



Fiddle teacher Barbara Anderson. Picture: Becky Saunderson. Image No. 030607

Business in fine fiddle ahead of milestone

By Pat Scott

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A CONCERT next weekend will mark the 10th anniversary of a business which has helped hundreds of youngsters develop their musical talents.

Barbara Anderson Music reached its 10th anniversary at the start of September and its 31-year-old founder of the same name intends that the celebration concert programme from pupils past and present will make the rafters in the Stewart's Hall ring.

The programme will include a debut performance from a fiddle club she has recently established whose members age in range from five years into retirement but who all share a love of playing the fiddle.

The fiddle was not Barbara's first choice of an instrument as when she was nine she started playing the piano while her sister Kate played the fiddle.

"Once I started playing the fiddle I was completely obsessed by it. I could not walk past my fiddle without wanting to pick it up. I never

imagined it would become my career," said Barbara.

Barbara was a natural on the fiddle and even before she left school had pupils of her own. She went on to study for three years at Aberdeen College for a Diploma in Music teaching and launched her music school in the Business Centre in Huntly after graduating.

At any one time she can have up to 70 pupils for individual and group lessons and also has regular teaching slots at the schools in Forgue, Strathdon, Logie Coldstone and Glass currently. Her pupils come from Garmouth in the north to Ellon towards the east.

Her fiddle has been a passport to travel and as a member of the Strathspey Fiddlers she has visited Texas, Canada, Bavaria and Belgium as well as touring widely in the UK.

Independently, Barbara is a frequent visitor to fiddle music circles in Shetland and still does occasional sessions for bands.

The concert on September 26 will have Gary Coull as a compere and is set to be a sell out.