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**Talented Bristol Musician Invited to Perform in Washington, D.C.**

HARTFORD, CONN. - Daniel Boucher, a 31-year-old fiddler from Bristol, will perform on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Library of Congress Coolidge Auditorium and at 6PM at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C. Boucher was invited by the American Folklife Center's *Homegrown: Music of America* project, a series that presents the very best of traditional music and dance from a variety of folk cultures thriving in the United States.

The fiddler, singer, and traditional-style composer has revitalized French Canadian folk music in Connecticut by organizing very popular soirées, dance parties, and seasonal celebrations including his annual Maple Sugar Party. Boucher grew up in a French-Canadian family that settled in Bristol and developed a passion for the musical traditions of Québec and New England, absorbing fiddle tunes and songs from his family and community and apprenticing to master musicians.

"My goal is to save French Canadian culture and traditions in New England by inspiring my local community to enjoy the music they grew up with. Many of the older folks worry that their heritage is fading away. I love to bring people together to socialize, practice their culture, to reminisce, and to create new memories with their grandchildren. This becomes an intergenerational bridge that includes the use of French language. Traditional French Canadian music is very participatory, whether for call and response singing, or as accompaniment to dancing especially in the quadrille style, so I always encourage and thrive on audience interaction," Boucher said of his music.

Boucher has performed at the 2008 Québec 400 celebrations, dance parties at Le Foyer in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the Blackstone River Theater in Cumberland, Rhode Island, French Day at the State Capitol in Hartford, and folk festivals in Lowell, Massachusetts and Bangor, Maine.

Boucher will be joined by Reynold Pelletier and George Wilson (both on guitar and fiddle) and Glenn Bombardier (stepdancer/fiddler, spoons, and jaw harp). Folklorist Lynne Williamson, Director of the Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program at the Institute for Community Research in Hartford, will introduce the group onstage.

The concerts are produced by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in cooperation with the Kennedy Center, and are free of charge. For more information and a live webcast of the Kennedy Center concert, visit <http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/>. For a current schedule of Homegrown concerts, and webcast, visit <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/events/>. Please contact Lynne Williamson at [lynne.williamson@icrweb.org](mailto:lynne.williamson@icrweb.org) at 860-278-2044 ext. 251 for more information on Boucher's performances.



The Institute for  
Community Research

*The Institute for Community Research is an independent, nonprofit organization that conducts applied research and community enhancement programs to promote equal access to health, education, and cultural resources. Its Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program encourages and promotes traditional artists and their communities through an active process of documentation, technical assistance, and public presentations to bring their work and the history of their communities to new audiences. Support comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, and the Greater Hartford Arts Council as well as foundations. For more information about ICR please visit our websites at [www.incommunityresearch.org](http://www.incommunityresearch.org) and [www.ctheritagearts.org](http://www.ctheritagearts.org)*

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**Photo caption:** Bristol native Daniel Boucher, 31, who will perform traditional French Canadian music at Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. as a part of the American Folklife Center's *Homegrown: Music of America* concert series. (Photo credit: LYNNE WILLIAMSON/ICR)