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# FIDDLE RENDEZVOUS

with Bruce Molsky & Mary Ann Kennedy,  
Gerry O'Connor & Gilles le Bigot  
and Mike & Ali Vass



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**Major talents from five vibrant traditions meet in Fiddle Rendezvous for this Scottish Arts Council Tune Up tour. Three fiddle players with contrasting styles, together with their musical partners, showcasing their individual and distinctive styles and collaborating in unique and original combinations. This tour offers the first chance to hear these musicians with major reputations share a stage.**

American fiddler, guitarist and banjo player Bruce Molsky and Gaelic singer and harper Mary Ann Kennedy continue their fascinating discovery of transatlantic common ground; leading Irish fiddler Gerry O'Connor and Breton guitarist Gilles le Bigot showcase the super-skilled interplay of two exceptional musicians from highly compatible backgrounds...and the Vass twins, fiddler Mike and pianist Ali, apply sibling closeness on an exciting and sensitive romp through the airs and dance metres of the Scottish repertoire.

New York-born Molsky, who abandoned teenage ambitions of electric guitar stardom on hearing bluegrass picker Doc Watson, first got together with Kennedy at Celtic Connections 2007. The old-time fiddle tunes and Appalachian songs that Molsky had embraced during 1970s trips into America's traditional music heartlands particularly suggested shared roots with Kennedy's family repertoire.

Kennedy, who also sings with Gaelic supergroup Ciar, is the daughter of Gaelic singing guru Kenna Campbell, a ready source of songs from the Isle of Skye. These alongside Molsky's ballads, blues and Bulgarian tunes make a suitably international counterpart to Kennedy's role as presenter of BBC Radio Scotland's world music programme, Global Gathering.

A former member of La Lugh and Skylark, Gerry O'Connor comes from a Dundalk family who have played fiddle for generations and, as well as breathing new life into tunes from his home area, brings a mastery of many different Irish fiddling styles to his duo with Gilles le Bigot. Self-taught, le Bigot developed a guitar style specifically for Breton music which has now been adopted throughout Celtic music and complements O'Connor's intense, very personal playing beautifully.

From Nairn, Mike and Ali Vass made their first public appearance as a duo at the age of eleven and three years later supported American banjo wizard Alison Brown at Celtic Connections 1998. Now among the top young players on the Scottish traditional music scene, they form an entertaining fiddle and piano partnership full of exuberance, skill and dynamism.