



A New Musical You

BCMFest 2009 offers budding musicians a "Performer Make-over"

You've been practicing fiddle or guitar in your parlor long enough, and now you figure you're ready to start playing in public. So how do you get up in front of an audience without dying of nervousness?

Or perhaps you've already begun performing, and you'd like to get better at it. What should you work on first?

If you'd like to find out the answers to these questions, and any others about what it takes to be a successful performer, then you should come to the 2009 Boston Celtic Music Fest on Jan. 9 and 10. In addition to showcasing some of the Greater Boston area's best Celtic musicians, singers and dancers, BCMFest will offer a "Celtic Performer Make-over" for individual musicians or groups aspiring to be on stage. It will take place on Saturday, Jan. 10, at 11 a.m. at the Sanctuary Stage in First Parish of Cambridge Church.

The "Performer Make-over" will feature a panel of experts – experienced performers as well as concert organizers – who will offer an ear, and sage words of advice, to those who sign up to play during the workshop. Don't worry, it's all meant to be constructive, and even fun; no Simon Cowells will be present.

And here's the kicker: The top three acts will be part of a "New Bands on the Block" segment at next year's BCMFest.

REGISTRATION:

Must be done in advance. **Just send an email to bcmfest@gmail.com by 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, to sign up.** Let us know your act name. You must be prepared to play/dance or sing ONE 3-4 minute piece on the Sanctuary Stage. Please arrive at the stage by 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, January 10.

So bring your instruments, your singing voices and your dreams of being a top-notch Celtic performer. Who knows, next year you may wind up playing at BCMFest.