

Nominee: Kari Barton
Category: Music

Kari Barton is a professional violinist here in Flagstaff. She is active as performer, concert promoter and as an educator.

Kari's musical activities cover diverse genres. She is an accomplished classically-trained musician and is active in our community's very best orchestras. In addition, Kari is Flagstaff's best and most visible player of Celtic and Irish music. She is a primary player in the locally famous Knockabouts, and she brings world class Celtic music to Flagstaff via her "Living Traditions Presentations" concert series.

Kari keeps a full schedule teaching Suzuki Violin students. She also volunteers with Flagstaff's Young Jammers (folk music) program and has even taught dance classes.

Just this year Kari's "Living Traditions Presentations" has brought world class performers to Flagstaff like Jim Malcolm, Paddy Keenan, and Irish Christmas in America.

Kari performs with a number of orchestras, including the FSO.

Kari's band, The Knockabouts, released a new full length recording called Pog Mo Thón. They keep a busy gigging schedule and bring a lot of energy to our downtown scene.

Kari continues to voluntarily host and lead weekly Sunday night fiddle tunes sessions at Charly's.

She has hosted a number of student recitals in assisted living facilities, bringing music and joy to the residents.

She was a Flagstaff emissary to the Milwaukie Irish Festival - learning and connecting with other skilled musicians to bring that wealth back to Flagstaff.

Kari is my daughter's violin instructor. I've also worked beside her teaching Young Jammers students. I think she is as good as any music teacher I've run into in Flagstaff. It's said being a musician is mostly about listening. She gets that. She's open-minded and dedicated to her students.

Aside from performing all over the place, teaching, volunteering, and promoting concerts and events - Kari is a role model for this music community. She is active and successful in several genres. Music communities benefit when the participants reach out of their own narrow fields and support each other, and Kari is one of our glowing examples of that kind of thinking.

Kari participates each year in the Milwaukie Celtic Festival, one of the grand daddys of the genre. While she is there she shares ideas with other music educators and jams with Celtic musicians. This year I saw her bring back a whole catalog of ideas and games aimed at helping students with music theory.

Her band travels beyond Flagstaff to perform.

Living Traditions is one of a number of organizations that help international performers bring their music to the United States. Without organizations like hers, these people simply wouldn't be able to tour the United States.

Please visit these websites for more information on Kari and her bands:

<http://livingtraditionspresentations.blogspot.com/>

<http://twitter.com/#!/LivingTradition>

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/knockabouts>

Click on "Hear the Band":

<http://www.knockabouts.org/>