

# Five-man Cape Breton Symphony finds its second album popular

By DOUG BUCKLE

Adhering to musical roots more than 3,000 years old, members of the Cape Breton Symphony, a five-man Cape Breton fiddlers band, is receiving a positive public response for their particular brand of music.

Band leader Bobby Brown was in Halifax this week to promote the band's newly-released second album.

Cape Breton fiddle music, based on the music of Ireland and Scotland, was brought to Canada at the

time of the Highland Clearances, Bobby Brown explained. The music itself dates back as far as the 17th century.

"The Cape Breton fiddler has perpetuated the

music in its purest form," he remarked.

Formed eight years ago, the band comprises four fiddlers, with Brown on piano. The other band members are John Don-

ald Cameron, Boddy MacMaster, Sandy MacIntyre and Wilfred Gillis.

Recorded at the Sounds Interchange Studio in Toronto and released under the Brownrigg Productions label, the new album is being distributed nationally by Halifax-based distributor Fine Lines Ltd.

After only two weeks on the market, half of the albums from the first pressing have been sold, according to Charlie Brown of Fine Lines.

"The recording has been well received by radio stations in the region," he said.

Fine Lines specializes in distributing music of the region. Other artists handled by the company include Buddy and the Boys, Rita MacNeil and Ryan's Fancy.

Despite the band's name, three of the band members live in Toronto at present: John Donald Cameron and Buddy MacMaster remain in Nova Scotia.

Scottish roots are much stronger in the Maritimes region, but there is a demand for the fiddle music across Canada, Bobby Brown told me. The group has performed throughout Canada and in parts of Ireland and the United States.

Band members made their debut performance on the John Allan Cameron television series in Montreal in 1974 and were regular performers on his Halifax CBC television series.

Bobby Brown, originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, said he was born into the music.

"My father and other family members were fiddlers so my choice of careers seemed a natural one."

All the band members have performed as soloists on numerous occasions.

"Each group member brings into the band his own unique talents," Brown declared.

The group plans to perform in Halifax soon.



Wamboldt-Waterford

**BOBBY BOWN**