



BONNIE RIDEOUT

Ms. Rideout is the only American to hold the honor of representing Scottish fiddle music at the prestigious Edinburgh International Festival. She is the first woman to hold the national Scottish fiddle title and the youngest to have garnered the U.S. Championship, winning it for three consecutive years. Bonnie discontinued competing to become an adjudicator and professional recording artist and has maintained a consistently high profile in the international Celtic music scene for over twenty-five years. Presently, Bonnie is taking a year away from her usually intensive touring schedule to focus on an exciting new double CD project of slow airs, laments, and fiddle *piobaireachd*. Famous Scottish musicologist and writer, Dr. John Purser, is producing the recordings.

On stages from Scotland's Edinburgh International Festival to America's Kennedy Center, Bonnie Rideout's unique style of Scottish fiddling has charmed audiences with a vast array of traditional Scottish dance tunes, Highland bagpipe music and ancient Gaelic melodies, each reflecting the rich musical tradition of her heritage. Bonnie has been featured on the BBC, CBS, NPR's Performance Today, and Morning Edition. She is also consistently played on NPR's, *The Thistle and Shamrock*. In addition to authoring eight music books for Mel Bay Publishing Company, Bonnie has recorded over thirteen solo albums and appeared as a guest musician on countless more CDs with Sony, Time Life, Ryco Disc, Dorian, Rounder Records and Maggie's Music. In 2003, Bonnie incorporated her own record label, Tulloch Music, Ltd. It has since released four additional projects including award-winning "Scottish Inheritance". Her *A Scottish Christmas* CD, became a New York Times "Top Ten Holiday Best Seller". Its success prompted a touring show that has sold out concert halls across North America for over a decade. Her popular recording, *Gi'Me Elbow Room* received the coveted National Parent's Choice Gold Award. She has received two GRAMMY nominations and dozens of Washington Area Music Association "WAMMY" awards every year since 1994. In 2007, the Mel Bay Publishing Company credited Bonnie as one of America's top five most influential 20th century fiddlers.

If one were to read only about Bonnie in the press or on her website, it would list her many professional accomplishments. This is the public Bonnie. While still a teenager, she fell in love with Alexandria while competing in the National Fiddle Competition at the Alexandria Scottish Festival held every summer on the grounds of the Episcopal High School. Later, Bonnie moved to Alexandria from Scotland. As a struggling stay-at-home single mother, she taught violin lessons in a basement apartment and sold her hand-painted Christmas ornaments in the America shop on King Street. Even in very lean times, Bonnie made space to support causes with her art and music. From proceeds of her ornament sales, a replicated lamp was crafted in Germany and placed in the Jones Point Light House to be lit for the first time in almost a century. She organized and performed in many concerts to help save the George Washington Parkway and for fundraisers at the Campagna Center. She was tireless in organizing community support to save her favorite Dixie Pig Restaurant on Powhatan Street. She also worked to help fund the construction of the 16-side trading barn at Mt. Vernon and raised money to reconstruct Thomas Jefferson's "Poplar Forest" home in Bedford County, Virginia.

Education is Bonnie's true passion. For over twenty years she has conducted orchestra and strings residencies in Fairfax County schools and in schools across the nation. She has volunteered her time to raise money through joint youth concerts for many music departments in both primary and secondary public and private schools.

Beyond Alexandria, Bonnie has worked with Habitat for Humanity, the International Mission Board, and the Sisters of Notre Dame. In 1998 while in residence at the National Geographic Society, Bonnie produced and performed a series of benefit concerts at Grosvenor Auditorium entitled CELTINO in response to Hurricane Mitch. This disaster dumped the equivalent of seven years of rain in only three days over much of El Salvador and Honduras, leaving destruction of biblical proportions. Through her vision and concerts, CELTINO was able to raise enough money to build 13 primary schools and 40 homes in rural areas of Honduras. In 2001, Bonnie and her husband, Jesus Medrano, created the CELTINO Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization to help promote primary education in rural Latin America. They have since built 21 schools and given hundreds of academic scholarships to promising rural Honduran children.

Whenever she travels to Honduras to visit and work, Bonnie always brings her violin. She is continuously teaching and playing music for the children, and she's great with a hammer too!

Bonnie is motivated by her love of God, family, and country. In a recent article by a religious publication that reviewed her internationally acclaimed *A Scottish Christmas* show, it was noted that she is one of a very few celebrities who is not afraid to "keep Christ in Christmas." She has a deep inner soul and she shares her generous spirit with thousands of people. Yet she is a quiet, private person, a faithful wife, and devoted mother of three.

When not touring, Bonnie enjoys gardening, kayaking, painting, mountain climbing, and spending time with her husband and three children between their homes in Alexandria, VA, and on an island in Casco Bay, Maine.

Source: The Rideout Family