

Laura Risk: 3 short bios

From driving reels and passionate strathspeys to lilting jigs, melancholy Gaelic airs, and elegant 18th-century minuets, Laura Risk's fiddling takes you on a rich journey through the diverse repertoires of traditional Scottish fiddling. Her expressive, versatile playing is described by filmmaker Ken Burns as "a revelation and achingly beautiful."

Laura grew up in the thriving San Francisco Scottish fiddle scene, learning her craft from master fiddler Alasdair Fraser. Now living in Montreal, Laura tours internationally as a soloist and with Paddy League and Kieran Jordan in the band Triptych. She is also active as a record producer (Hanneke Cassel, Childsplay, Laurel Martin) and has toured with Sandy Silva, Ken Kolodner, Ensemble Galilei, Cordelia's Dad and the John Whelan Band, performing at venues such as the Newport, Philadelphia, and Winnipeg Folk Festivals; Celtic Connections and the Shetland Fiddle Frenzy in Scotland; and Celtic Colours in Cape Breton.

Laura has over ten albums to her credit, including her latest release *2000 Miles*, on which she teams up with some of Quebec's hottest traditional and jazz musicians for a new take on tunes from the great Scottish collections of the 18th and 19th centuries. Says *Living Tradition*, "Laura plays in a powerful, percussive style, with tight control and beautiful tone but bursting with energy and passion, turning reels into romps and slow airs into soul-searches." Laura's debut CD *Celtic Dialogue* explored the traditional/classical crossover repertoire of early and mid-eighteenth century Scotland and was named one of the Boston Globe's "Top Ten CDs of 1999".

Known as an inspirational teacher, Laura has taught fiddling at numerous summer camps and was an Instructor of Fiddling for five years at Wellesley College. Laura is currently a graduate student in Musicology at McGill University.

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Now living in Montreal, Laura Risk grew up in the thriving San Francisco Scottish fiddle scene, learning her craft from master fiddler Alasdair Fraser. She has toured extensively, performing at Celtic Connections (Glasgow), Celtic Colours (Cape Breton), and the Newport, Winnipeg, and Philadelphia Folk Festivals. In addition to her solo work, Laura performs with Paddy League and Kieran Jordan in the band Triptych. She is active as a record producer (Hanneke Cassel, Childsplay, Laurel Martin) and has toured with Sandy Silva, Ken Kolodner, Ensemble Galilei, Cordelia's Dad, and the John Whelan Band. Laura has over ten albums to her credit, including her latest release *2000 Miles*, on which she teams up with some of Quebec's hottest traditional and jazz musicians for a new take on tunes from the great Scottish collections of the 18th and 19th centuries. Says *Living Tradition*, "Laura plays in a powerful, percussive style, with tight control and beautiful tone but bursting with energy and passion, turning reels into romps and slow airs into soul-searches." Laura has taught at the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School, the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp, Fiddlekids and the Swannanoa Gathering. She also taught fiddling for five years at Wellesley College. Laura is currently a graduate student in Musicology at McGill University.

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