Laurel Martin

Irish Fiddler Laurel Martin is known for her lyrical, gracefully nuanced musical style. A highly regarded performer and teacher in the Boston area, she is often heard playing at sessions, festivals and concerts throughout New England. Laurel has been playing Irish fiddle music since 1981, and her style has been shaped over the years by listening to old recordings of Irish traditional musicians, by the guidance of Seamus Connolly, with whom she studied in the early 1990s, and by the influence of the many wonderful musicians she has met along the way. Laurel is enchanted by the lonesome, enigmatic quality of the old music and is especially drawn to the musical styles of County Clare, East Galway and Sligo. She loves teaching and considers it to be one of the most rewarding aspects of her musical life. She has been teaching workshops, classes and private lessons since 1994, has taught at Boston College and Wellesley College and currently at the Indian Hill Music School in Littleton, MA. In 2002 and 2010 she was awarded Traditional Arts Master-Apprentice grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to provide instruction and mentorship to her young fiddle students. Laurel has co-authored a book/CD of traditional Irish tunes, “Forget Me Not,” with her mentor Seamus Connolly, has toured and recorded several albums with the fiddle ensemble “Childsplay”, and released her first solo CD “The Groves” in 2006. Her new solo CD, “Larks & Thrushes,” was released in 2018.