

Oakley woman bringing Celtic music to Tristate

By Forrest Sellers

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Oakley resident Kristen Kirby hopes to bring a little Wales to the Tristate.

Kirby is founder and owner of the Reel Roots Folk Music Alliance, a business geared toward bringing Celtic folk musicians to Cincinnati.

"I saw a need for bringing this type of music into the area," said Kirby, 27.

Kirby is focusing on international talent and

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Kristen Kirby

Founder of the Reel Roots Folk Music Alliance

hopes to bring in musicians from Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales.

"There are people interested in the culture and music, but you don't have a lot of these bands perform-

ing locally," she said. "I saw this as a niche."

Kirby has met a number of these musicians through her work as a Web designer. She has also become friends with many of them.

"I love the music," she said. "I have been listening to it since I was 9 years old."

She said her passion for Celtic music also ties into her heritage, which is both Scottish and Irish.

Kirby said groups such as the McGing Irish

Dancers, the Riley School of Irish Music and the Cincinnati Caledonian Pipes and Drums Band have encouraged an interest in Irish and Scottish culture.

Kirby would like to further this appreciation by providing an opportunity for these musicians to perform in a concert setting.

Shows are planned for the fall in both Madisonville and Covington, Ky.

For information, visit the website www.reelrootsfolk-music.com.



FORREST SELLERS/STAFF

Oakley resident Kristen Kirby is owner of the Reel Roots Folk Music Alliance. Kirby is working to bring international Celtic musicians to the area.