

Randal Bays - Irish Fiddle & Fingerstyle Guitar

"Bays is the genuine article." - The Rough Guide to Irish Music

Among the many Americans who play Irish fiddle, Randal Bays is one of the few to find serious acceptance and respect for his music in Ireland. His 2005 release, "House to House" (with Roger Landes) was selected by the Irish Times as one of the top five traditional recordings of the year, and the Cork Examiner called him *"a rare beast, a master of both the fiddle and the guitar."*

Randal describes his music this way: "The real heart and soul of Irish music is the small session in a house or pub, just a few players gathered together for some tunes and fun. You start to play, and the next thing you know, the sun is coming up. That's the feeling I try to recreate in my concerts."

Bays has performed all over the U.S., Europe and Canada, including appearances at major festivals such as the Gaelic Roots Festival in Boston, the San Francisco Celtic Music and Arts Festival, the Festival Des Musiques-Vivantes in France, the Willie Clancy Summer School and Festival in Ireland, Catskills Irish Arts Week in New York, the Swannanoa Gathering in Asheville, North Carolina, Augusta Heritage Week in Elkins, West Virginia, the Friday Harbor Irish Music Camp, the Alaska Irish Music Festival, California's Sebastopol Festival and many more. Randal has recorded or performed with many great musicians, including James Kelly, John Williams, Daithi Sproule, James Keane, Martin Hayes, and Tony McManus.

Randal is a co-founder of the Friday Harbor Irish Music Camp in Friday Harbor, Washington, and is also an album producer and composer who's created original scores for several award-winning films and documentaries. Randal now lives near Seattle, Washington.

Selected Discography:

"Masters of the Irish Guitar" – 2006 Shanachie Records (compilation)

"Katy Bar the Door" – 2006 (Foxglove Records)

"House to House" – 2005 (with Roger Landes) (Foxglove Records)

"Overland" - 2004 (with Dáithí Sproule) (Foxglove Records)

"The Salmon's Leap" - 2000 (Foxglove Records)

"Out of the Woods" - 1997 Solo album (Foxglove Records)

"Pigtown Fling" - 1996 with Joel Bernstein (Foxglove Records)

"Wind on the Water" - 1995 (Foxglove Records)

"Under the Moon" - 1995 with Martin Hayes (Green Linnet Records)

"Steam" – 2002 with John Williams (Green Linnet Records)

"John Williams" - 1995 with John Williams (Green Linnet Records)

"Martin Hayes" - 1993 with Martin Hayes (Green Linnet Records)