



Daniel Levy, left, David "Doc" Wallace and Dana Scofidio

A Juilliard Fiddler By Way of Texas

WHAT: The Doc Wallace Trio, at St. Luke's Church, Forest Hills.

WHY: For many country musicians, the nickname "Doc" is just a quaint evocation of down-home values and modest aspirations. For fiddler David Wallace, it's all academic.

Wallace, of Brooklyn, really is a doctor. He received his doctor of musical arts degree from The Juilliard School in 1999 after writing his dissertation on Texas-style fiddling, and he now serves on the school's faculty. "Yes," said "Doc" Wallace, "fiddling has infiltrated Juilliard."

His 3-year-old band, including guitarists Dana Scofidio and Daniel Levy, performs about 20 shows a year and recently released its first CD, "Live at the Living Room." The album, including performances of "Wednesday Night Waltz," "Ashokan Farewell," "I'll Fly Away" and "Rosebud of Avonmore," was recorded two years ago at the Living Room Cafe in Brooklyn and in Levy's living room in Manhattan.

Louisiana-born and Texas-raised, Wallace follows the tradition of contest fiddling, in which musicians jam for hours while turning recognizable tunes into jazz-style free-form celebrations of intuitive genius. Wallace's repertoire includes standards such as "Tennessee Waltz," swing tunes such as "Cotton Patch Rag," polkas and schottisches, and various breakdowns and hornpipes. He said the band's show at St. Luke's Church likely will include favorites such as "Sweet Georgia Brown" and "Lady Be Good," as well as eight rounds of contest fiddling.

"That's part of the culture in Texas," Wallace said. "They just sit around and jam until 4 in the morning."

WHEN AND WHERE: Sunday, 3 p.m., at St. Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills.

HOW MUCH: \$10, \$8 children under 12.

GETTING THERE: From eastbound Queens Boulevard, turn right on to Continental Avenue-71st Avenue.