Fiddlin' Around

The Saline Fiddlers

Volume 17, Number 1 www.salinefiddlers.com Fall 2010

17th Annual Fall Hometown Show



By Will Warner

The Saline Fiddlers' 17th Annual Fall Hometown Show will take place on October 30th, in the Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center (Saline High School), beginning at 7:30pm. Once again we are working very hard to make it memorable for our audience and ourselves.

Our guest artists will be **Mountain Heart**. The band's name has been synonymous with cutting-edge excellence in acoustic music circles since its creation in 1999. As one of the most highly awarded ensembles ever assembled, Mountain Heart, or members of the band, have either won or been nominated for multiple Grammys, ACM, CMA, and IBMA Awards. They have appeared on the revered stage of the Grand Ole Opry in excess of 100 times and have shared a stage with acts ranging from Lynyrd Skynyrd, George Jones, and Merle Haggard, to Alison Krauss, LeAnn Rimes and Patty Loveless.

Mountain Heart's musical virtuosity, unmatched energy, and keen sense of entertainment dynamics have helped them to forge a unique sound and stage show, which appeals to an incredibly wide variety of musical tastes. In short, this rare combination of abilities makes Mountain Heart one of the most versatile acts ever assembled.

As the group leading the charge in taking acoustic music to the masses, Mountain Heart deftly combines elements of rock, jam-band, country, blues, jazz, and bluegrass into a high-energy sound that is at once fresh, accessible, and unmistakable.

As always, the **Saline Fiddlers** will kick off the concert with this year's magnificent stage show. It is an upbeat, lively show of music, song and dance from the traditions of American folk fiddle, bluegrass, western swing and Celtic music. Our growing repertoire includes many pieces composed or arranged by an exceptionally talented artistic team, headed up by Artistic Director Ben Culver, and including tunes by alumni Jesse Mason, Brad Phillips, Andrew Beck and David Rhine.

The Saline Fiddlers' major sponsor**, Shar Music,** will conduct an "instrument petting zoo" in the hallway near the auditorium starting at 6:30 pm. Be sure to test-drive one of their stringed instruments.

17th Annual Fall Hometown Show
Saturday, October 30, 7:30 pm
Saline High School Auditorium
1300 Campus Parkway
Saline, MI 48176
For Tickets, call 866-257-5333
or go to www.salinefiddlers.com
Tickets are $15, $20 & $25

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Introducing freshman violinist **Madeline**, our first 2nd generation Fiddler ever!

Madeline has wanted to be a Fiddler since her uncle Zach (2000) was a cellist with the group. Madeline says, *"I have been going to Fiddler concerts since I was really young, and it looked like so much fun to be able to perform with the group and travel to cool places with them."*

Madeline says the best part of the Fiddlers is getting to know everyone at the rehearsals, on bus trips and at camp. *"The Michigan Mini Tour was really fun – playing at concerts, going to Mackinac Island, and the Charlevoix Venetian Festival were all awesome experiences! I had never been to the U.P. or Mackinac, so going there for the first time and getting to play there was really cool."*

Besides practicing, Madeline's advice to aspiring Fiddlers is, *"take private lessons if you can, because they improve your playing a ton!"*

When not fiddling, Madeline runs with the Cross Country team and enjoys baking and going to the beach.

Welcome Madeline!



A talented sophomore violinist joining the group this year is **Andrew**.

Andrew says that he became intrigued with the Fiddlers when he heard them when he was in 5th grade. He had always wanted to play the violin but that gave him a new goal.

He says the best part of being in the Saline Fiddlers is *"getting to hang out with all your friends while playing great music in cool places."* The most challenging thing was learning all that music in three months.

He thought the gig in Carey, OH was a very interesting experience. He says they were crowded on the back of a flatbed truck, and anytime someone moved *"the truck shook like crazy!"*

If anyone asks Andrew about the Fiddlers, he tells them that they all enjoy the fun and wonderful group that they are. They all have fun, but when it is time to be serious, they settle right down—usually.

Andrew enjoys reading, fishing, riflery, video games (when he has time) and football.

We're glad you're with us Andrew!



Welcome to sophomore violinist **Kaitlin.**

Kaitlin is a sister to another Fiddler, Rachel. And like many younger Fiddler siblings, Kaitlin was taken to many of the gigs. She says she really liked listening to the music and, after seeing how much fun everyone was having, thought, *"Hey, if I like this so much, why don't I give it a shot?"*

"The best part of Fiddlers so far has been Fiddle Camp! It's super fun to learn new music, but despite a lot of rehearsing, you also get to hang out with your friends and have an all-around good time."

Her favorite gig was in Farmington Hills. She says the crowd was very responsive—big and energetic with kids jumping and dancing.

Advice to kids thinking of trying out for Fiddlers—"*PRACTICE! It also helps to play in front of others so you're not so nervous, and, of course, private lessons and tips from members of the group help the nerves too."*

Kaitlin runs with the Cross Country team and plays soccer. She loves to read and is a big fan of Harry Potter. She loves animals, in particular her pet rabbit, Bandit.

She likes crime and medical TV shows and plans on entering the medical field in the future. An interesting fact about Kaitlin is that she named her violin. She calls it "Chiaroscuro."

We are pleased to have you Kaitlin.



We are pleased to introduce freshman violinist **Dasha**.

Dasha has been playing the violin since she was 5 years old. Her neighbor, Marie Koziel (2007) played the violin with the Saline Fiddlers and that inspired Dasha to want to be part of the group.

Dasha has enjoyed all the different gigs and particularly likes the bus trips. The gig in Charleviox on the Michigan Mini Tour was a particular favorite, "*Charlevoix was a cool city... and it had a big fat stage."*

She has found all the new music to be a challenge. She would tell future Fiddlers to be happy with the music and their playing.

She has been playing the bassoon in the school band since 7th grade (she started out with the flute in 5th grade). She also sings and dances and plans to do both with the Fiddlers. She hopes to use these experiences and pursue a career in music.

Besides music, she loves tornadoes and big hurricanes.

Welcome Dasha!



A warm welcome to sophomore violinist **Paris**!

Paris saw one of the Fiddler's hometown shows and was inspired! She says, *"From then on, that was always my goal as a violinist, to one day be part of the group and put on shows like that."*

Now, after making it through auditions and having performed with the group a bit, she encourages all younger Saline musicians by telling them, *"If you love to play, travel and make great friends, do it! It's tons of fun and you get to go EVERYWHERE and get lots of great memories from it. The music is great because we play all sorts of styles—from bluegrass and country to pop and rock. It's a bit hard at first, but almost immediately you'll feel right at home with us. And you make unforgettable friends."*

Paris says that by far the Michigan Mini Tour has been the best experience yet. *"And to think it was all in Michigan! Plus, I got to do it with all of my friends."*

When she isn't hanging out with her adopted little sister, Sammi (a golden retriever), fishing, biking, reading, drawing, a bit of painting and occasional tree climbing are some of her other favorite activities. She loves nature and animals and hopes make a career in marine biology.

One last comment Paris would like to add, *"Joining the Saline Fiddlers is the best decision I've ever made in my entire life."*

What would we do without you Paris? Welcome!



The Saline Fiddlers are excited to introduce freshman violinist **Rachel**.

Rachel says, *"When I moved to Saline coming into 5th grade, I was set on playing the flute, but we saw the Fiddlers playing downtown and I instantly knew that I was going to play the violin and just HAD to be in the Saline Fiddlers."*

Rachel has enjoyed getting to know people she wouldn't have met without the Fiddlers. But the best part she says is, *"the feeling I get when I memorize a song or play on the microphone, the feeling that I've accomplished my goal."*

Rachel's favorite part of Fiddlers so far has been Fiddle Camp. She said she wasn't looking forward to all the long rehearsals, but was surprised how fast it went, how easy it was to memorize the music and how fun Mr. Culver made it. After that experience she says she really felt like part of the group.

Advice for aspiring Fiddlers? *"Don't do it just because it looks cool. You have to take it seriously but you'll have great fun in the long run."*

When she has some free time, she likes all the normal teenager stuff—hanging out with friends, watching movies, etc. She went to Paris, France this past summer with an exchange group. She'd like to tell you about it, just ask her.

It's great to have you onboard Rachel!

The Newsletter is Going Electronic

Going Green to Save Green ($)

Beginning in the Spring of 2011

In order to save money and lessen our impact on the earth, "Fiddlin' Around" will be distributed only by email.

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Fiddlin' Around

The official newsletter of

The Saline Fiddlers

Ben Culver, Artistic Director
Susan Cummings, Editor

www.salinefiddlers.com

A New Fiddler Sound Board



Tech Intern **Kevin** and Sound Tech **J.J.** working with the new sound board at a Sunday rehearsal

An exciting new purchase! The Fiddlers recently upgraded their sound system with a Yamaha LS-9. The old sound board was about 10 years old and required several racks and stacks of equipment. The LS-9 is a digital all-in-one console; self-contained, compact and light enough for one person to setup easily. Now the sound system sets up quicker and sounds better!



The New Yamaha LS-9

5th Annual
Jeff Daniels and Friends
Concert Event
Featuring The Saline Fiddlers
Saturday - November 27, 2010 at 8:00 pm
Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor

The Saline Fiddlers are excited to join Jeff Daniels' 5th annual "Jeff Daniels and Friends" show along with Rev. Robert Jones & Bernice Jones – American Roots Music from Detroit; Charley Marcuse – Detroit Tigers singing hot dog vendor; Ben Daniels Band – Roots/Blues from Chelsea; Jed Fritzemeier – Chelsea's "string guy"; and Luc "The Roadie" Daniels. This show has become an annual event since its inception in 2006 which Jeff envisioned to celebrate Michigan music and homegrown musicians.

Jeff Daniels is a Michigan native from Chelsea. He is well known for stage, television and movie acting and, most recently, for his music. He has been playing guitar and writing songs for more than 30 years but he didn't start performing until 2000. He says about his music, "*I don't write hits. I don't send out demos to famous singers. I just write songs. They're my diaries. All of them have a time and a place that marked some moment in my life. If you really wanted to get to know me, you'd find me in there.*"

Of special note - our own Assistant Artistic Director Brad Phillips will also be featured as a multi-instrumentalist from Saline. Brad has been performing with Jeff since late in 2009 and toured with him this past August (see "How to Meet and Tour with Jeff Daniels" on page 9). We will pay special attention to the finale in the show when all the featured artists will come out and perform together with Jeff Daniels because it is an original Brad Phillips' arrangement.

Tickets to the show are available at:
www.ticketmaster.com
or call 1-800-745-3000
Prices are $22.50, $37.50, $65 and $75

A Principle "Instrument" of Success: Summer Camp

By Jen Lahnala



A Violin Section—Listening to Mr. Culver Fiddle Camp, Summer 2010

Fans commonly ask us parents in attendance at gigs, *"How much do the Fiddlers practice?"*

To answer that question, we answer, first of all, the group practices together three hours a week. Then, the Fiddlers practice daily to varying degrees – the career-minded musicians as many as three-four hours every day!

Finally, the Fiddlers hold summer and winter camps, where they get away from Saline and focus mostly on new material, retooling old material, and team building. Summer camps are held after the graduates have finished performing for the summer. This is the time to fill the positions that the graduates vacated. Most of the tunes are reworked to match the particular skill sets the new group has. The new seniors become leaders. The incoming Fiddlers become regulars. The performers work hard in preparation for the Fall and Winter Hometown shows.

The last few years, two camps have been held in August, to allow Fiddlers to attend other camps and practices, like marching band, cross country, and football, and to get enough time to accomplish the camp goals.

Early in August, the group went from a gig in Homer, Michigan to the first camp, near Jackson. Camp is at the large rural residence of Mr. Culver's father, Professor Bob Culver.

This camp is typical. Music is always playing somewhere. Downstairs, the rhythm section is working together. Upstairs, a section of violinists is working out the particulars of a piece. Then the group comes together to play the entire piece together.

New tunes, like the 'Battle of New Orleans,' 'Father Jack Jigs,' and 'PUG Dance Set' are coming together nicely.

Fiddler alumni are working with small and large groups on specific musical technique, and offering their own anecdotal stories about their experiences. The students love getting to know Assistant Directors Reid Smith (2001), Brad Phillips (2003), and Section Coaches Mike Newton (2004), and David Rhine (2007).

Break time. A Fiddler mom just pulled warm cinnamon rolls from the oven. The rolls, and the celebration of Mr. Culver's early August birthday, have become camp traditions. Somebody is still playing music somewhere in the house—possibly a jam session with exchanged instruments. Everybody else is taking a break, munching snacks and chatting with each other.

Fiddler moms and dads prepare food and chaperone the camps. Some parents arrive very early in the morning to set up a nice, hot and healthy breakfast burrito bar.

Continued on Page 9

Staff Changes for the Fiddlers

by Ben Culver

On Labor Day we gathered all the Saline Fiddlers families together to kick-off the new season with a potluck meal. With two fiddle camps behind us, sports practices well under way and school beginning the next day, it was a nice chance to enjoy everyone's company, find out exactly what 10 pounds of lettuce looks like, organize volunteer efforts for the new season, and honor the retirement of two long-time Saline Fiddlers staff members.



Will Warner, with the newest Fiddler trunk in Reno, NV. *Photo by Doug Rhine*

Will Warner, father of Sally (guitar, voice, clogger, class of 2004) is retiring from his post as Executive Director after having served in a number of critical capacities beginning in 2003. As one of "the five dads," Will helped form the non-profit corporation Fiddle Ensemble Inc. that accepted transfer of the Saline Fiddlers from Saline Area Schools. A well-read historian and experienced writer, Will helped write the by-laws and articles of incorporation that serve as a foundation for all of the organization's efforts. As a board member, Will helped hire our first Executive Director, Walt Byers, and jumped into that role when Walt retired a year later. Since 2005, Will has backstopped everything. He managed the budget, allowing us to earn and spend over $1,200,000 in six years. Under his leadership we upgraded the sound system several times allowing us to reach larger audiences. We've purchased two trucks (and sold one), produced four CD's, commissioned over 20 tunes and toured thirteen times to three corners of the nation and Europe. Will never accepted a dime for his service and frequently volunteered well beyond his job description, personally driving our equipment truck across the country several times on tour.

Will has always fancied himself a cowboy, a gut-reaction decision maker and a lover of adventures. His advice was usually brief but will live on with the Saline Fiddlers: You get out of it what you put into it; It is what it is; Improvise, adapt, and overcome; The perfect is the enemy of the good; Don't be ruled by your fears.

Efforts to find an Executive Director are underway and Will will continue in that role until a replacement is found.



Doug Rhine, on tour with the Fiddlers on Mackinac Island *Photo by Joe O'Brien*

Doug Rhine, father of David (violin, voice, guitar, clogger, arranger, class of 2007) and Kathryn (viola, voice, clogger, class of 2008) is retiring from his post as Event Manager to move to Chicago with his family. A tireless volunteer, Doug oversaw the production of hundreds of performances. He was the friendly face to great new venue staffs bewildered at the thought of hosting 30 high school students. Doug oversaw everything gig related including production timelines, merchandise sales, food for the kids (they eat a lot), and security. A lover of great adventures, Doug was a key volunteer organizing and managing several tours. We'll always remember Doug's willingness to stay up all night to accomplish whatever needed getting done on tour, and then his willingness to go out running to chaperone the cross-country crew early in the morning. Always willing to lend a hand and a friendly smile, Doug lead with a joy and enthusiasm that endeared the Saline Fiddlers effort to everyone involved.



Welcome back **Reid Smith**! Reid is rejoining us as Assistant Artistic Director after having served that post from 2002-2004.

Reid was part of the cello section from 1998 until he graduated in 2001. He attended the University of Michigan where he studied Music Education. He then taught and directed 4th and 5th grade orchestras and high school orchestras in Atlanta, GA and then St. Louis, MO.

After being offered a full scholarship at Michigan State University to complete his Master's in Music Education, Reid moved back to Michigan—and back to the Saline Fiddlers!

Reid lives in Ypsilanti and, in his free time, he likes to play with Dublin, his black lab, cook and fly fish—his favorite fishing spot is on the Au Sable River, catching trout.



We are pleased that **Priscilla Olsen** has agreed to accept the position of Event Manager for the Fiddlers.

Priscilla is the mother of two Fiddler alumni: Stefanie (cello, 2005) and Trevor (viola, 2010). Those years with the Fiddlers as a parent allowed her to gain valuable insight into the dynamics of the group and a firm understanding of what is required of an Event Manager.

Priscilla is a retired teacher of 31 years and is very active in the Saline community; she and her husband, Dave, volunteer for most of the Saline community events. She is an avid gardener, a novice watercolorist (some of her work was displayed in an art show this past summer) and she enjoys taking a variety of classes at the Two Twelve Art Center in Saline. She is also planning a wedding this coming summer! Stefanie will be married on July 8th.

THE FIDDLERS' DOBRO

By Susan Cummings



Louie,
at his debut as the Fiddler's newest dobro player.
photo by Jim Uhrie



A Quick Lesson

A dobro is an acoustic guitar with a metal resonator built into its body. This resonator serves as an amplifier.

The dobro was invented by John Dopyera in the early 1930s. Dopyera and his brother struck out in the late 20s in search of a way to create a louder guitar. The brothers called their new company, *Dobro Manufacturing Company* (dobro being both a contraction of **Do**pyera **Bro**thers and meaning "good" in their native Slovak language).

Dobros sound more like banjos than guitars, because of the effect created by the metal strings played over the metal plate. This is employed even further by players who use a metal slide (rather than fingering chords with their fretting hand, the way an acoustic guitar player does).

How The Fiddler's Dobro Came To Be

The purchase of a dobro for the Fiddlers was the brainchild of Bob Phillips, founder of The Saline Fiddlers. He approached Carl Newton, Sound Technician and Fiddler dad (of Michael, 2004), with the idea in 2001. He theorized that he could talk some of the kids (being the crazy musicians that they are) into learning the dobro and performing with it in the Fiddler shows. He also thought that if younger kids saw this intriguing instrument on stage that it would inspire them to want to join the Fiddlers. Carl researched the idea, found a great dobro for a great price and the purchase was approved. Soon, the Fiddlers found themselves the proud new owner of a dobro.

2002-2003

And the first Fiddler dobro player was…. actually, there were two Fiddlers that picked up the dobro the same year: **Lauren Sigler** (2003) and **Brad Phillips** (2003). Lauren and Brad passed the dobro back and forth their senior year. Lauren says it was hard learning such a different instrument and she never really did master the dobro. The first tune Lauren performed with the dobro was "Strong Enough" by Sheryl Crow accompanied by Andrea Hahn (2003) and Nicole Piazza (2003). Lauren says her favorite song on the dobro was "Lady Be Good." When Lauren passed the dobro to Brad, he wanted to do solos. He performed a medley of tunes arranged by Jerry Douglas and also kicked off "Orange Blossom Special" with a dobro solo. Both Lauren and Brad recommend that if anyone wants to hear some really good dobro playing, they should listen to Jerry Douglas.

2003-2006

Brian Kung (2006) said, "*I loved the sound and even the look of the instrument ever since I watched Lauren Sigler play it when I was a freshman and she was a senior.* Brian said the only dobro instructor in Michigan at the time was 4 hours away and *"I had to get lessons on the banjo in order to teach myself Dobro because the two instruments are very similar in strings and picking technique."* Brian's favorite song with the dobro was "Man of Constant Sorrow." He remembers really rocking that out when the Fiddlers were down south on the Hurricane Katrina Tour.



Brian Kung
on the 2006 Hurricane Katrina Summer Tour



Kelsey Lahnala
with the dobro in 2007

2006-2007

After Brian graduated, **Kelsey Lahnala** (2007) picked up the dobro at Fiddle Camp the summer of her senior year. She says that if she hadn't picked up the dobro, then those cool solos would have gone to a violin. She remembers playing in "Tico, Tico," "Hungry Man #1," and "Someday Soon."

Then for the first time since its purchase, the dobro went into storage after the summer of 2007.

Fiddle Camp, Summer 2010

Mr. Culver brought the dobro out to camp and it caught the eye of **Louie.** It looked cool and different, and Louie is always up for a challenge. Brad Phillips, now the Fiddler's Assistant Artistic Director, sat down and taught him the dobro intro to "Orange Blossom Special" that he had played back in 2003. A short time later, Louie debuted on the dobro at the Calhoun County Fair gig by kicking off "Orange Blossom Special."

What do we have to look forward to? Louie is working on "Man of Constant Sorrow" and "Hungry Man #1." Let's hope the Fiddler's dobro doesn't see the storage unit ever again!

Did You Know?

Between 5 and 8 new tunes are rolled out at every summer camp. To do this, it means working with the composition staff to choose tunes and design arrangements to fit the performers that are in the band for that season. Once the tunes are written, they are published, copied and bound into notebooks for the musicians, and practice MP3s are made. The actual camp part (with the kids) is the culmination of hundreds of hours of work on the part of Fiddler staff and volunteers.

Fiddlers on Tour!

The Saline Fiddlers had another exciting summer taking their show on tour to new and different parts of the country!

By Cindy O'Brien



In front of the Texas State Capitol Building in Austin

The first tour was to southeastern Texas from June 28 through July 6, 2010. The Fiddlers packed their instruments and flew into Houston. After landing, they very much enjoyed visiting the NASA Space Center and began to acclimatize to a new level of heat and humidity. From there they traveled to San Antonio where they were kindly hosted for several days during their stay by the San Pedro Presbyterian Church. During this time they were able to explore, swim, and hike at the Guadalupe State Park and play a concert at the Church. Thanks to Pastor Calvin Reynolds and the many folks at San Pedro Presbyterian Church for their hospitality!

The next day the Fiddlers traveled to Austin where they visited the State Capitol Building and were well received as they played in the State Capitol Rotunda. That evening they had the privilege of playing at the Oasis on Lake Travis. This is a 3-story 2,000 people capacity restaurant which overlooks Lake Travis and is well known for its stunning sunset views. The Fiddlers very much enjoyed presenting their show on the third floor Starlight Terrace which had retractable walls allowing the outdoor atmosphere to come inside. The stage was also three tiered and an exciting place to perform for an enthusiastic audience.

From there they traveled to Texas State University in San Marcos where they happily played for and shared their musical experiences with an energized group of strings students their own age at the Texas State University Strings Camp.

The next day it was back to San Antonio to the Riverwalk where they had the opportunity to visit the Alamo, take a boat tour, and play at the Fiesta Noche Del Rio at the Arneson River Theatre. One of the unique circumstances about this theatre is that the stage is separated from the ampitheatre-seated audience by the San Antonio River. So it was fun to also be playing for the numerous river boat passengers who waved and clapped as they rode by.

The last performance was at the International Tall Ships and Independence Festival at the Naval Station Wharf at Ingleside on July 4th. They performed under a large tent for an appreciative audience, and then had the opportunity to tour the many international tall ships that had sailed in for the festival.

On the last day they were able to visit the King Ranch, one of the world's largest ranches at 825,000 acres; and tour the USS Lexington, a WWII vintage aircraft carrier, stationed at Corpus Christi. Wow, what a trip! Then it was back to Houston to fly to good old home, Saline!

The second tour was to northern Michigan from July 21 through July 25, 2010. This was a bus trip tour which also included the newly joining Fiddlers, which was an exciting event for them!

The first stop was at the Soo Locks, in Sault Ste. Marie. Here Fiddlers explored the quaint town and watched large boats travel through the locks connecting Lake Superior and the lower great lakes. That evening they performed at the Superior Concert Series at Soo Locks Park for a large audience spread out over the grassy area surrounding them.

The next day they took the ferry boat to Mackinac Island and explored the area, eating fudge, biking, visiting the fort and enjoying each other's company. That evening they played for an enthusiastic audience at the Bayside Live! Concert Series at the St. Ignace Public Marina.

The following day they visited Mill Creek Discovery Park, where they had the opportunity to zipline over the creek, walk on a canopy bridge, and attempt a climbing wall on a 50 foot tower. That evening they played for an appreciative audience in a band shell at the Rogers City Summer Concert Series.

On the final day of tour, after a morning of tubing on the Sturgeon River, the Fiddlers performed their show at one of Michigan's largest festivals, the Charlevoix Venetian Festival, at the Odmark Pavilion Bandshell on Round Lake in beautiful downtown Charlevoix. The seating was packed, and, after dark, a great tour ended with a lighted boat parade and magnificent fireworks over the lake.

Overall, it was a great time of sharing music; enjoying new experiences; and deepening friendships, new and old!



Fiddlers on the Shores of Lake Michigan
Photo by Joe O'Brien

How to Meet and Tour with Jeff Daniels

By Susan Cummings



Brad Phillips and Jeff Daniels
Together on tour, summer of 2010

Brad Phillips, the Saline Fiddlers' Assistant Artistic Director, first met Jeff Daniels in the summer of 2007 at the Bliss Fest in Petoskey, MI while performing with Millish. Jeff Daniels was also performing at the festival. Jeff and Brad struck up a conversation back stage where Brad impressed Jeff so much that Brad was invited out on Jeff's set to play with him. Jeff told Brad, "We'll have to do this again someday."

A few months later, Brad attended Jeff's annual "Jeff Daniels and Friends" show on the Saturday after Thanksgiving at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. While back stage talking with some friends that had performed in the show, Jeff remembered him and greeted him by name saying, "We need to get together again." This time Brad gave Jeff his contact information on the only thing on which he could find to write, a cheap paper napkin. Brad didn't have much hope after that – after all, it was a cheap throwaway napkin that was easily lost and mistaken for trash.

Brad went on with his life – teaching, getting married, starting his family, performing, and assisting with the Saline Fiddlers. Then more than two years later, in 2009, Brad again found himself at the show "Jeff Daniels and Friends." And again, he was backstage talking with friends, and Jeff again, not only remembered Brad, he greeted him by name. And again, he told Brad "We need to get together."

Two or three weeks later, Brad received a text message from Jeff saying it was time and they needed to get together to rehearse. Brad still wasn't sure he believed it but texted back telling him "any time, any place."

Things panned out in a timely manner this time. Brad joined Jeff for eight shows at his Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea between Christmas and New Year's at the end of last year. This time, they stayed in touch.

In early July of last summer, Jeff first mentioned to Brad the possibility of doing a tour together at the end of August. Brad was excited about this and was ready to jump on the tour bus right then. Still things hadn't been finalized and he couldn't make promises. Brad spent the next few weeks staring at the inbox on his computer waiting for confirmation.

He finally heard from Jeff the day after he returned to the US from the Czech Republic where he goes every summer to teach fiddling and improvisation at a camp for serious classical strings students. Jeff just wanted to get together to hang out and play music. It was then he officially offered Brad the opportunity to join him on the tour.

They traveled in Jeff's 40-foot RV with four slide outs. He said that Jeff is very proud of his RV and is the primary driver while touring. They mostly performed in Michigan, but did head south to Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. They had fun recording their experiences and Jeff plans to edit those videotaped hours of "road shenanigans" into a documentary about touring which will be released sometime this winter. Brad says, *"That was the best touring experience ever."*

As soon as they returned to Michigan, with all the music fresh in their heads, Jeff and Brad recorded an album together in one day. They hope that it will be released by the holidays and the profits will go to Jeff's Purple Rose Theatre Company (for more information, go to www.purplerosetheatre.org).

This isn't the end of their association. Brad will be joining Jeff this fall in several Michigan locations, including being featured in Jeff's show, "Jeff Daniels and Friends" along with the Saline Fiddlers. He will also be performing with Jeff during the holiday season at the Purple Rose Theater again this year.

"Summer Camp," Continued from Page 5

Others come to camp after work to help serve dinner and clean up afterwards. Fiddlers write their names on cups and use them from one meal to another. A large tent is set up outside for serving food.

Event Manager Doug Rhine gets very little sleep during camp. He is running off copies of music, driving people for supplies, helping in the kitchen, and doing countless other essential tasks as they come up.

In the evening, after more music, the group plays capture the flag, or some other tension-relieving game. Sometimes they watch a movie. Sometimes someone is planning a harmless but fun prank, like covering the counter and floor of the girls' bathroom with tiny Dixie cups.



Fiddlers working with
Section Coach, David Rhine

The girls sleep on the second floor and the boys sleep in the basement. Everyone brings his/her own sleeping bag, pillow and music stand. Lights go out at 11:30 and everyone tries to get a good night's sleep. Except for Doug and Ben, who are busy planning the next day, and someone else, who is quietly planning the next prank.





2010-2011
Rhythm Section

**Ben Culver…….. **	**…….Artistic Director**
Brad Phillips……	Assistant Artistic Director
Reid Smith……..	Assistant Artistic Director
Sheila Graziano……..	….Dance Choreographer
Dianne Newberry……	……..Vocal Coach
Will Warner……..	……Executive Director
Priscilla Olsen…….	……..Event Manager
Mark Visovatti…….	...Administrative Manager
Ed Brosius……..	……...Technical Manager
Mark Kuykendall…….	……Business Manager

For Bookings Call: 866-257-5333
www.salinefiddlers.com

Opportunities To See The Fiddlers

Saturday, October 9, 1:00 & 3:00 pm
Kapnick Apple Orchard Festival
Britton (Tecumseh), MI
www.kapnickorchards.com

Saturday, October 30, 7:30 pm
17th Annual Fall
Hometown Show
With Special Guest from Nashville
Mountain Heart
The Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center
Saline High School
1300 Campus Parkway, Saline, MI 48176
For tickets:
866-257-5333 or www.salinefiddlers.com

Saturday, November 27th, 8:00 pm
Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Jeff Daniels and Friends
For tickets:
www.ticketmaster.com
or call 1-800-745-3000

Fiddle Ensemble, Inc
The Saline Fiddlers
PO Box 315
Saline, MI 48176

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