

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**

“Mari Black is the first fiddler who inspired me to want to learn how to dance. Her skill and infectious joy in fiddling is beyond words.”

— **Rich Warren**, host of WFMT radio’s “Folkstage”

Called “one of the brightest fiddlers around today” (Brian O’Donovan, WGBH radio’s *A Celtic Sojourn*), multistyle violinist and champion fiddler MARI BLACK delights audiences around the world with her energetic playing, sparkling stage presence, and dazzlingly virtuosic fiddling. Mari’s dynamic performances are infused with her sense of playfulness and deep love of the history behind the music, as she weaves together driving dance tunes with beloved stories that bring the music to life. Walk into any of her shows, and you’re pretty much guaranteed to see people out of their seats and dancing in the aisles!

Raised on a rich blend of traditional musical styles, Mari burst onto the international stage when she became Scotland’s Glenfiddich Fiddle Champion, 2-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, and 2-time Canadian Maritime Fiddle Champion, all within a three-year period. Ever since, she has been spreading her love for dance-based music, performing as a featured artist at performing arts centers, Celtic festivals, Scottish Highland Games, celebrated folk venues, world music concert series, and acclaimed classical venues including Carnegie Hall. Favorite appearances include performing at the seaside Shalin Liu Performing Arts Center in Massachusetts, headlining at the North

Texas Irish Festival, joining in with four legendary jazz drummers for “The Whole Drum Truth” at the Yale School of Music’s Ellington Fellowship concert series, and representing the U.S. at the “Festival of Champions” celebration concert at Blair Castle in Scotland. Mari can even be heard (and seen!) in the award-winning video game *BioShock: Burial at Sea*. She has appeared with such diverse artists as Irish fiddle master Liz Carroll, Americana master Mark O’Connor, and jazzman Willie Ruff, and has been named Canadian Novelty Fiddle Champion, Grand Prize winner at the Dan R. MacDonald fiddle competition, 1st Prize winner at the American Protégé International String Competition, national finalist at the Freshgrass Fiddle Awards, Top Ten finisher at the U.S. Grand Master Fiddle Championships, and 2-time laureate at the American String Teachers’ Association Alternative Styles Awards. Mari has been featured on the BBC Radio Scotland, Fox and CBS morning news, and NPR’s “Here and Now,” and her two full-length studio albums are featured regularly on folk, Celtic, world music radio shows across the country. An enthusiastic collector of passport stamps, she 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! Currently touring nationally with her trio, Mari’s favorite thing to do is sweep audiences away on a spirited musical adventure featuring dance music from around the globe: Celtic, American, and Canadian fiddling, jazz, tango, klezmer, folk, original works, and more!

Mari’s passion for dance-driven music extends far beyond the concert stage, as reflected in her work as a teacher, composer, dancer, competition judge, and musical ambassador committed to connecting people through music. Having earned her Doctorate in Education from Columbia University and a Masters in Performance from the Yale School of Music, Mari is a master teacher who is dedicated to helping students of all ages and levels explore the joy of making music. She teaches regularly at prestigious camps and workshops around the country, including appearances at the Swannanoa Gathering, the Acadia Trad School, the Jink & Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling, the Mark O’Connor fiddle camp, the Tanglewood Festival, the Yale School of Music, and more. Several of her students are now becoming champion fiddlers in their own right, winning top awards at the U.S. Scottish Nationals and other competitions. Mari’s ear-catching compositions draw on a broad range of stylistic influences, and have won several awards, including a Gold Medal from the MASC International Songwriting Competition and the composition prize at the prestigious Dan R. MacDonald fiddle competition. Some of her personal favorite compositions are featured on her debut album *FLIGHT*, and on her new album *UNSCRIPTED*, a collaboration with 3-time world accordion champion Cory Pesaturo. To learn more about Mari and follow her musical adventures, visit her website: www.MariBlack.com