

## Northern Hills Fiddlers Begin 2006/07 Season

The Northern Hills Fiddlers, with special guests from the Canadian Celtic Fiddlers, finished the 2006/2007 season on June 23, 2006, with a concert at the Harbour Hall at the Newport Harbour Care Centre. Both audience and fiddlers had a wonderful time.

The group plans to perform several free community concerts throughout the 2006/07 school year. These performances are fun and give the fiddlers a positive way to share their accomplishments and musical talent by giving back to the community.

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki and his book *Nurtured by Love* inspired the philosophy and approach behind the Northern Hills Fiddlers. Musical skill is a talent that everyone can develop and anyone who is interested in playing the violin can learn. For this reason, the Northern Hills Fiddlers do not have entrance auditions. The violinists come from neighbourhoods across North Calgary and range in age from seven years to adult. Each fiddler is encouraged to work at their own level, and, during performances, each fiddler plays only the pieces he or she can play.

Educational research has shown that studying music can increase mathematical and organizational ability in children. Beyond this, students playing in a performing group develop a sense of teamwork, similar to that found on sports teams, but are less competitive and more cooperative. The violinists learn to work together to weave a beautiful sound and the result can be amazing. Friendships develop, trust grows, community develops, and self-confidence grows.

The Northern Hills Fiddlers began two years ago in the lower level of a violin teacher's home. Frustrated by the lack of a string orchestra program in the Calgary school system, and wanting to provide an ensemble experience for her students, Catherine Rose began to teach a group fiddle class in northeast Calgary. The group grew steadily, and became the Northern Hills Fiddlers.



The Northern Hills Fiddlers is directed by Catherine Rose, M.Sc. (right in picture above) with assistance from her daughter Kenzie (centre in picture) and accompanist Linda Linton. Catherine came from a musical family and began taking violin lessons as a young child. By age eight, Catherine was studying violin with the conductor of the Tucson, Arizona Philharmonic Orchestra. Catherine joined the Tucson Youth Symphony at age 12, and at age 15, won a piano scholarship to a summer music program at Kansas University. Throughout high school, Catherine studied violin, piano, voice, and drama in the summer sessions at the University of Arizona. Catherine studied violin for nine years with Professor Rodney Mercado of the University of Arizona Faculty of Fine Arts. Catherine, along with her daughter Kenzie, plays second violin in the Centre Street Orchestra in Calgary. Catherine is a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

Due to her family background, Catherine has a keen interest in Celtic fiddling. Both of her parents were Scots whose families immigrated to the Maritimes, settling in Newfoundland and New Brunswick. Elizabeth Rose, laird of the Rose clan, lives in Kilravock Castle in Inverness, Scotland. Kilravock Castle functions as a bed-and-breakfast location and hosts year-round Christian week and weekend camps for youth.



**Would you like to learn to fiddle? The Northern Hills Fiddlers is a community-based group dedicated to building people and community through music. Participation is open to everyone, from rank beginner to the more advanced fiddler. Classes meet once a week in the Community Room of the Real Canadian Superstore in Coventry Hills. For more information, or to have the group play at a special community event, please contact Catherine at 816-6727 or go online at [www.northernhillsfiddlers.org](http://www.northernhillsfiddlers.org).**