

PRESS RELEASE

CAPE BRETON FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION – A SALUTE TO YOUTH

The Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association is excited to introduce a revitalized *Festival of Cape Breton Fiddling* this August. The annual event will take on a new look with a spotlight on the youth element of the organization. After extensive input from the membership, the Board of Directors has made some changes to one of Cape Breton's hallmark summer festivals. The newly formatted one-day festival will be packed with workshops in the fiddle, piano, and stepdance tradition. The next generation of performers will be spotlighted in the gala concert along with all our fiddlers, piano, players, singers, dancers, etc. As well, an evening square dance will feature all youth performances. The day is rounded out by a rousing jam session of all members of the CBFA and guests.

The annual festival takes place at the Gaelic College/Colaisde na Gaidhlig, St. Ann's, on Saturday, August 16th. Highlights of the big concert include performances by local fiddlers known for the excitement they generate while playing lively jigs, strathspeys, and reels. There will also be guests from other parts of the country and internationally as well. Always a unique highlight is the symphony of Cape Breton fiddles in group numbers, emanating the sound of tunes held close to the heart over the past two hundred years.

"It is certainly not an understatement to note that most of today's top fiddlers who perform around the world have graced our stage at some point in their career", says one of the organizers, Betty Matheson. "We are delighted to play a small role in providing a platform for budding traditional artists over the years. We can't wait to feature some of that young talent this summer. It is always a treat to experience the excitement musicians of all ages bring to the stage!"

The festival will feature a series of workshops, taught by several well-known and respected instructors in fiddle, stepdance, and piano accompaniment. Instructors for fiddle classes are Doug Lamey, Kyle MacDonald, and Kyle MacNeil; for piano, Lawrence Cameron and Colin MacDonald, and stepdance, Melanie MacDonald. The concert will begin at 2:00 p.m., followed by a square dance and an open jam session. The Gaelic College facilities are excellent for fantastic scenery, audience comfort, parking, and quality canteen service.

For further information, please telephone the CBFA at 902-849-8476, the Gaelic College at 902-295-3411 or Nova Scotia Tourism at 1-800-565-0000. Other CBFA sources include our website (www.capebretonfiddlers.com) and our email (capebretonfiddlers@gmail.com).