

## Hazel Fairbairn

Telephone 01144 1223 264133 or 01144 7786 345033 (cell)  
2 Field Row, Kingston, Cambridge CB3 7NH, U.K.  
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### **Practical Musical Experience and Teaching Skills**

I am currently pursuing professional teaching qualifications at post compulsory and keystage 3 & 4 (age 11-18) levels, leading to Qualified Teacher Status and a Masters in Music Education in order to build on my PhD on informal learning in traditional Irish folk music.

Having taught fiddle in various contexts for twenty years, I have developed a method combining learning by ear with the Kato Havas New Approach. My particular interest is in aural learning and its positive impact on rhythmic conception, the ability to improvise and the creative process in playing music.

My long term aim is to formalise an alternative to the classical violin syllabus, developing strategies structuring traditional folk skills and instrumental styles in a way that complements the school music curriculum aims. I could contribute to any undergraduate program with ethnomusicology and/or music-education content.

Since finishing my PhD, aside from working as a fiddle teacher and workshop leader, my main focus has been Horace X, a live music project fusing folk, jazz and computer generated 'dance' music formed in partnership with Mark Russell in 1994. I wrote and adapted the fiddle tunes and was one of 2 improvising soloists. I was also business and international tour manager, record company director and was involved in co-producing and post-producing recordings for commercial release.

Horace X recorded six albums and toured Canada, Europe, Scandinavia and the US including four successive summer tours of Canada (2002-2005), headlining stages including Winnipeg, Vancouver and Calgary Folk Festival, Salmon Arm Roots and Blues, and Montreal Jazz Festival.

Despite being non-mainstream and famously uncategorisable, Horace X had radio play and TV appearances throughout North America, and a number one US CMJ 'New World' chart hit with 'Strategy'. In the UK we appeared at festivals including Cambridge Folk, Sidmouth International and Glastonbury (Avalon, Jazz World and Lost Vagueness stages), and featured in Session with Andy Kershaw on his Radio 3 show in December 05 and were also played on Radio 1 and 2 by the late great John Peel, Giles Peterson, Tom Robinson and Charlie Gillett.

I have studied Carnatic (South Indian) violin playing and play viola with Chandru's 'Strings of India' East-West fusion project. I have also had lessons with Kato Havas whose revolutionary New Approach to Violin Playing has earned her an OBE, and played Cajun, Eastern European, experimental electronic, Scottish and Irish fiddle styles professionally.

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### Employment and Musical Work

- Present**
- ▶ Manager and Fiddle Player for a professional Ceilidh Band.
  - ▶ Violin teacher at St Faiths School, Cambridge, teaching traditional fiddle music to children aged 5 – 13.
  - ▶ Private fiddle teaching and various freelance performing and recording work.
  - ▶ Arts Council Steering Group member of 'Escalator'; an Arts Council initiative which mentors and funds young folk, rock and pop musicians living in the East of England.
  - ▶ Leading 'In service days' (training string teachers) and music workshops for school children for Hertfordshire Music Service Rock Project, South Cambs. and Cambridge City Councils.
  - ▶ Co-writing, performing and producing acoustic fiddle fusion recording project with Clare fiddler, Josie Nugent.
- 1993 - 2006**
- ▶ Fiddle player and co-manager of Horace X, a project fusing diverse world music fiddle styles with contemporary dance beats and combining live performance with sequencing and sampling. Horace X appeared live at festivals and venues worldwide. They recorded six CDs and had record deals in North America and mainland Europe and Scandinavia.
- 1995-present**
- ▶ Fiddle teacher: mixed ability Irish fiddle groups, sessions and workshops for Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eirreann and private lessons. Workshop Leader for Community Education.
- 1993-1994**
- ▶ Ethnomusicology Lecturer at Anglia Polytechnic University  
I was responsible for designing, teaching and assessing three undergraduate modules: World Music, Music in a Changing World and Anthropology of Music.
- 1987-1993**
- ▶ Travelled extensively in Ireland and Britain playing in and researching Traditional Music Sessions.
  - ▶ Fiddle player with a number of bands: musical styles including Irish, Cajun and Bluegrass.
  - ▶ Professional Street Music fiddle-guitar-accordion Cajun and bluegrass trio who busked their way around Europe in 1991.
- 1990-1991**
- ▶ Part Time Ethnomusicology lecturer and tutor: University of Cambridge
- 1989- 1990**
- ▶ TEFL Teaching for Cambridge International School

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**1987-1988** Self-employed musician and piano/violin teacher in London. During this time I played with in Mervyn Afrika's Kaap Finale, a Soweto-style Township Jazz Band, and with 'The City Garden' a small ensemble committed to playing contemporary and avant garde music, appearing at venues around London and at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

### **Publications**

Changing Contexts for Traditional Dance Music in Ireland: The Rise of Group Performance Practice. Published in Folk Music Journal 1994 Vol. 6 Number 5

### **Education**

**Post Graduate Certificate in Education at The London Institute of Education** Starting September 2007: (credits count towards Masters in Education).

#### **City and Guilds 7302: 2007**

Delivering Learning. An introduction to current educational practice in the post compulsory sector.

#### **PhD: 1988-1993**

In the Ethnomusicology Department at the Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge and at Univeristy College, Cork. My thesis 'Group Playing in Irish Traditional Music: Interaction and Heterophony in the Session' was accepted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in June 1993.

#### **B. Sc. Music (first class honours): 1983-1986**

At The City University, Northampton Square, London. During this course I specialised in Ethnomusicology and Music Therapy. Received the Worshipful Company of Mercers Prize for Outstanding Performance in the Undergraduate Final Year.

### **Education Prior to University**

#### **1976-1982 St. Bernard's Convent, Slough**

G.C.E. A'Level: Maths, Physics and Music,  
Associated Board Grade 8 Violin and Piano

G.C.E. O'Level: English Language, Maths, French, English Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography. R.E.

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### **General Information and Interests.**

Live and Studio Recording: I am familiar with basic sound recording techniques, wave-editing software, midi and sequencing equipment and work extensively with Cubase.

I have worked as a freelance session musician and string arranger in a number of professional studios.

As a Black Belt in Tang Soo Do, a traditional Korean Martial Art, my responsibilities included teaching karate to children.

Current hobbies include long distance running and swimming.

I enjoy travelling, particularly when combined with playing music and meeting musicians from other parts of the world. My last trip was in April 2006 to Louisiana to play and research Cajun and Zydeco Music.