

MARI BLACK

Multistyle Violinist ♦ Champion Fiddler

“One of the brightest young fiddlers around today”

— **Brian O’Donovan**, host of WGBH radio’s “A Celtic Sojourn”

“She is superb, inspiring, and unforgettable. Her magic is such that she sweeps audiences along with the sounds she and her instrument make.”

— **Willie Ruff**, Professor of Jazz and Artistic Director of the Ellington Fellowship Series, Yale University

“Particularly impressive”

— **The Boston Globe**

Multistyle violinist and champion fiddler **MARI BLACK** is rapidly building a reputation as one of the most dynamic young artists of her generation. Her energetic playing, engaging stage presence, and commitment to bringing people together through music have made her a favorite with audiences across the country and around the world. Equally at home in a wide variety of musical traditions, Mari is the 2015 & 2013 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, the 2014 Glenfiddich Scottish Fiddle Champion, the 2014 & 2012 Canadian Maritime Fiddle Champion, the 2011 Canadian Novelty Fiddle Champion, a 1st Prize Winner at the 2010 American Protégé International String Competition, and a 2-time laureate at the American String Teachers’ Association Alternative Styles Awards. On stage, she creates shows that draw on elements from many different styles including jazz, tango, folk, Western classical, as well as Celtic, American, and Canadian fiddling. Her performances take listeners on a musical journey exploring the diversity and celebrating commonalities in the dance-driven folk musics of the world.

An internationally-recognized performer, Mari can be seen playing in all sorts of settings. She has been featured at Celtic Highland Games, Argentine tango festivals, folk festivals, jazz concert series, and world-famous classical concert venues including Carnegie Hall. Mari has appeared with such diverse artists as Irish fiddle champion Liz Carroll, Americana master Mark O’Connor, and jazzman

Willie Ruff. Her music has been heard on the BBC Radio Scotland's "Take the Floor", Fox and CBS morning news, NPR's "Here and Now," and WGBH Radio's "A Celtic Sojourn". An enthusiastic collector of passport stamps, Mari has played concerts in Brazil, Scotland, Canada, China, Korea, Zimbabwe, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy, and France, and she can't wait for the next stop!

Dedicated to education, both musical and academic, Mari presents frequent outreach concerts and workshops at schools, conferences, festivals, and universities. She has taught at the Mark O'Connor fiddle camp, the long-established Kinhaven Music Festival, and the Boston Youth Symphony's Intensive Community Program. Guest lectures and workshops include appearances at the Yale School of Music, Boston University School of Fine Arts, New York City's School for Strings, the American String Teachers' Association national conference, and the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development national conference. Most recently, Mari served as the Professor of Music at Bunker Hill Community College, where in just two years, she developed the framework for a new multistyle music program that produced ground-breaking interdisciplinary arts performances.

Mari holds a Masters' Degree and Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music, and a doctorate from Columbia University's Teachers College, where she was the Geffen Fellow in Interdisciplinary Arts and Creativity. Her doctoral research focused on higher education curriculum design and pedagogy, culminating in a dissertation that explores the college-going experiences of professional multistyle string players and includes strategies for improving undergraduate programs for eclectic string players.

Mari is currently touring and teaching around the country. Her debut album, "Flight", was released in the spring of 2014, and features dance-driven music from around the world. To learn more about Mari and follow her various adventures, visit her website: **www.MariBlack.com**