

troy macgillivray



“I wonder if traditional instrumentalists silently curse Antigonish native Troy MacGillivray under their breath for his talent on both keyboard and fiddle, his composing abilities and the fact that the size of his ego seems inversely proportional to the weight of his abilities.”

Stephen Cooke, Halifax Herald



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You could say it's in his DNA.

Troy MacGillivray of Lanark, Nova Scotia, came into this world with a birthright. Heir to the centuries-old music his Scottish ancestors brought to Canada over 200 years ago, he has become a master of the fiddle and piano traditions that have been passed down through the generations. Audiences around the world have been captivated by the flying fingers and energetic pace of this multiple award winner... and if you're lucky, you just might get a little step or two out of him! From a young age, he impressed audiences with his fiddle, piano and step dancing skills. Troy's roots-centered approach to playing has the power to inspire any audience. This is repeatedly proven in his performances in Canada (including Nunavut), the US and UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan and Australia.

Troy's musical prowess can be attributed to a deep commitment to musical craft built upon the foundation of an impressive bloodline. The Lanark MacGillivrays and MacDonalds have been proprietors of the Gaelic tradition in North Eastern Nova Scotia for decades. Troy's grandfather, Hugh A. MacDonald, is a member of the Nova Scotia Country Hall of Fame—an honour bestowed for his contribution to the Gaelic culture of Nova Scotia. Troy's immediate family have all displayed their musical talents by joining him on both the stage and in the studio.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Winner, 2009 ECMA Roots/Traditional Group Recording of the Year for *When Here Meets There*
- Invited to showcase at the 2009 Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference, New York
- Finalist, 2008 International Songwriting Competition for his composition *New Tunemakers of 2007*
- Winner, 2008 ECMA Instrumental Recording of the Year & Music Nova Scotia Traditional/Roots Recording of the Year for *Live At The Music Room*
- Recipient of the 2008 Young Alumnus of the Year for StFX University
- Nominated for 3 Canadian Folk Music Awards in 2008
- Participated in the Canadian Forces Show Tour to troop in Afghanistan, May 2008
- Invited to showcase at prestigious 2007 International Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis, Tennessee
- 2005 winner of the honourable *Danny Kyle Stage* at Celtic Connections International Festival in Glasgow, Scotland
- Winner of the Young Musicians Award for 2004 at the Goderich Celtic Festival, Ontario
- Recorded television program for Bravo TV, aired in the fall of 2004, on traditional step dancing and the music that accompanies step dancing
- Provided music for CBS made for television movie "*Heart of a Stranger*" starring Jane Seymour

KEY FESTIVALS & APPEARANCES

Canadian Forces Show Tour, Afghanistan
Shetland Islands Folk Festival, UK
St. John's Jazz Festival
Govan Fiddle Festival, SK
London Folk Festival, ON
Dublin Irish Festival
Celtic Fest Chicago
New Hampshire Highland Games
Celtic Connections, Scotland
Vancouver Celtic Festival
Ottawa Valley Music Festival
Cape Cod Celtic Festival
The Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, PEI
Festival Memoires et Racine, Quebec
Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championships
Blass Festival, Scotland
Deep Roots Festival, Wolfville, NS
Celtic Colours International Festival
Féile Chóilín Sheáin Dharach, Ireland
Tonder Festival, Denmark
Milwaukee Irish Festival
Alianait Arts Festival, Nunavat

ACADEMIC

- Studied classical piano at the Toronto Conservatory of Music
- 4 years in the Andrean String Orchestra
- Bachelor of Arts degree, major in music, St. Francis Xavier University
- Applied Music Technology Diploma for recording engineering

DISCOGRAPHY

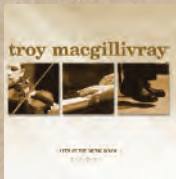
With 5 CDs to his credit, he balances traditional Celtic tunes with his own internationally acclaimed compositions which have been recorded by artists around the world. His CD, *Live At The Music Room*, was the 2008 ECMA Instrumental Recording of the Year and the 2008 Music Nova Scotia Traditional/Roots Recording of the Year. His unique collaboration with Canadian & US National Fiddle Champion Shane Cook, *When Here Meets There*, showcased the peak performances of both fiddlers and won the 2009 ECMA Award for Roots/Traditional Group Recording of the Year!



When Here Meets There
(with Shane Cook)
Release Date: April 2008
Running time: 76:28



Boomerang
Release Date: June 2003
Running time: 47:47



Live At The Music Room
Release Date: October 2007
Running time: 68:25



Musical Ties
Release Date: July 2001
Running time: 55:56



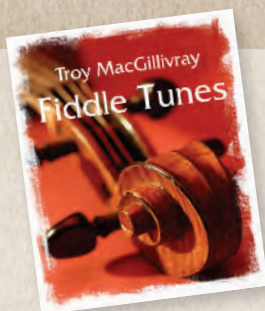
ELEVEN
Release Date: October 2005
Running time: 64:50



INSTRUCTION AND WORKSHOPS

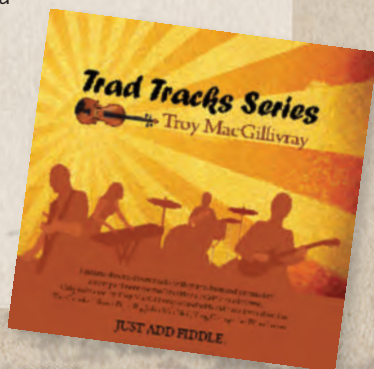
Troy had his first teaching gig in St. Ann's, Cape Breton at the Gaelic College of Fine Arts and Crafts. At the age of 13, he was younger than most of his students! Since then, he has taught hundreds of people—from beginners to advanced—the traditional fiddle and piano styling's of his Scottish ancestors.

It is important to develop a good ear to pick up the intricacies of traditional Gaelic music. Troy balances ear training with reading music and teaches a range of tunes that are suitable for all levels of students including slow airs, marches, strathspeys, reels, and jigs with both music and by ear. When teaching piano, Troy usually picks a tune and creates a chart for the beginner and intermediate students to match a certain tune and instructs simple chords and patterns for the students to follow. Troy's method for piano is valuable, as he is able to play the tunes in the class on the fiddle, as it would be done in a professional setting, in order for the student to gain full knowledge of the tune, and be able to match the piano to the melody.



In 2008, Troy published his first original tune book. The book is used in conducting workshops on both fiddle and piano and highlights some of Troy's original work which has been recorded on his CD's.

In 2009, he introduced the *Trad Tracks Series*... a new learning tool for those with an interest in traditional music! The CD features a fast and slow version of each track accompanied by piano, bass and percussion for the Traditional/Celtic music lover, enabling them to learn and play along. All you do is just add fiddle! The first release in the series features original tunes by Troy mixed with old time favourites like The Crooked Stove Pipe, Big John MacNeil, King George the IV & more!



TROLLEYMAC MUSIC AND PRODUCTIONS

From concept to completion, TrolleyMac Music can plan and implement unique entertainment components for conferences, conventions, promotional tours, fundraisers and special events.



Photo: Kelly MacArthur

TrolleyMac Music's advantage is that its owner is often the headlining performer...no one knows a stage and it's behind-the-scene operations better than Troy MacGillivray. He has a unique ability to provide a musical experience that is up-beat, varied and a definite crowd pleaser guaranteed to get toes tapping and feet stomping!

"Troy MacGillivray is an entertainment engine! His style reaches deep into rich, celtic roots and offers up a one-man-band of engaging music that speaks to 21st century audiences. Whether listeners number 10 or 1,000 people Troy MacGillivray is making individual connections with everyone there. It's just plain great entertainment!"

Marsha B. Pond, Pacrim Hospitality

"TrolleyMac did an exceptional job which was organized to perfection in every way. Without a doubt the gala performance was one of the most unique performances our group has ever been a part of."

Lyndsy Miceli

Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario

TrolleyMac Music Productions:

- Destination Halifax Lobster Ceilidh
- Calgary Brier Promotion
- Cruise Client Dinner in Miami
- Boston Tourism Promotion
- Ceilidh in the Capital
- Cape Breton Live
- Musical supplement for CBS-TV movie
- Toronto Promotion
- CD promotional tours across Canada and the US
- Fundraising events for non-profit associations such as the Antigonish Ceilidh Association, Sisters of St. Martha's, Celtic Music Interpretive Centre, Canadian Grand Masters and more.

THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY

“Troy MacGillivray is without a doubt, the next big thing in the traditional music scene. He’s already a multiple ECMA award winner, and it’s no surprise. Whether it’s fiddle or piano, I have met no one who possesses more talent. What makes him even better is his humble attitude and his willingness to help others. Troy is truly a genius on stage, and a stellar individual in every way. I’m proud to be his friend.”

Patti Lamoureux – 3 Time Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Champion

“Troy’s return visit to Milwaukee Irish Fest was a big success. Besides being a superb and creative musician, he knows how to bring out the best in his fellow musicians and in his audience as well.”

Ed Ward, Milwaukee Irish Festival

“Troy is a very talented musician both on fiddle and piano— I am convinced he is one of the best traditional Celtic pianists of the day. His stage presence was very good and engaged the audience throughout the show. I would highly recommend him as a showcase artist.”

Phyllis Stenson, Harrison Festival, BC

“(Troy’s) incisive bowing, flowing melody lines and vibrant, rhythmic feel were apparent in everything he played.”

Kenny Mathieson, The Scotsman, Scotland



Photo: Wally Hayes

