

# The Center for Irish Music

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.centerforirishmusic.org

### FEBRUARY FIDDLE WEEK IN ST PAUL

*January 22, 2008 St. Paul, Minnesota* – The Center for Irish Music proudly announces February Fiddle Week, February 12 to 15, 2008. Fiddle Week features master fiddler Denis Liddy direct from Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland and Elvie Miller on piano accordion. Private and Group lessons will take place February 12 & 13 at the Paul & Shelia Wellstone Community Center, run by Neighborhood House, with a concert on February 15 at Kieran's Irish Pub, Minneapolis. Lessons and workshops cost \$40-\$120. The Friday concert is open to the public for a rate of \$10/person or \$40/family. Registration and reservations can be made by contacting irish.music@comcast.net

The February Fiddle Week is a fantastic opportunity for students of all ages and levels to gain exposure to a phenomenal teacher of Irish fiddle and Clare music. The Center for Irish Music is bringing Denis directly from Clare to Minnesota, especially for the Twin Cities music community. Praise for Denis' recording with Michael Hynes "Waifs and Strays": *"When God spoke, Let there be music, he added and a rake of Clareman. It is certainly not true that if you're not from Clare you can't play music, but Michael and Denis are an example for the opposite. They can play, and they play in the tight and bouncy style of County Clare, more precisely in the West Clare style (as opposed to the bluesy East Clare style)."* – Folk World CD Review. *"Denis's "gra" for the fiddle playing of Munster is excellently captured in this recording. Together, his and Michael's mutual commitment and respect for the tradition is unmistakable from the first note and the rhythm and lift of Denis has acquired from the years of playing for dancers is ever evident."* – John Carty 2003 Traditional Musician of the Year. Denis is a fine musician, has won the All-Ireland multiple times, and is renowned for his teaching in Ireland and abroad. His inspiration and instruction is vital to the continuation of the Irish tradition worldwide. Elvie Miller is well known for her folk piano and accordion playing. She is based out of Boston - we are excited to have her share her music with us.

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### Dedicated to Handing Down the Tradition

The Center for Irish Music  
PO Box 7034 St. Paul, MN 55107  
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The week includes opportunities for 30-minute private lessons on Tuesday, February 12 from 5-7pm and on February 13 from 3-5pm. Private lessons are \$40 each for a 30-minute lesson. Denis and Elvie will be offering a Clare Music class on Tuesday, February 12 from 7-9pm, open to all ages, all instruments and all levels. Denis will be offering an intermediate group Fiddle class on February 13 from 5-7pm and an advanced Fiddle class from 7-9pm. Elvie will be offering an All-Instrument, All-Ages group advanced Dance Music class from 5-7pm and an intermediate Dance Music class from 7-9pm. Group classes are \$60 each or \$90 for two, \$120 for three. The week culminates in a concert on Friday, February 15 from 7-10pm at Kieran's Irish Pub in the Titanic Lounge (back room). Cover is \$10 per person or \$40 per family. Current CIM members receive a 10% discount

The February Fiddle Week is for students of all ages in our community. By bringing masters such as Denis and Elvie to the Twin Cities for specialized workshops, we hope to engage the metro area in fun, passionate, energizing music that we know and love. The February Fiddle Week is made possible in part by a generous grant for the Irish Fair of Minnesota's Legacy Fund. Thank you for your support. The February Fiddle Week is presented by The Center for Irish Music. The Center for Irish Music is a non-profit organization teaching traditional Irish music to students of all ages on a variety of instruments. It is the Center's vision to support the traditional Irish music community in the Twin Cities into the future. Contact The Center for Irish Music via email at [irish.music@comcast.net](mailto:irish.music@comcast.net) or via post at P.O. Box 7034 St. Paul, Minnesota 55107 or call 651-493-2022.

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**WHAT:** February Fiddle Week at the Center for Irish Music with public lessons, workshops and a concert featuring master fiddler Denis Liddy direct from Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland with Elvie Miller on piano accordion.

**WHEN:** February 12-15, 2008

**WHERE:** The Wellstone Center for Community run by Neighborhood House (179 Robie Street East, St. Paul 55107) & Kieran's Irish Pub, Minneapolis (330 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South, Minneapolis 55401)

**COST:** Workshops \$60-\$120, Private Lessons \$40. Concert \$10 with a \$40 family cap. 10% discount for CIM Members

**REGISTER:** See our website for more information at [www.centerforirishmusic.org](http://www.centerforirishmusic.org)

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# February Fiddle Week Schedule

## Tuesday, February 12

5-7pm Private Lessons Available (fiddle, piano and piano accordion)  
7-9pm Clare Music Group Class (all instruments, all levels)

## Wednesday, February 13

3-5pm Private Lessons Available (fiddle, piano and piano accordion)  
5-7pm Intermediate Group Fiddle (with Denis Liddy)  
5-7pm Advanced Ensemble Music (with Elvie Miller – all instruments)  
7-9pm Advanced Group Fiddle (with Denis Liddy)  
7-9pm Intermediate Ensemble Music (with Elvie Miller – all instruments)

## Friday, February 15

7-10pm Concert at Kieran's Irish Pub in the Titanic Lounge (back room)  
*All students who take classes during the week are encouraged to bring their instruments & participate in the concert.*

### Tuition & Concert Cover Charge\*

Private lessons are \$40 each for a 30-minute lesson.  
Group classes are \$60 each or \$90 for two, \$120 for three.  
Concert cover charge is \$10 per person or \$40 per family.

*\*Current Center for Irish Music Members receive a 10% discount on classes and the concert*

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## Artist Biographies

**Denis Liddy (Fiddle)** originally from Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare has been immersed in music and playing the fiddle since he was eight years old. He is a primary school teacher and has also been teaching music in the Barefield area since 1982. Denis has not only been instrumental in teaching and inspiring students to play traditional music but has also broadened students experience and exposure to music through means of recording CD's , concert performances, competitions and international touring. Since 1999 his students have recorded three CD's , Iolar, Flowers of the Burren and Between the Sets and toured in the UK, France, Spain, Canada, China, Bulgaria, USA, Australia and Sweden as well as numerous performances in Ireland.

Denis has won numerous All- Ireland awards as a soloist and as a group and band member. He released the CD *Waifs and Strays* with legendary flute player Michael Hynes and guitarist Rob Shearer in 2003 to critical acclaim. Other recordings on which he has played over the years include Ireland - *A Musical Journey* with the French flute player Michel Sikiotakis, *Planxty O'Rourke* in 1995, *Tuath* with Orfhlaith Ni Bhrian in 1999 and *The Bees Wing and Seven Streams* with the multi award winning *Turloughmore Ceili Band*.

Denis has involved himself as both a teacher and musician in a variety of other music related projects and events including The Francis McPeake Summer School, The Willie Clancy Summer School, Ennis Traditional Music Festival

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and countless music workshops worldwide. He has also composed specially commissioned pieces for author Edna O'Brien and the Irish Ambassador to Bulgaria, Geoffrey Keating. More information at [www.denisliddy.com](http://www.denisliddy.com)

**Elvie Miller (Piano and Piano Accordion)** Elvie has been playing music since she was very young, and over the years she has shifted from classical piano to folk accordion and piano. She grew up going to contra dances in New England and now she performs at contra and English country dances all over the U.S. In 2005 she graduated from Oberlin College and travelled through Ireland, England, Scotland, Finland, Sweden, France and Cape Breton as a Thomas J. Watson Fellow, studying accordion and traditional music and performing internationally alongside Karen Tweed, Timo Alakotila and Maria Kalaniemi, among others. She currently tours with Airdance and with Night Watch.

In 2003, Elvie released a critically acclaimed CD "*Grapevine*" with Naomi Morse on fiddle. She recorded a beautiful CD "*Spyglass*" in 2007 with her Dad, Rodney Miller on fiddle. *Night Watch* is due to release their first CD in 2008 with Elvie on piano and piano accordion, Naomi Morse on fiddle, and Owen Morrison on guitar and mandolin. Elvie has many beautiful compositions to her credit and also performed at the prestigious Milwaukee Irish Fest with Denis Liddy in 2007.

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