

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY
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High Resolution photo: [Dueling Fiddles.jpg](#)
Photo Description: The Fitzgerald's performing their act on stage
Photo Credit: N/A

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FIDDLES AND FANCY FOOTWORK TAKE FLIGHT!

CHILLIWACK, BC— *Everything Fitz* is a high-energy fiddling and percussive step dancing family band from Ontario featuring some of Canada's finest young musicians. Their unique stage show combines a variety of musical styles; and is hailed as a fun, uplifting, and inspirational. Celebrating the Chilliwack Cultural Centre's third anniversary, the Fitzgerald fiddling family is sure to be a crowd pleaser on **Saturday October 5, 2013 at 7:30pm**. Presented by the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society, *Everything Fitz* will perform their repertoire featuring the finest Canadian old-time fiddle traditions and Ottawa step dancing. The frenzied footwork and fantastic fiddling of the Fitzgerald's is sure to capture the Canadian spirit in all of us!

There is a bit of everything including traditional jigs and reels, bluegrass, jazz and swing standards, Celtic, and gospel; as well as novelty numbers and choreographed dance routines. The precision and intricacy of their footwork is breathtaking and the complex choreography will leave many in the audience shaking their heads in amazement. A concert with the Fitzgerald Family is sure to appeal to audiences of all

ages and musical tastes; it is family entertainment at its highest level!

Growing up in the hotbed of musical tradition that is Ontario's Ottawa Valley, the Fitzgerald siblings' musical journey of dance and fiddle began early in life as they studied and mastered the unique fluid style of step dance that evolved with the Irish, Scottish, and French immigrants. Julie, Kerry, and Tom Fitzpatrick are all champion fiddlers and provide intricate 3-part fiddle harmonies as well as solo improvisations on fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. Additional instrumentation includes Pat on percussion along with parents Pam and Paddy providing accompaniment on piano and bass guitar. Developing their art from these deep and lasting roots, while allowing the influences of contemporary music to help shape their career, ***Everything Fitz*** has received glowing accolades from promoters, theatre presenters, and fans across Canada and the United States.

These spirited young dancers and musicians are noted for their polished act and provide wholesome, captivating entertainment for a diverse audience. Performing in theatres, on festival stages, at fairs and exhibitions, corporate and fund-raising events and outreach programs in schools, ***Everything Fitz*** is a an evening of fantastic fiddling and step dancing perfect for all ages!

Revel in the fancy footwork of a family band featuring some of Canada's finest young musicians! Tickets are \$32 for Adults, \$29 for Seniors, and \$27 for Students. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW(7469) for more information.

Everything Fitz is generously sponsored by Star 98.3, Nestle Water Canada, the Hampton Inn, John Martin MLA, the Chilliwack Progress, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the City of Chilliwack, the British Columbia Arts Council, and the Province of British Columbia.

Create Your Own Series and Save! Purchase tickets for three or more different performances and save \$5 per ticket! (*Shows must be bought at the same time to*

qualify) Subscriptions are only available by phone or in person at The Centre Box Office.

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Additional Information

[Everything Fitz](#)

The Fitzgerald Family are standout musicians in our Canadian music industry, but more importantly in the long standing Ontario fiddle and [step] dance traditions. The calibre of musicianship is very high- the best according to many experts in the fiddle/dance competition world. I think together they are a beautiful blend of gorgeous fiddle music, and top rate, absolutely exhilarating dance routines."

-NATALIE MacMASTER

FUNDAMENTALS OF STEPDANCING:

Although stepdancing is unique to Canada, there are three distinct styles within the country including: Cape Breton Style, French Canadian Style and Ottawa Valley Style. Canadian stepdancing has been formed and has evolved over many years from the influences from Irish, Scottish and French dancers. "A fast paced, rugged and energetic style of dance usually performed to traditional fiddle music and requiring limited surface movement. The dance is concentrated on foot work involving limited hand and arm motion. Stepdancing requires a board with a hard, smooth surface, character shoes with special clickers attached to the toe and heel, and music."

OTTAWA VALLEY STEP DANCING:

Ottawa Valley Style stepdancing originated in the Ottawa Valley which includes a large area North of Ottawa and a small area across the river on the Quebec side. This dance is very different than the other two styles of stepdancing, but still has influences from the Scottish and Irish. The Ottawa Valley style is characterized by the constant aggressiveness of the dance and the steps are danced high off of the floor.

The better dancers include a wide variety of steps and different moves in their routines so that no step looks similar to another. The dancers' legs look very "rubber like" and much coordination is required of the legs, feet and ankles. A distinguishing factor in this style is that there, is use of the dancers arms. Arms are controlled to an extent but because this dance is done high off of the floor, arms are placed out from the dancers body and are used to naturally flow with the dancers movements. This emphasizes the aggressiveness and energy of the dance and is as much a part of the dance as the feet are. Both men and women dance the same dances and also compete against one another in contests.

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

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Where Art Comes to Life

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, and offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music. Since opening in 2010, over 120,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 1,800,000. Overseen by The Chilliwack Arts and Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City of Chilliwack, other partners in the project include The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, and The Chilliwack Players Guild.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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