



## **BCM Fest Announces Line-up for 2012**

### ***January 6 and 7 is date for 9th annual festival***

Celtic music will once again breathe life into the dead of winter, when the ninth annual BCMFest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest) takes place January 6 and 7, 2012, at venues in Harvard Square.

The all-ages, family-friendly festival is a popular showcase for Boston's best performers of music, song and dance from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other Celtic and Celtic-inspired traditions. BCMFest offers concerts and participatory events at three different Harvard Square locations, all within easy walking distance of one another.

BCM Fest 2012 will kick off Friday, January 6, with an evening concert in Club Passim and another edition of the Boston Urban Ceilidh -- BCM Fest's exciting Celtic "dance party" with live music and social dancing from Celtic traditions -- at The Atrium (fourth floor of 50 Church Street). The festival continues on Saturday, January 7, with performances during the day at Club Passim and First Parish Church (Massachusetts Avenue and Church Street), and concludes with a grand finale concert at 8 p.m. in First Parish Church.

"We think of BCM Fest as a celebration for this amazing community of Celtic music," says BCM Fest co-founder Laura Cortese. "Every year, there's something a little different,

and the cast of characters may change slightly, but the energy and the vibe stay as strong as ever."

Cortese and her fellow BCMFest organizers say the festival will hold true to form in presenting Celtic music across the spectrum of sounds, from solidly traditional to uniquely contemporary. The Friday evening concert, "Roots and Branches," will give a fun, fresh take on styles and influences in Celtic music from North America to Europe, with a diverse roster of musicians and singers. At the Boston Urban Ceilidh, festival-goers can find a similar cross-section of dance music: New England contra (The Reiner Brothers), Breton (Triple Spiral) and Scottish (Neil Pearlman and Friends); all dances will be taught, so newcomers as well as more experienced participants can enjoy them.

Performers at Saturday's "Dayfest" include: Hannah Sanders & Liz Simmons; Katie McNally & Eric McDonald; Kyle Carey; Highland Soles; Ken Perlman & Jim Prendergast; Bob Bradshaw; Corvus; Chasing Redbird; Fellswater; Neil Pearlman's Scottish Infusion; The Deadstring Ensemble; Triple Spiral; Amanda Cavanaugh & Nic Gareiss; NØÍR; The Whiskey Boys; Dylan Courville, Wells Burrell & Bob Jennings; and Adrienne Howard & Emily Peterson.

The Saturday finale concert will be masterminded by the duo of Matt Heaton and Flynn Cohen, virtuosos on guitar, mandolin and bouzouki, who will be joined by some of Greater Boston's most notable Celtic musicians, singers and dancers.

BCMFest 2012 also includes participatory events, such as music sessions open to all led by The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club and The Stoneybatter Band, and a demonstration by The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Boston branch that will offer members of the audience a chance to join in.

Last but hardly least, the BCMFest schedule as always carries special items, like a tribute to influential folksinger Nic Jones, a "Kitchen Ceilidh" of Cape Breton song and dance led by Kyte MacKillop, a "Bawdy Breakfast" that will present a more cheeky, risqué side of Celtic music, and a set of performances and events oriented toward families and children.

And then there's "McThriller," in which the music of pop star legend Michael Jackson will be given the Celtic treatment.

"Our feeling is, yes, let's have a serious side, where we explore these vital, enduring music traditions -- but let's not forget to have fun, either," says Shannon Heaton, who co-founded BCMFest along with Cortese, of the idea behind "McThriller." "In past years, we've done things like a 'BCMFest Olympics,' 'Celtic Beatles' and '80s rock meets Celtic -- we even had our own reality show, 'So You Think You Can Sing,' with our own versions of Celtic Woman, Celtic Thunder and Enya. The audiences have really enjoyed seeing the performers push their creativity and show their humorous sides."

Information about BCMFest 2012, including ticket prices and performance schedules, will be posted and updated on [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com).