Director George Scott (*Rufus Wainwright – Prima Donna, Great Performances*) “Elizabeth Taylor: England’s Other Elizabeth”) journeys through King’s Brooklyn childhood, her early success co-writing some of the best-loved pop songs of the 1960s with then-husband Goffin for Aldon Music, and, following their divorce, her move to Laurel Canyon in Los Angeles with two young children. There, she achieved solo success and became a central figure in the 1970s singer-songwriter movement, along with her contemporaries James Taylor and Joni Mitchell. King speaks candidly about her abusive marriage to Rick Evers, life on a ranch in Idaho, eco-activism, and initial hesitance about *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. Douglas McGrath, writer of the Broadway musical’s book, and author/music critic Anthony DeCurtis provide additional insights.

“Carole King has provided the soundtrack to so many Americans’ lives, and her music remains current — when Aretha Franklin sang ‘Natural Woman’ last week, it trended on social media,” said Michael Kantor, executive producer of **American Masters**.

Launched in 1986, **American Masters** has earned 28 Emmy Awards — including 10 for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series and five for Outstanding Non-Fiction Special — 12 Peabodys, an Oscar, three Grammys, two Producers Guild Awards and many other honors. The series’ 30th anniversary season on PBS features new documentaries about **Mike Nichols** (January 29), **B.B. King** (February 12), **Fats Domino** (February 26), **Loretta Lynn** (March 4), **Janis Joplin** (May 3) and **The Highwaymen** (May 27). To further explore the lives and works of masters past and present, the **American Masters** website (<http://pbs.org/americanmasters>) offers streaming video of select films, outtakes, filmmaker interviews, photos, educational resources and more. The series is a production of **THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS LLC** for **WNET** and also seen on the WORLD channel.

American Masters – Carole King: Natural Woman is a production of 1515 Productions in association with **THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS LLC**’s **American Masters** for **WNET**. George Scott is director. Celia Moore is producer. Nick de Grunwald is executive producer. Michael Kantor is executive producer for **American Masters**.

Funding for **American Masters** is provided by The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Rosalind P. Walter, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Rhoda Herrick, Michael & Helen Schaffer Foundation, Vital Projects Fund, Rolf and Elizabeth Rosenthal, Lenore Hecht Foundation, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, Ellen and James S. Marcus, Judith and Burton Resnick, and public television viewers.

About WNET

As New York’s flagship public media provider and the parent company of **THIRTEEN** and **WLIW21** and operator of **NJTV**, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as **Nature**, **Great Performances**, **American Masters**, **PBS NewsHour Weekend**, **Charlie Rose** and a range

of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as [Get the Math](#), [Oh Noah!](#) and [Cyberchase](#) and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through [NYC-ARTS](#), [Reel 13](#), [NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams](#) and [MetroFocus](#), the multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. WNET is also a leader in connecting with viewers on emerging platforms, including the [THIRTEEN Explore App](#) where users can stream PBS content for free.

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