Traditional Irish trio Líofa, Sarah Martin, Kathleen Guilday, Laurel Martin

Líofa is the joyful partnership of friendship and family born of a shared love and deep appreciation for the Irish musical tradition. The term Líofa (Irish for “fluent”) celebrates the proficiency with which Laurel, Sarah and Kathleen produce their eloquent, expressive blend of melodies and harmonies.

Laurel Martin began playing the fiddle in 1980, and during the 1990s she studied the regional fiddle styles of Ireland with master fiddler Seamus Connolly under the auspices of a Traditional Arts Master Apprentice grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Laurel's lyrical musical style reflects her fascination with the enigmatic sounds of the old fiddle masters of Clare, East Galway and Sligo. A regular performer at concerts and sessions throughout New England, she is also an engaging teacher of traditional Irish fiddle music, having taught at Boston College, Wellesley College, at many traditional festivals and currently at the Indian Hill Music School. Laurel co-authored and recorded the collection of traditional Irish tunes Forget Me Not in 2002, has recorded and toured with the fiddle ensemble Childsplay for more than twenty years, and has recorded two well-received solo albums, The Groves (2006) and Larks & Thrushes (2018). In 2002 and in 2010 she was awarded Traditional Arts Master Apprentice grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as a master teacher.

Sarah Martin (Laurel's daughter) grew up in a house full of music. At a young age she began distracting her loved ones by humming to herself constantly, and she never stopped. Trained as a classical violinist and violist, Sarah has gradually moved towards the music that she heard her mom play, share, and teach at home: traditional Irish fiddle. She also loves singing, composing, and playing guitar. In 2010 Sarah released an album of her own songs, In-Between Lullabies.

An All-Ireland harp champion, Kathleen Guilday has appeared at Boston's Symphony Hall with The Chieftains and entertained President and Mrs. Clinton and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern at the White House. Kathleen is affiliated with the Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Éireann music school in Boston and frequently adjudicates preliminary All-Ireland competitions at the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest Regional Fleadhanna Ceoil. A member of the Childsplay fiddle ensemble, Kathleen has recorded multiple CDs with the group and appears in the film Childsplay: Fiddlers, Fiddles and a Fiddle Maker. She can also be heard on fiddler Séamus Connolly's recordings Notes From My Mind and Here and There, on accordion player Joe Burke's album The Tailor's Choice, and on Laurel Martin's CD The Groves.