

**1. Bibliographical Information:**

- a. Born in Points, WV on May 20, 1992
- b. Current place of residence - REDACTED
- c. Bio: Dakota Karper was born and raised in rural West Virginia where she grew up surrounded by Old-Time Appalachian String Band music. From a young age she took to this music with great abandon. Absorbing as much as possible, she apprenticed under fiddler Joe Herrmann, spent weeks at Augusta Heritage Center, and various music festivals in and around West Virginia as well as studying classical violin at the Shenandoah Arts Academy in Winchester, VA. After living in Baltimore, MD for 7 years, Dakota moved back to her roots in Capon Bridge, WV where she is now teaching Appalachian fiddle, as well as performing in the surrounding areas. In 2019 Dakota opened her own traditional roots music school called 'The Cat and The Fiddle'. Whether performing, teaching, or jamming, Dakota is always looking for a way to share her passion for mountain music.
- d. Oldtime music is a form of traditional roots music that has been passed down from mountain folk through many generations. Much of the music was carried over from other countries and adapted throughout the United States' history. Oldtime music and string band music serves as a core piece in bringing communities together in many parts of rural West Virginia as both a form of entertainment for those playing and listening and as music to dance by. The fiddle is a key instrument in this style of music and is often the leader wherever people gather to play together.

**2. Artist Statement**

- a. I grew up surrounded by music. My father played guitar and later banjo so music always filled our house. It captured me, and even as a young child I would go through the house singing, dancing out beats, creating rhythms and making melodies on any instruments or even household objects that could be made to make sound. When I was 7 my parents got me my first fiddle and signed me up for some classes. That ignited the fire that has continued to burn to this day. Throughout my childhood, teens and now 20s I have sought out every opportunity to continue learning, playing and sharing fiddle music. Though I have been influenced by the lives of many fiddlers both well known and not as well know (Joe Herrmann, Rachel Eddy, Israel Welch and Paul Roomsburg to name a few), one of the most impactful parts of my musical life has been a musical jam gathering simply called 'The Cabin'. The Cabin is an old log cabin that was built in the 1800s and still stands (without any running water or electricity). A few times a month people from all around gather, light kerosene lanterns and start up the wood cook stove, then sit around playing oldtime music into the wee hours of the morning there in that old cabin. That is where I fell in love with oldtime music.

**3. Additional Contact Information**

- a. Website: [www.dakotakarper.com](http://www.dakotakarper.com) and [www.thecatandthefiddlewv.com](http://www.thecatandthefiddlewv.com)
- b. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dakotakarpermusic](https://www.facebook.com/dakotakarpermusic)

**4. Release form attached in email.**