

~Trent Freeman~

2012 NIFPA Fiddle Adjudicator



Trent Freeman is an innovative violin player, whose unique blend of deep groove, in depth harmony, captivating melodies and personal writing style set him apart from many others. His versatility makes him a sought after session musician and side man, and he has played for projects ranging in style from funk, hip-hop, R&B, jazz, soul and gospel, to rock, classical, country, bluegrass and folk.

Trent grew up on Vancouver Island, where he took classical violin lessons from the age of 5. At 10, he began fiddling, and was soon playing dances, shows and winning contests around the province. He excelled at fiddling, and was soon in high demand as a back-up musician, session player, solo performer and teacher. He has since been a finalist in the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championships 5 times.

While in high school, Trent taught at over 15 summer music camps, teaching musicians of all levels and ages. His teaching skills developed through his volunteer work teaching and directing the group Fiddlejam, a dance band and performance group made up of around 40 musicians that meet weekly. In 2007, Trent was awarded the Comox Valley Mentor of the Year Award for his work with this group.

Trent then went on to study Orchestral Instrument Performance at the University of British Columbia for a year before transferring to Berklee College of Music in Boston. While attending these schools, he toured with the Clumsy Lovers Band, The Bread & Butter Band, Jessie Farrell, Chasing Blue, Amy Black, Timberland Drive, and did many shows with his own groove based band Trent Freeman & the Free Men. He also recorded for countless Berklee musicians, and some more notable artists such as Wyclef Jean and the Griffins.

While at Berklee, Trent represented the school on many occasions. He toured to New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. with the Berklee World Strings, played with the Berklee Bluegrass All-stars at the Joe Val Bluegrass festival, and toured to New Hampshire and Glasgow, Scotland, with Berklee's Transatlantic Collaboration. In his second year he was the recipient of the 2010 Berklee String Department award for outstanding musical achievement.

Trent is currently living in Vancouver, working as a session musician and sideman. He is also working on his solo project that includes releasing a new album in early 2012.