



The Maritime Fiddler

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Tara Lynne Touesnard

(Profile - By Jim Hardy)



At the age of 17 years, Tara Lynne, daughter of Adrian and Tena Touesnard, River Bourgeois, Cape Breton, N.S. has forged a record of achievements, excellence and success which is truly extraordinary. Her mastery of the violin would indicate a total dedication to that one challenge however Tara's achievements are wide and varied.

At the age of seven she started studying violin under the guidance of Dr. Winnie Chafe and by age nine was playing for social gatherings. Her continued study included attendance at Mount St. Vincent University Music Camp and as a member of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. Tara's music spans a wide field including classical, old tyme, Scottish, Irish, French Acadian and modern styles. She is also proficient on piano, guitar and bass; is an excellent dancer and vocalist. Tara has also composed fiddle music and included some on her recordings. Her two cassettes, "Heritage and Fiddle Fingers" have enjoyed much success and feature an excellent selection of music and fiddling. Tara has won numerous contests, too numerous to mention all, and has been singled out for honored recognition on many occasions. Some of her major achievements include: Maritime Old Time Fiddle Contest: Champion in Open Class (1990); teamed with sister Krista and won Championship in Group Class (1990); two-time champion



of Age 18 years and under Class (1987-89) and winner of the Don Messer Trophy for the Maritime fiddler who earned the highest number of points in the competition in 1987. New Brunswick Old Time Fiddling Contest: Champion in Open Class (1990) which marks the first time that a lady has won this Championship; and two time champion in the Age 16 years and under Class (1987 & 88).

In addition Tara was one of a select group of nine Canadian Fiddlers to represent Canada at the International Music and Dance Festival held in Scotland; was chosen as the only Nova Scotian to participate in the Canadian Heritage Festival held in Saskatoon in 1989 and was requested by the director to participate in the 1990 festival at Saint John due to her leadership qualities; played for

Prince Edward at Truro, N.S.; and was a member of the N.S. Youth Orchestra exchange trip with the Portland (USA) Youth Orchestra.

In addition Tara has maintained excellent grades as a student, has contributed immensely to charitable and community organizations and causes and found time for family, friends and her church. Her outstanding efforts have earned her such distinguished awards as Atlantic Junior Citizen of the Year (1989); Terry Fox Humanitarian Award (1990); Phi Delta Kappa

International Scholarship Grant (1990) and Acadia University Alumni Music Award (1990). Tara enters the music program at Acadia in September and has also been invited to participate in the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championships at Nepean, Ont.

Tara's success has resulted from dedication, perseverance, sacrifice and a genuine sense of service to others, even when illness, pain and fatigue would have justly excused her from doing so. Her dedication to personal and professional excellence is laudable and her regards are richly deserved however the outstanding qualities of this inimitable young lady are again demonstrated when she credits her parents, family, friends and teachers for her success. A bright future awaits Tara Lynne, ca va sans dire.

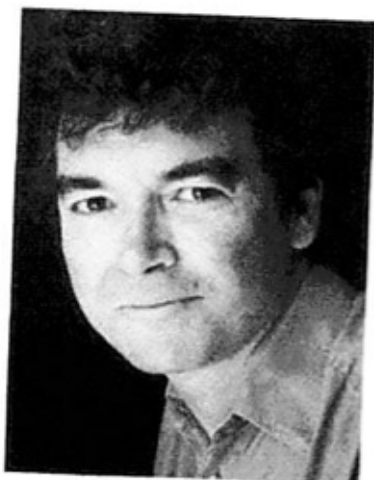
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Doris Mason is a singer/songwriter who has performed throughout Canada and as far away as Sweden. She played with the *Mason Chapman Band* and the *Minglewood Band*, worked on the film score of *Life Classes*, sang on two *Rita MacNeil* albums and opened for *Dionne Warwick* at the Halifax Metro Centre. The past year Doris wrote for and performed with the two *Beulah Claxton* shows and recorded two original songs for a compilation CD. She is a founding member of *The Revue*.



Maynard Morrison has both written and performed in all *Rise and Follies* and *Summertime Revue* productions and has appeared on numerous radio and TV shows and on stages across the country - from the World Trade Centre in Saskatoon, to the *Mariposa Folk Festival* in Toronto. As a drama teacher, he has created and produced eleven original shows with high school students. Maynard is a member of the acoustic music / electric humor band, *The Fabulous Doorknobs*.

Krista Touesnard makes her Revue debut this year bringing an added dimension to fiddling and step dancing. She is a grade 11 student who has successfully competed in many Nova Scotia fiddling contests over the past five years. She has been playing the violin since she was seven and dancing since she was ten. Krista has studied with *Winnie Chafe* and now teaches the violin.



Tara Lynne Touesnard is a four time champion at the *Maritime Old Tyme Fiddling Contest*, a recipient of over 30 trophies and awards, including the Don Messer Trophy, and is in her third year of Music Education at Acadia University. Recently, she was a finalist in *The Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Contest*. A former pupil of *Winnie Chafe's*, she has released three albums, *Heritage*, *Fiddle Fingers* and *Bowing the Strings*.