Preface

Last fall a letter arrived asking, rather tentatively, if the Canadian Folk Music Bulletin might be interested in a completely thematic issue on fiddling in Canada. What a great idea! Not only was the letter a proposal, but also an offer to take charge and actually do the hard work of soliciting the articles and generally editing and organizing the whole thing. What an even greater idea! And now here we are, about a year later, with the very first CFMS monograph in hand. Herein you will find a variety of articles ranging from annotated regional discographies through to detailed descriptions of local fiddling styles. I sincerely hope that you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin — as it is a very special one. Anne Lederman, the author of the original letter and the guest editor of this issue, deserves our sincerest thanks for the countless hours she has spent putting the whole thing together. Without her, this project would not have been realized — thanks very much, Anne.

It is important to keep the goal of this monograph in mind as you read through it. It is not a "History of Fiddling in Canada," nor is it an exhaustive survey of Canadian fiddle styles and repertoire. Rather, it is the first step in organizing a very important part of Canadian folk music. It is best viewed as a preliminary review with the goal of stimulating further discussion and research. Hopefully it will be followed by further articles, and eventually replaced by a publication that is thoroughly representative of the incredible richness, breadth and quality of fiddling in Canada. For now though, you hold in your hand a wonderful collection of articles about one of the most important musical traditions of our country — enjoy.

Tim Rogers