



fiddle
first
music

KATHERINE FIRST

In the liner notes of Celtic musician Katherine First's debut album *Sweetspot*, she states: "The fiddle can teach us how to be patient." First has been patiently honing her craft for some years now, both as a session player and as a member in both the Celtic rock band Dicey Riley and as part of folk rock musician John Coster's Medicine Band. Steeped in classical music, she is known to several generations of players as an excellent instructor of traditional Irish fiddling, which she teaches from her home in Western Massachusetts.

First has finally just produced, arranged and recorded her debut solo album *Sweetspot* on her whimsically named independent label Fiddle First Music. The recording is a collection of her favorite musical selections, ranging from ancient Scottish and Irish tunes, to modern compositions by Liz Carroll, Phil Cunningham and Peter Ostroushko, among others. The album also features two of her original tunes which display her skill as a composer of extraordinary fiddle music in the Celtic tradition. Aside from First's fluid and accomplished playing, *Sweetspot* is also graced by Max Cohen's virtuosity on acoustic and electric guitars, as well as T.J. Ezold on banjo and Irish flute, and Jeff Henrichs playing bodhran and djembe.

First dedicates the album to her fiddle students and states; "Without new players, this tradition would not live on." Lahri Bond of Dirty Linen magazine says "Her music truly is an offering of traditional Celtic with a twist; she creates medleys that are imaginative, playful and continue to keep the listener wondering what will come next."

Sweetspot is the debut of a major talent, and simply a highly pleasurable album of traditional and original music. Enjoy!

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