

Border Fiddles - Biography

“One of Scotland's rich musical traditions is awoken from its slumbers”



Five of the most exciting and inspired fiddle players to emerge in recent years, Border Fiddles are the first of a new generation that is breathing life in to one of Scotland's richest musical traditions.

Border Fiddles perform an eclectic repertoire of ancient and modern Border melodies from the fiddle, song and pipe traditions as well as their own compositions all wrapped up in a wickedly stylish sound. From aching, atmospheric airs to driving jigs, reels and hornpipes with the occasional departure into funk fiddle riffs and baroque motifs – it's compelling music, excitingly delivered.

“They bow forth a supercharged, wonderfully full-bodied sound with plenty of delectable internal intricacies...the playing's so joyously on fire.” (Nethrhythms)

Their first album, released on ISLE Music Scotland in 2004, is considered a landmark recording in traditional and world music and they continue to surprise and delight audiences with their unique sound.

“A much rarer originality exuberantly evident within their arrangements...this is no ordinary fiddle band!” (Kris Drever)

On fiddle they are Lori Watson, Shona Mooney, Innes Watson, Rachel Cross and Carly Blain with Sandy Watson on guitar and bouzouki. All have burgeoning solo and band projects and numerous awards under their belts but having grown up playing music together they share something really special and continue to build on their common experiences.

“We are so fortunate to have been part of this scene and groups like the Small Hall Band as it all kicked off. We've inherited an amazing music from Tom Hughes, Bob Hobkirk, Wattie Robson, Jimmy Nagle and others and we owe a lot to local teachers like Lucy Cowan, Simon Johnson and Iain Fraser for giving us the skills we needed to revitalise the music for ourselves. Coming together to continue the tradition of Border fiddle bands and to enjoy the music we have in this part of the world is incredibly important to us and to be able to do this with old friends is really quite unique and I think we all appreciate that – I mean who'd have

thought at our first gig in 1999 as teenagers that we'd all be qualified, professional musicians in 2009!" (Lori Watson)

The music of the Borders has traditionally been a modest and unadorned tradition and although one of the richest in Scotland it has often been overlooked in comparison to other regional traditions with their more extrovert performers. Border Fiddles have been absorbing the music of the Borders and beyond since childhood and actively promote Borders music and fiddle playing. Bringing it to a wider audience through concerts, festivals, broadcasts, community projects and recordings they are set to not only strengthen their native tradition but, for the first time in history, to place this incredible music firmly on the International map.

"The raw, rhythmic, sparsely ornamented style of Northumberland meets the snap and roll of dominant Scottish fiddling." (Living Tradition)

For booking and press enquiries or for more information please contact us through any of the addresses below.

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