

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **Siân Phillips, fiddler from Wales, comes to New England in October for a rare and exciting folk music exchange.**

Welsh fiddler Siân Phillips, "...one of Wales' best fiddlers, if not the best" (*Llantrisant Folk Club*) will be visiting Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire in early October to give a series of concerts, instrumental and clogging workshops, private lessons, jam sessions and more. She is being sponsored by *Woodbury Strings* and *The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra*, and all details regarding her workshop and performance schedule can be found at [www.woodburystrings.com](http://www.woodburystrings.com). Hosting her appearances during her stay will be *Chandler Center for the Arts*, *Upper Valley Music Center*, *Burlington Violin Shop*, *Willowmoon Farm*, *Young Tradition Vermont*, *Katherine First Studio*, *Stone Valley Arts*, *Susan's Attic*, *Ann Whiting Clogging Studio* and the *Welsh Heritage Festival* at *Green Mountain College*.

"I doubt if anyone has a greater knowledge or understanding of this repertoire than the brilliant fiddler, teacher, and events organiser Siân Phillips" says Ric Sanders, fiddler with one of Britain's most famous folk bands, *Fairport Convention*, who wrote the preface to Siân's recent publication of *Welsh Fiddle Tunes* (Schott Publishing, 2013). Siân has played professionally for over 30 years, performing across Europe and the Eastern US. Siân's music spans many genres but her heart and soul remain rooted deeply in the traditional music of Britain, which she has always loved, and particularly in that of her native Wales, all of which makes her the ideal 'tradition bearer' to bring Welsh traditional music to the United States. During her two week residency in Vermont, which includes brief visits to New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Siân will be sharing her expertise through workshops that are open to all instrumentalists, the unique option of private lessons (limited slots!), concerts, jam sessions, and an exchange with members of the *Vermont Fiddle Orchestra*.

The concerts and events will be a rare and exceptional opportunity to hear a repertoire and style seldom played in the United States. "Siân is regarded as one of the foremost exponents of her craft and never fails to entrance her audiences." –*Creightons Collection, UK*. Siân's fiddling is expressive, haunting, delightful, creative, and deeply rooted in the traditional music of Wales. She uses a baroque bow which gives her the unique sound that will captivate her audiences and leave them spellbound. During her performances, called "Siân Phillips and Friends", Siân will be accompanied by the accomplished and creative guitar playing of John Mowad who is one of Vermont's most versatile and imaginative musicians. Joining Siân on fiddle and viola with melodies and harmonies will be Sarah Hotchkiss whose sound has been described as "deep, rich, clear, pure and...[goes] straight to the heart". Iain MacHarg, "one of Vermont's most celebrated bagpipe artists", will be playing his small pipes and whistles to compliment the band. The concerts will consist of fiddle tunes from Wales set in both traditional and contemporary arrangements, along with a refreshing mix of musical genres shared between the musicians of the "New World" and Siân.

Siân will begin her residency with a musical exchange with prominent New England folk musicians David Kaynor, Donna Hébert, Katherine First, Eric Lee, John Mowad and Sarah Hotchkiss at The Black Sheep in Amherst, Massachusetts on Friday, October 3. After a full week of workshops, lessons and jam sessions, her first public performance will take place at *Chandler Center for the Arts* on October 11 at 7:30 pm in the Upper Gallery ([www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org) or 802-728-6464). The following week the culminating performances will take place on Saturday, October 18 at *Ackley Auditorium* at *Green Mountain College* as part of the *Welsh Heritage Festival* starting at 7:30 pm. On Sunday, October 19 at 7 pm at the *North End Studios* in Burlington workshop participants, area youth fiddlers and members of the *Vermont Fiddle Orchestra* will join Siân, Iain, Sarah and John along with VFO director David Kaynor, Montpelier fiddler Susan Reid and clogger Ann Whiting who will demonstrate the unique style of Welsh clogging during the performance.

**All workshops, concerts and registration information can be found at [www.woodburystrings.com](http://www.woodburystrings.com).**