

The Centrefold

Fiddler Magazine, PO Box 101, North Sydney, Nova Scotia B2A 3M1; <FiddlerMag@aol.com>; <www.fiddle.com>

If you love fiddles, fiddlers and the music they produce, you might be interested in picking up a copy of **Fiddler Magazine**. Regardless of the type of fiddle/fiddlers you like, I'm sure you will find something in this magazine that will suite your taste. In the issue I have in my hands, there are articles about Athabascan fiddlers, New England fiddler-allers, classical bluegrass, and Ireland's Maire O'Keefe.

Fiddler Magazine recognizes and acknowledges the international and diverse appeal of the fiddle. Each article is like a song, taking on the flavour and history of the music it is describing. Lots of attention is paid to authenticity. The interviews and feature are done in good taste, with interesting and reliable information provided. A nice medley of the past, present and future fiddlers is included in each issue. If you are a non-fiddler who is just looking for an entertaining read on the scene, you will like the magazine. It is not bogged down with specific information that is relevant only to players and does not make a whit of sense to anyone else. However, if you are a fiddler, you will appreciate the tunes and practice tips in every issue.

The reviews in the back of the 'zine are written by reputable people who are trustworthy and know what they are about. The regular departments feature a comprehensive range of things

having to do with violins, making 'em, how to play 'em and where to go to play 'em. They also have a lovely *In Memoriam* section for fiddlers who have passed away in the last year.

I always feel like part of a larger fiddling community when I pick up an issue of **Fiddler Magazine**. It is an international gathering place for fiddlers to share their tunes and stories.

The only negative thing I have to say is that, because it is published in the US and is a specialty magazine, it is quite expensive (\$8.60 Cdn per issue). Although it's worth it, I wonder if Canada could come up with a cheaper alternative if we only put a little rosin on the bow and started scratching away.

—Keitha Clark

When the Winter 1999/2000 issue of **Fiddler Magazine** arrived, I noticed that the envelope bore a Cape Breton return address, but thought only that they had a new distribution deal or something—until I turned to the "Note from the Editor." Turns out that editor Mary Larsen is now Mary Holland, having married fiddler Jerry Holland and moved the magazine's operation to North Sydney. So Canada has gained a new world-class folk music magazine, and they're planning on publishing a special issue, in addition to their regular schedule, on Cape Breton fiddle music.

—JL