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Notes from editor (not for publication):

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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

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

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⁵ TEXT BODY:

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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.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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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, 802-257-4523, or info@bmcvt.org.
75 Admission to Sunday pub sessions free, with donations gratefully
76 accepted.

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