

—Slug:..... COMM-0849.arts.northern\_roots  
—Contributor.....  
—Contributor email.....  
—For section..... The Arts  
—Format..... News - no byline  
—Dateline..... Brattleboro  
—Article Number:..... 42872

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 19th annual Northern Roots Festival returns to BMC Jan.  
2 24–25

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3 Weekend festival includes Saturday workshops and  
4 concert, Sunday pub sessions

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 The 19th annual Northern Roots Traditional Music  
7 Festival returns to the Brattleboro Music Center (BMC) Saturday  
8 and Sunday, Jan. 24 and 25.  
9 The weekend festival, directed by Keith Murphy, explores  
10 the traditions that have contributed to this region's rich musical  
11 heritage: Irish, English, Scottish, French Canadian, Scandinavian,

12 and New England roots share the spotlight at this annual  
13 gathering, which promoters call a “cornerstone of the region’s  
14 traditional music calendar.”

15 This year’s program will include Saturday workshops  
16 from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the BMC, highlighting Swedish, Irish,  
17 and French Canadian tunes, as well as a full day of traditional  
18 song.

19 On Saturday at 7:30 p.m., the BMC will host the popular  
20 Northern Roots Festival Evening Concert, which will include a  
21 tribute to the late John Roberts by Traddleboro 2026, with  
22 members Andy Davis, Fred Breunig, Arthur Davis, Amanda  
23 Witman, and Keith Murphy.

24 Roberts was well known in traditional music circles. Best  
25 known for his work with Tony Barrand, he performed countless  
26 times to audiences in New England and beyond.

27 Pub Sessions are set for Sunday, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at  
28 American Legion Post 5, 32 Linden St. Musicians and audience  
29 are all welcome.

30 Saturday’s Evening Concert will feature Laura Risk, who  
31 performs and teaches Québécois and Scottish fiddling  
32 internationally and has over a dozen albums to her credit. Her  
33 latest album *Traverse*, with Nicholas Williams and Rachel  
34 Aucoin, was awarded Québec’s prestigious OPUS Prize for  
35 Album of the Year: Traditional Québécois Music.

36 “Risk’s distinctive sound and compelling interpretations  
37 of traditional tunes are intensely personal, yet grounded in  
38 meticulous archival and ethnographic research,” wrote organizers  
39 in a news release, noting that the BMC thanks the Délégation du  
40 Québec for sponsoring Risk.

41 Liz Knowles and Kieran O’Hare are part of the trio Open  
42 the Door for Three, along with Dublin-born bouzouki player and  
43 singer Pat Broaders.

44 Knowles has established herself “as a dynamic performer  
45 and recording artist in Irish traditional music as fiddler for  
46 Riverdance, Cherish the Ladies, The String Sisters, and The Martin

47 Hayes Quartet,” organizers said. She is a composer and arranger  
48 and was music director and producer for several international  
49 stage shows and recording projects.

50 “O’Hare is a highly respected and sought-after performer  
51 of traditional Irish music on the uilleann pipes, concert flute, and  
52 tinwhistle,” wrote organizers. “He was educated at Trinity  
53 College in Dublin, Ireland, where he continued the process of  
54 learning the tradition of uilleann piping from master pipers.”

55 lydia ievins is immersed in traditional Swedish music  
56 and dance and “is the only fiddler in the U.S. who has earned  
57 both a bronze Zorn Medal and a ‘diplom efter bron’ in Sweden  
58 for her fiddling in the Upland tradition,” organizers said. “Her  
59 fiddle and nyckelharpa classes use great tunes as a medium to  
60 also teach rhythmic clarity, sensitive phrasing, and the rich  
61 harmonies that make the music irresistibly danceable.”

62 Sara Grey and Kieron Means perform a wide range of  
63 American traditions including old-time songs and ballads from  
64 the Appalachians, Ozarks, New England, and the West, blues and  
65 gospel music as well as a few of their favorite written songs.

66 The passage of songs from Great Britain and Ireland to  
67 the United States is of particular interest to the duo, organizers  
68 said, and a good deal of their material consists of the American  
69 versions that have traveled, though a song or two from Great  
70 Britain will no doubt be sung.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

71 Workshop tickets are \$40 for adults, \$15 for youths (14  
72 and under). Combination tickets for workshops and the Saturday  
73 evening concert are \$55 for adults, \$20 for youths. To reserve  
74 tickets, contact [bmcvt.org](http://bmcvt.org), 802-257-4523, or [info@bmcvt.org](mailto:info@bmcvt.org).  
75 Admission to Sunday pub sessions free, with donations gratefully  
76 accepted.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

77 0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

78

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

79

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

80

####END LOGLINE####