

**Lessons with Hope Hoffman:**  
**Folk-style fiddling & classically-based violin technique**

**Portland, Bowdoinham, Rockland & Farmington**

**Each studio is downtown, with its own parking lot. Directions at [www.hopehoffman.org](http://www.hopehoffman.org).**



**Hope Hoffman** offers bi-weekly and monthly lessons for **ages 3-adult**.

She enjoys teaching all levels, and offers **introductory lessons** through **advanced coaching** in improvisation, bowing technique, and phrasing.

Hope has been teaching fiddle music in Maine since 2001. Her **nurturing, encouraging teaching style** incorporates ideas learned as a **writer, dance teacher** and **theater director**.

Guiding students to explore their own ideas and follow their **own style of creative expression**, Hope works to develop a **practical and sophisticated technique**, balanced repertoire, and perpetual excitement about learning.

Years of teaching **ballet and modern dance** and taking **yoga** classes have given Hope insight into the positioning of hands and arms, and maintaining a **healthy technique**.

Her work at a **Montessori** preschool and years of teaching children's dance classes provides a

creative and experienced teaching style for working with young students (**ages 3 and up, with parents**).

A **composer** fluent in reading and writing music, she teaches "by ear" or with books, according to each student's interests and preferences. Her **early training was classical violin**, and in the last decade she has expanded her technique to focus on **traditional fiddle/dance music**, including **bowing techniques** which articulate **folk tunes' phrasing, dynamics, and tone**.

Hope's proficiency as a **fiddler**, including **improvisation** and subtle and **rhythmic bowing techniques**, is an ever-growing study in style, artistry and practical methods, inspired by playing with and closely observing master fiddlers.

She can **accompany students on guitar** for the **experience of playing as a duet**, and help them learn **chords and rhythm parts on the fiddle**.

**Private/duet lessons:** from 20-60 minutes

**Group lessons:** for 3-4 people once or twice a month, organized/scheduled by the group members



*An informal lesson after one of Hope's "Town Hall Theater" performances. (Photo copyright Troy Bennett)*

Hope Hoffman has **been self-employed since 1999** as a performing artist, dance teacher, writer, editor and musician. She regularly **performs fiddle music with her bands and as soloist** at festivals, weddings, community gatherings, concert venues, retirement communities, and restaurants. Her **album of original compositions**, in the style of traditional New England dance music, is **available online** and at many **Maine retailers** (listed at [www.freegrange.org](http://www.freegrange.org)). Her sessions **creative movement with live fiddle music** for parents and children is a popular program at the **Bowdoinham Community School**, public libraries, and children's museums.

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**Student resources, scheduling & audio samples at**  
**[www.hopehoffman.org](http://www.hopehoffman.org)**