

Tribute to a great fiddler friend.

At this Christmas Season District 8 would like to salute a very special member of our group, 97-year-old Inga Tyler who we believe to be the oldest active Old Time Fiddler around these parts. She certainly holds that distinction here in District 8.

Inga continues to participate in as many of our events as possible. She even has a new case for her guitar which she says is much nicer than the old case which had snap locks on it that seemed to always “snap” open rather than remain closed for moving from place to place with her guitar.

Inga is one of the most interesting persons you could ever know. She has lived a long productive life full of extraordinary experiences and has contributed much to her community, church and family.

She has been a life long musician taking up the piano at an early age and bridging her piano experience into playing the organ where she served for many years playing at many of her church meetings. Sometime after her marriage to Fenton Tyler in 1977 (her first husband Clayton DaBell passed away in 1975) she took her son Verlyn’s questionable guitar into Chesbro Music in Idaho Falls to see if could be fixed up. As she puts it, “I came out with a new guitar.” That same year she attended Education Week at BYU in Provo and took five guitar lessons in five days. “Tender fingers” was her reaction to this experience but soon thereafter her next instructor, Jerry Cotterell, got her involved with the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers who made her feel warm and welcome.

Inga has traveled the world including visits to Egypt, Jerusalem, Russia, Hawaii, and several other LDS Church History tours. In 2009, at age 89, she visited all of her children, driving solo to Las Vegas, Nevada; Bremerton, Washington; and Omaha, Nebraska.

She now tells us her three sons gave her a zero turn lawn mower “which is great for keeping the acreage in good shape. I have it good,” she remarks.

So a big year-end Christmas salute to our great friend and true Old Time Fiddler, Inga Tyler. We hope you have many more years allowing us to enjoy your music and your great legacy of a truly grand pioneer lady.

Thanks Inga for everything and best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and another great New Year.

District 8
Idaho Old Time Fiddlers