

## AMERICAN WALTZES

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By Michael Erlewine ([Michael@Erlewine.net](mailto:Michael@Erlewine.net))

It is about 11 degrees above zero in Michigan this early morning. Yesterday and also today we have a whole houseful of musicians here recording an album of waltzes. Our recording studio has been brought up to temperature and is warm and cozy. People are busy setting up and adjusting microphones. Ian Gorman our audio engineer is busy running between the control room and the live room making sure everything works. May Erlewine brought in a bunch of food and laid it out on the table in the break room. Photographers (including me) are testing out our equipment. The stage is set.

We have two wonderful violinists or "fiddlers" here, Bob Bernard and Kailin Yong. Bob Bernard is known throughout northern Michigan for his love of fine waltzes and great skill at playing them, and that is what these two violinists are here to do, make an album of American Waltzes, a duet between two great musicians.

Playing with Bob Bernard is Kailin Yong, a virtuoso violinist from Singapore, who is a recent addition to the music scene here in Michigan. Kailin fits this scene like a glove. Together these two play such beautiful music and this is just what we are here to record.

Accompanying them both on acoustic guitar is Seth Bernard, Bob's son who has been playing waltzes since he was just a kid.

This will be a two-day affair and it also happens to be Bob Bernard's birthday, right on the eclipse. I include a bunch of photos for those interested. Happy Birthday Bob!