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Island Toe's A'Tapping Jay Scott Kanés

A galaxy of music stars twinkles from one tip of Prince Edward Island to the other. How does Canada's smallest province produce so many talented musicians?

A new book, *Island Toes A'Tapping* by Jay Scott Kanés, strives to answer that question while profiling the province's leading music-makers. The real-life characters, including Bluestreak, Wayne Brown, the Celtic Ladies, Chiquesa, Fiddlers' Sons, Chas Guay, Lazy Jacks, Roy MacCaull, Catherine MacLellan, Cynthia MacLeod, Janet McGarry, Michael Pendergast, Rodney Savidant, Keelin Wedge and numerous minstrels named Arsenault, Chaisson or Gallant, total in the hundreds.

"I hope that Islanders and visitors alike may enjoy concerts and ceilidhs even more with this book near at hand," said Kanés.

Island Toes A'Tapping has some special features: A guest introduction by Fiddlers' Sons lead singer Eddy Quinn, PEI's male vocalist of the year in 2005 and 2003; A special commentary by the late Urban Carmichael, 2005 PEI Music Awards lifetime achievement winner; and A six-page section designated for readers to collect autographs from PEI musicians.

"The idea for the book crystallized after a Fiddlers' Sons concert in 2004 as I spoke to Eddy Quinn outside the Benevolent Irish Society's hall in Charlottetown," Kanés said. "Research and interviews began in 2005."

Island Toes A'Tapping is a 240-page book published by Cairns Media and distributed by Kindred Spirits of PEI (902-436-7329). It is coming soon to Island bookstores and gift-shops. Book launch party takes place July 11 at 6 pm at Spinnakers Landing, Summerside with live music by Rodney Savidant. On July 12 a Lefurgey Lit Author Reading/Discussion will be held from 10:30 am to noon at Lefurgey Cultural Centre, Summerside.

Jay Scott Kanés is a pen-name used by John Cairns, who grew up in Lower Freetown. An Islander by birth, he arrived decades ago at Summerside's now-demolished Prince County Hospital. Later he graduated from the similarly demolished Athena Regional High School and then the (still-standing) University of Prince Edward Island. After stints as a newspaper journalist in Ontario and Saskatchewan, Kanés moved to Hong Kong, where he lives on an outlying island with his wife, four cats and a dog. Ideally, he returns to PEI each year. While some visitors gorge on lobsters and fresh farm products, Kanés feasts with his ears on Island music. Previously, he published two novels—*High Degree of Atrocity* in 2004 and *Dog-Gone Cat Case* in 2005.

