

CATHERINE FRASER

“An outstanding player, Catherine has a rare grasp of Scottish music....and she has a knack of composing and interpreting slow airs.” The Living Tradition Magazine, UK

Scots/Australian fiddler Catherine Fraser has gained a reputation as a world-class performer and teacher, and presents the music of her heritage with finesse, passion and sensitivity. Constantly in demand for concerts and workshops and acknowledged for her ability to combine a high level of technical skill with a rare depth of emotional expression, Catherine has gained the respect of audiences and students alike.

Her father was born in Carmyle, and spent much of his life in Aberdeen, where he graduated with first class honours in Geography from Aberdeen University. Accepting a lecturer post in New Zealand, he left Scotland via ship, and on board met Catherine's mother, a Western Australian girl returning home from a three year working holiday in England. The couple ended up settling in South Australia, and their family home was always filled with music of all types.

Catherine began learning piano at age 7 and soon moved to violin as well, inspired by both her father and her eldest brother. At age 12 she rediscovered a Scottish dance band album that she had been played as a baby, and on listening to it realised she knew all the tunes. She soon transferred these to her fiddle and thus began an exploration into Scottish fiddle music that would last her a life time.

Catherine continued her studies in classical music throughout high school and university, graduating with a **Bachelor of Music Teaching**. It was traditional music that continued to inspire and excite her however, and she played in many bands for concerts and dances throughout these years.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including the South Australian Music Industry Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Folk Music in 1996 & 1997 and **Open Fiddle Champion, Kirriemuir, Scotland 2005**.

In 2004 Catherine founded the Southern Hemisphere International School of Scottish Fiddle. Recognising a lack of exposure for Australians and New Zealanders to masters of the Scottish idiom, she established the school as a week-long annual camp, bringing guest instructors from Scotland, North America and Canada, as well as teaching herself. The camp caters for players of all ages and ability levels and has gained a reputation as a world class event.

Since starting work in 2001 with pianist Duncan Smith, Catherine has given performances in Scotland, Canada, North America, New Zealand and of course around Australia.

Some recent career highlights include:

Presenter and performer, National String Teachers Conference, WA, Australia 2009

Teacher at the National Folk School, ACT, Australia 2009

Performer at the National Folk Festival, ACT, Australia 2009

Performer, Jean Patrick Memorial Dance, California, USA 2008

Presenter, NZ String Teachers Workshop, Napier, New Zealand 2008

Performer, National Celtic Festival, Victoria, Australia 2008

Guest teacher, Boston Harbor Fiddle School, Massachusetts, USA 2007

Presenter and performer, National String Teachers Conference, QLD, Australia 2006

Performer and teacher at the Scots Fiddle Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland 2006

DISCOGRAPHY

Rhymes & Reasons, Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

With guests Tony McManus, guitar

Natalie Haas, cello

Hanneke Cassel, fiddle

Eric Breton, percussion.

Produced by Laura Risk Cromarty Records, 2009 CRM091

Unity

Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

Move Records, 2006 MCD312

Old Favourites and Odd Couples

Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

CFDS001 2004

Presence,

Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

Locrian Records 2003 BFSCD0301

Kilmarnock

Catherine Fraser and Pete Titchener

Hard Yacka Records, 1996

Fiddling Around

Catherine Fraser & Bill Grose

Hard Yacka Records, 1993