

**Press Release:**  
**Valley Youth Fiddlers present *Alaria's Fiddle***  
**March 24, 2017**

Smithers-based Valley Youth Fiddlers are on tour across British Columbia with their latest musical theatre spectacle called *Alaria's Fiddle*. The show is a modern fable set to a music written and arranged by master fiddlers from across Canada.

*Alaria's Fiddle* is a tale about a young girl who lives with her mother in an isolated island lighthouse on Canada's west coast. With little to do but play her fiddle over the marine radio to the passing fishing fleet, Alaria makes a plea to the wide world for music to play by sending a thousand requests for music in bottles that she casts into the ocean. As if by magic, her pleas are answered. In time, she receives gifts of music from across the globe: from India, Sweden, the Ukraine, Quebec, Brazil, and beyond.

One night a terrible storm catches the fishing fleet just beyond the island, and Alaria's mother tries to rescue a foundered vessel. Alaria climbs to the top of the lighthouse to play the fleet back home, but the storm is too strong. Is Alaria's mother lost at sea? Can Alaria guide the storm-ravaged ships to safety? These questions are resolved in the second half of the performance.

Written by Patrick Williston, *Alaria's Fiddle* is brought to life by a music score composed and arranged specifically for the production and performed by the Valley Youth Fiddlers. The tale is majestically animated by artist Facundo Gastiazoro.

Halifax-based master fiddler Gordon Stobbe writes of the show: "Without giving away too much of the story, *Alaria's Fiddle* is a bountiful cornucopia of world music, arranged for the fiddle. Those who know and follow the Valley Youth Fiddlers are aware of their skills, their commitment to large and adventurous projects and their strong emphasis on community. In *Alaria's Fiddle*, these traits are pushed to new heights. The story is charming, the arrangements are dazzling and the overall effect is profoundly moving."

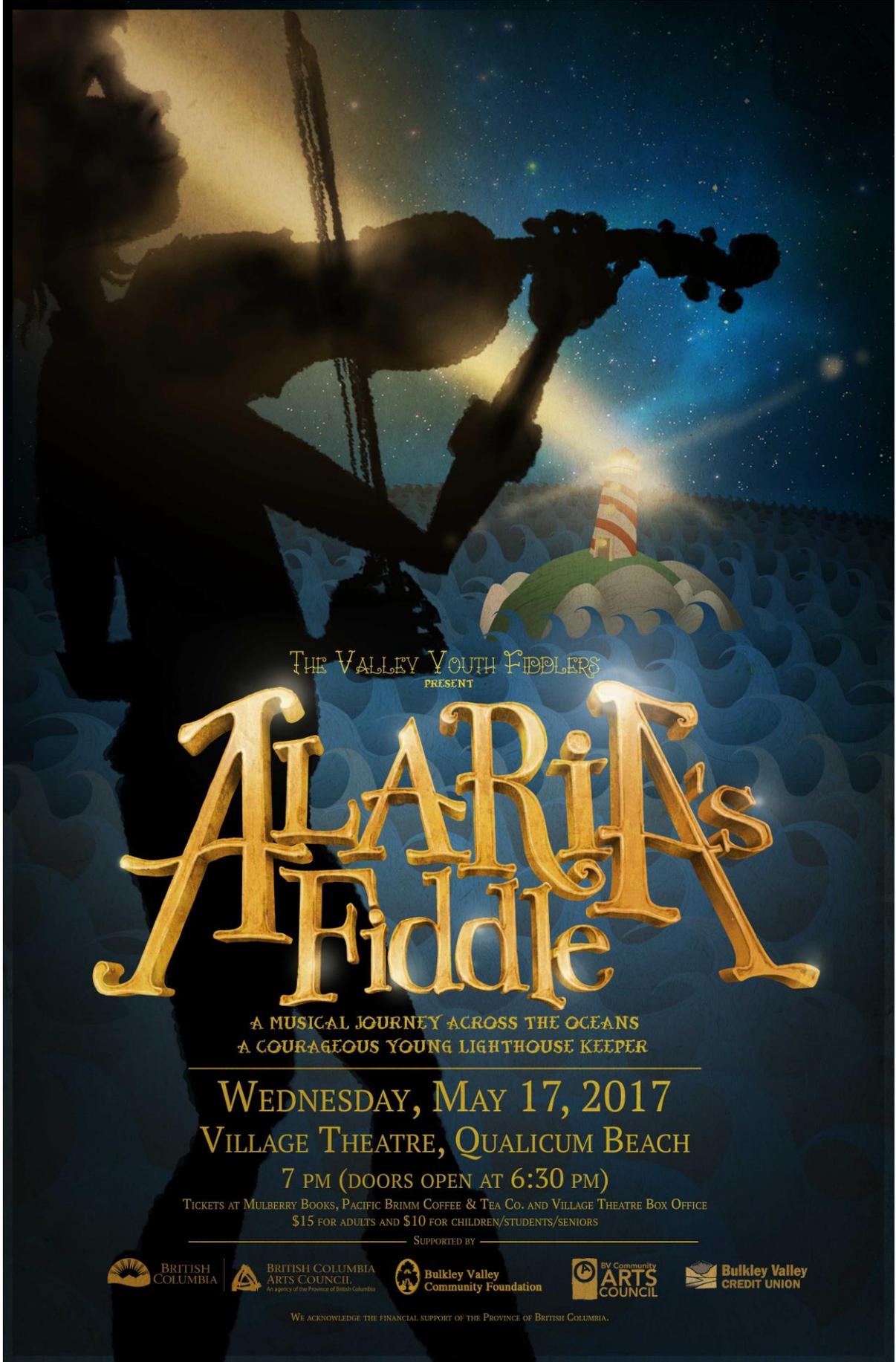
The Fiddlers are an ensemble of more than 80 musicians, ranging in age of 6 to more than 60, and has been performing fiddle tunes for the past 20 years under the musical direction of Leslie-Jean MacMillan. The group has played to acclaim at music festivals in Vancouver, Vancouver Island, and Smithers, has several recordings, and co-created *A Fiddle History of Canada*—a show performed by ensembles across the country.

"Joyfully demonstrating the fiddle's unique chameleon-like ability to appear in traditions from every corner of the globe, *Alaria's Fiddle* is a musical escapade, infused with a sense of adventure, often found in the world's youngest musicians," suggests Toronto recording artist and multi-instrumentalist Jaron Freeman-Fox.

*Alaria's Fiddle* will be performed at the Prince George Playhouse on Friday, May 12. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors, and are available at the door or at Books and Company in Prince George. A short trailer for the performance can be seen online at [valleyyouthfiddlers.com](http://valleyyouthfiddlers.com).







THE VALLEY YOUTH FIDDLERS  
PRESENT

# ALARIN'S Fiddle

A MUSICAL JOURNEY ACROSS THE OCEANS  
A COURAGEOUS YOUNG LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017  
VILLAGE THEATRE, QUALICUM BEACH  
7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM)

TICKETS AT MULBERRY BOOKS, PACIFIC BRIMM COFFEE & TEA CO. AND VILLAGE THEATRE BOX OFFICE  
\$15 FOR ADULTS AND \$10 FOR CHILDREN/STUDENTS/SENIORS

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