



## **BCM Fest 2009 Finale Puts Spotlight on Dance**

Dance from the "four corners" of Boston's most popular Celtic and Celtic-influenced traditions will be in the spotlight at the 2009 Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest) finale concert.

"BCM Fest Dance Spotlight," which takes place Saturday, January 10 at 8 p.m. in First Parish Cambridge Church of Harvard Square, will be the grand climax of the two-day festival. BCM Fest will celebrate its sixth year with an array of concerts and other special events at venues in Harvard Square and Medford, featuring some of Greater Boston's best performers of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, as well as Appalachian and other Celtic-influenced music.

The concert is being organized and produced by **Emerald Rae**, a fiddler, vocalist and dancer who performs as part of the bands Annalivia and The New Tyme Sisters, which are both part of the BCM Fest 2009 line-up. Rae also will lead the concert house band, whose members include her Annalivia colleague guitarist-vocalist **Liz Simmons**, as well as **Matt Heaton** — a premier Irish/Celtic guitar and bouzouki player who with his wife Shannon comprises one of the Northeast's more popular traditional music acts — and **Hannah Read**, a Scottish native studying at Berklee College of Music who enhances her

talents on fiddle with a compelling vocal style that draws on Celtic, folk, pop and jazz influences.

During the course of the evening, the house band will welcome a bevy of guest performers for songs and tunes, with a special emphasis on featuring dance from the Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and Appalachian/old-timey traditions. While some of the guest stars will appear elsewhere during the festival, others are being specially recruited for the concert. The guest line-up includes: **Jen Schoonover; Highland Dance Boston; Christine Morrison Dancers; Nic Gareiss; Kristin Andreassen; Calum Pasqua and Susie Petrov; Kimberley Fraser; Doug Lamey and Matt Phelps; Annalivia; and Eric Merrill.**

"Dance drives the format of Celtic music," says Rae. "The rhythm, the pace, the structure — it all originates from the dance. Although BCMFest has certainly included dance throughout its history, we thought this year we would like to give it a turn in the spotlight."

Adds Rae, "Boston not only has a vibrant traditional music scene, it's home to a very active dance community. So this concert is a celebration of how music and dance come together here, involving different generations, backgrounds and interests."

But, warns Rae, don't expect to see the more conspicuous accoutrements of Celtic dance, such as Scottish kilts or Irish tunics, during the concert.

"Instead of including elements that call attention to the differences between Celtic dance styles," she explains, "we want the show to have an integrative feel to it. We want the concert to be as if we all just walked off the street and are having a party, and no one's worrying about what they're wearing. It's going to be, quite literally, all about the dance."

Updates on the finale concert, and all other information about BCMFest, will be available through the festival Web site, [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com).