

Calvin Cairns - Joyful Fiddler

After a successful international touring and performance career in 1994 Calvin took up residence on Saltspring Island and began teaching fiddle. There he founded the Saltspring Fiddlers before moving to Victoria in 1996.

From 1996 to 2007 he taught folk fiddling at the Victoria Conservatory of Music where he established the Conservatory Fiddlers Orchestra, an ensemble of over sixty fiddlers ages six to eighty-six.

Since 2004, Calvin has taught with the Kule Crook Fiddle Association in remote First Nations communities of the Northwest Territories. He continues to travel and teach regularly in these northern communities.

In 2011 Calvin was invited to teach in the First Nations communities of the Chilcotin - Caribou district of British Columbia. Since 2011, He has been collaborating with community Health Departments and mental health clinician, Deb Trampleasure to create a suicide preventive fiddling program. This innovative project incorporates the Circle of Courage philosophies of Dr. Martin Brokenleg with the good old toe tapping fiddle tunes that have become part of traditional First Nations culture, leading to a recovery of youth at risk.