

Alasdair Fraser

cutting-edge fiddle explorations of Scottish and global music

"Fraser, one of the most respected of all exponents of the Scots fiddle, would look long and hard to find a more appropriate cellist as a partner...A positive joy."

— The Scotsman

Alasdair Fraser, "the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling," spans the full spectrum between intimate chamber music and ecstatic dance energy. Over decades of creating a buzz at festivals and concert halls across the world, Fraser has truly set the standard for fiddle traditional music. He continues to thrill audiences internationally with virtuosic playing and the joyful spontaneity and sheer physical presence of his music.

Fraser has a concert and recording career spanning over 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, radio and television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks (Last of the Mohicans, Titanic, etc.). In 2011, he was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame. Haas, a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, is one of the most sought after cellists in traditional music today. She has performed and recorded with a who's who of the fiddle world including Mark O'Connor, Natalie MacMaster, Irish supergroups Solas and Altan, Liz Carroll, Dirk Powell, Brittany Haas, Darol Anger, Jeremy Kittel, Hanneke Cassel, Laura Cortese, and many more.

This seemingly unlikely pairing of fiddle and cello is the fulfillment of a long-standing musical dream for Fraser. His search eventually led him to find a cellist who could help return the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music, where it stood for hundreds of years before being relegated to the orchestra. The duo of Fraser with Natalie Haas' debut recording, *Fire & Grace*, won the coveted Scots Trad Music "Album of the Year" award, the Scottish equivalent of a Grammy. Since its release, the two have gone on to record four more critically acclaimed albums that blend a profound understanding of the Scottish tradition with cutting-edge string explorations. In addition to performing, they both have motivated generations of string players through their teaching at fiddle camps across the globe.

Workshops, Master Classes, and Residency Activities

Through the four summer programs that Alasdair founded, the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School, the Sierra Fiddle Camp in California, a week-long course at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on the Isle of Skye, and Crisol de Cuerda in Spain, Alasdair and Natalie have inspired hundreds of aspiring musicians.

Alasdair gives master classes and workshops for performers of all ages, levels, and instruments, with an emphasis on the linguistic nature and rhythmic drive of traditional music. Several different themes are available, including: finding your own voice on your instrument, becoming 'groove' aware, ensemble playing, arrangement, creativity & improvisation, and working with orchestra and smaller chamber groups. The focus is on inclusivity and building community through music-making. Fraser creates and fosters a safe, non-judgmental and non-competitive place to learn. All teaching is done by ear.