SALINE Fiddlers

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www.salinefiddlers.com

America's premier youth fiddling show band!
A 501(c) 3 non-profit music education and performance organization

Brad Phillips
Artistic Director

Bob Phillips
Founding Director

Executive Director
David Olsen

Board of Directors
Bonnie Leutheuser
Chair

Louise Grondin

Dan Klos

Mark Kuykendall

Peggy Rzepka

Stephen Shipps

Production Staff

Sheila Graziano
Dance Choreographer

Jamie Hunter
Business Manager

Taña Huyck
Event Manager

Dianne Newberry
Vocal Coach

Brad Kuykendall
Assistant Director

Luke Panning
Assistant Director

Mark Visovatti
Booking Manager

Frequently Asked Questions

How do Saline Fiddlers auditions work?
Candidates are encouraged to come 30 minutes early to warm up and relax. Candidates will sit in a large circle around the Middle School Orchestra Room with current SF members. The group will warm-up together and then each candidate will perform the audition pieces individually while current members and the Artistic Director observe and take notes. Candidates will have the option of being accompanied by the rhythm section. After everyone has played each tune, candidates will have option of playing something over or playing another tune to better highlight their skills. In addition to playing, there will be a social audition where candidates will speak with current members and staff in small groups about why they want to join Saline Fiddlers, what other things they do, how they feel about the music, etc. Afterwards, current SF members and staff will privately discuss all auditions with the Artistic Director who makes the final decision.

When and where will the results be posted?
Results will be posted by Friday, March 14 in the Saline Middle School Orchestra Room and the Saline High School Orchestra Room.

How can I best prepare, and on what basis are candidates considered?
Practice, practice, PRACTICE! Then practice *performing in front of others.* Learning to be calm while playing in front of others is important. Joining Fiddle Club is a good idea, and it's helpful to find a private teacher who can work with you on fiddling and help with musical details. Candidates are considered on the basis of musical abilities (playing in tune, with good tone, good form, rhythmic stability, etc.), social maturity, stage presence, and their ability to make the necessary time commitment. Candidates will be asked to talk about their interests and activities, goals, and other time commitments.

Who will be there at auditions, and can parents come and watch?
All the candidates, the current SF members, the Artistic Director and staff will all be present to watch auditions. Parents are also invited to come and watch. Candidates should expect to audition surrounded by a large audience.

How many positions are available in the Fiddlers, and who is eligible?
Auditions are not held with a set number of positions in mind, but instead with the intention of accepting candidates who demonstrate the abilities that it takes to be successful in our demanding environment. Typically Saline Fiddlers has taken eight new members every year, but some years as many as sixteen or as few as two.

To be eligible, candidates must be enrolled in a Saline High School music ensemble during the 2013-2014 school year, maintain a grade-point average of 3.0 or better, and demonstrate pre-requisite skill on violin, viola, cello, guitar, mandolin, electric bass, drum set, or in technical production.

What kind of time and financial commitment does Fiddlers require?
The group rehearses every Sunday from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm with 30 minutes of setup at the beginning and at the end of rehearal. A typical month involves 4-6 gigs where the members are away from Saline for three to seven hours at a time. Every effort is made to avoid school and athletic conflicts, but members are expected to make Fiddlers a high priority in their schedules. Major tours are scheduled yearly, typically in the summer (other times when great opportunities come up) and last around two weeks. Smaller weekend tours are scheduled throughout the year. Saline Fiddlers is a year-round activity, and participation is comparable to being in a varsity sport year-round. Many students participate in sports and the Saline Fiddlers without a problem.

Parents are asked to volunteer in different capacities including driving to performances and assisting with business or logistical tasks.

The yearly membership fee is currently $2,000, broken into periodic payments. Financial constraints should not prevent any student or family from participating in the Saline Fiddlers. Financial aid is available.

Important Dates:
2013 Auditions: Sunday, March 9 at 5:30 pm in the SMS Orchestra Room