

## Don Roy Ensemble: Short Bio/Blurb

The Don Roy Ensemble features Don Roy, Cindy Roy, and Jay Young on fiddle, piano, and bass respectively. Delivering polished, tight, pulsating sets, this trio exemplifies the driving beat of traditional music. In addition to being a favorite band on the Maine contra dance scene, the Don Roy Ensemble has played at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, appeared with Garrison Keillor, and performed on two occasions at the Kennedy Center. Contact them at [donroy@maine.rr.com](mailto:donroy@maine.rr.com) today for more information about booking this dynamic and seasoned group of professionals for your next event.

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## Don Roy Ensemble: Medium Bio

The Don Roy Ensemble, featuring Don Roy on fiddle, Cindy Roy on piano and step-dancing, and Jay Young playing bass, deliver tight, seamless sets of tunes, with driving energy and passion.

Don Roy is firmly rooted in the Franco-American musical tradition. A champion fiddler, he is also a celebrated luthier, playing his beloved music on a fiddle he crafted himself. Don embraces each part of the music and audiences are quickly caught up in the infectious joy he shares.

Cindy Roy grew up amidst the fabled house parties of her grandparents' day. Today she is known as the heartbeat of the group, marking the pulse of each tune with her percussive footwork as she accompanies Don on piano. Cindy also showcases her footwork with the occasional step-dance.

Jay Young joined forces with the Roys in the 1980s, offering a conversant folk repertoire and claims to have developed a psychic connection with Cindy, allowing the group to shift intuitively through each moment of music, producing a harmonious and flawless listening experience for their listeners.

Today you can enjoy the Don Roy Ensemble at locations throughout New England, in Canada, and at private parties and events. Please contact Don at [donroy@maine.rr.com](mailto:donroy@maine.rr.com) for more information.

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## Don Roy Ensemble: Long Bio

At the forefront of the fiddling community in the Greater Portland area, one finds the musical duo of Don and Cindy Roy who have long entertained audiences in the Southern Maine area and beyond. Add bassist Jay Young and you have the Don Roy Ensemble.

Don is a champion fiddler with depth in many styles of fiddling. Hailing from roots deep in the Maritimes and Quebec, the Roy's musical passion lies with the French Canadian tradition followed closely by Celtic music.

Don has been a member of many successful groups including bluegrass, Irish, and French and directed the popular Maine French Fiddlers for its duration. Don has received Fellowship awards from the state of Maine in 1994 and 2001 for excellence in traditional music. Don's CD *Thanks for the Lift* earned a nomination for the National Heritage Award.

Cindy, also a member of the former Maine French Fiddlers, is well known for her step dancing piano accompaniment which is among the best in New England. Augmented by her rhythmic feet, she adds life and enthusiasm to the music. Some of Don and Cindy's families were getting together for house parties long before Don and Cindy met on a blind date to play music in 1980. The heritage continues and Cindy and Don will entertain you with a blend of fiddle and piano styles that are common to traditional musicians of Maine.

Jay Young plays upright bass with the group. Jay began his musical evolution playing folk music on a 12 string guitar in the 1960's. He slid into playing electric guitar in a blues band influenced by the Chicago blues style and then in a series of rock 'n' roll bands. He started playing electric bass in a country band in the 1970's. Jay claims his country band played in clubs that should have had chicken wire in front of the stage.

With Don and Cindy, Jay's bass playing ranges from a minimal definition of the chord progression to a jazzy walking bass style. He's been accompanying Don and Cindy Roy for many years in a variety of bands including The Maine French Fiddlers and at times it is hard to distinguish Jay's bass playing from Cindy's left hand rhythms on the piano. Jay claims he has a psychic connection and knows what Cindy is going to play before she plays it.

Performances by the Don Roy Trio in 2004 included the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. Their Library of Congress performance was reviewed by the Maine Arts Commission.

Previous concerts include: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Concert Hall, The Barns at Wolf Trap, 2 appearances with Garrison Keillor and 2 performances at the National Folk Festival.