Fiddlin' Around

The Saline Fiddlers

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Senior Edition

This Edition of "Fiddlin' Around" is Dedicated to Our Six Senior Fiddlers and Their Parents. Read All About Them on Pages 2,3 and 4.

The Saline Fiddlers are Proud & Excited to Announce the Release of Their Ninth CD!



by Will Warner

Kaleidoscope is The Saline Fiddlers' ninth CD. This one preserves the show that vitalized our 16th year of operation. Four classes of Fiddlers contributed their toil and talent to it. We are very proud of these young musicians, awed by what they have achieved, and grateful to the artistic staff that guides them.

With this release, the latest cohort of young Fiddlers defines its era and leaves its mark on the group's history. Standing on the shoulders of its predecessors, this class, with this music, continues the evolution of the fiddling phenomenon that began in our little town way back in 1994.

Kaleidoscope includes:
Catherine Kelly's/Lake Effect
Big Yellow Taxi
Michael Jackson Medley
Finding Freedom
Childhood's End
Lake Champlain
Lollipop
September
Travelin' Soldier
Perrong Plask
TenEightcious
When I'm Sixty-Four
Orange Blossom Special

As you can probably imagine, producing a CD is quite an undertaking. The schedules of 30 busy teenagers have to intersect repeatedly to bring them together with the recording engineers, in the studio, ready to don the headphones and step up to the mics. The effort pretty much takes the entire Spring. It's a crucible through which every Fiddler has passed, an experience with its own lessons to teach.

Kaleidoscope is the fourth volume produced by Ben Culver, our artistic director. As composer, arranger, teacher and performer, Ben continually challenges his students to grow musically, and, over time, that growth results in a more polished and sophisticated show—which we believe you will find on these tracks.



Party in the Streets of Saline!
June 11th at 7pm

Kaleidoscope goes on sale at our CD release party, to be held in conjunction with the Saline Downtown Merchants Association Summer Concert Series in downtown Saline.

Come Out and Join Us!

Welcome To Our New Fiddlers!



Kaitlin	**Andrew**
Dasha	**Madeline**
Rachel	**Paris**

They are all talented violin players and the group is just that much better to have them!

Busy Summer for The Saline Fiddlers
South and North

by Will Warner



The Saline Fiddlers 2010 Summer Tour (June 28th to July 6th) will take us to Texas, the 23rd state in which the group has performed.

We'll be bunking in the San Pedro Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. From that base we will sally forth in all directions to entertain the Texans and absorb the Texan culture.



After a breather back in Saline and some local gigs, the group re-boards the tour bus heading north this time.

The Saline Fiddlers have a lot of fans in Northern Michigan, many of whom we hope to see again at one of the shows.

See page 9 for our summer tour performance schedule.

Match the Senior Fiddler to the Baby Fiddler-to-be!

Answers on Page 5



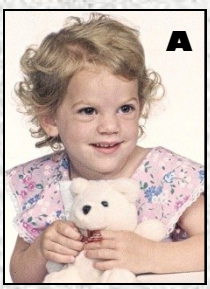










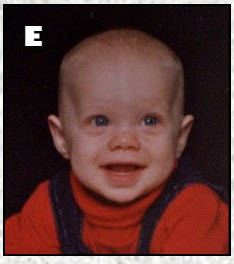












Senior Fiddler photos by Joe O'Brien

Fiddler Parents—Where Would We Be Without 'Em?

There are so many good things we would like to say about our Senior Fiddler Parents—but space will only allow for a few highlights. They are all wonderful and always ready to lend a hand!

Dave and Priscilla Olsen: Priscilla has had a hand in every hometown concert by handling stage decorations. She can find anything we need! She has also put in her time driving to gigs, putting up posters for hometown, chaperoning bus trips and helping plan the annual Chordial. Dave assisted with tour planning and coordination by learning the ins and outs of airline and hotel bookings. He also researched possible gig venues which has been a valuable resource for the Bookings Manager.

Khris Ortman: Khris has been our #1 greeter for hometown concerts. She also keeps student accounts, decorates and sets up at hometown concerts and drives to gigs.

Jim Ortman: Jim sets up and tears down at hometown concerts and drives to gigs.

Bob and Lauren Carnahan: Bob and Lauren have set up and supervised the history table at hometown concerts and completed a tour of duty supervising merchandise sales. They have also put up hometown posters, spent hours driving to and from gigs, chaperoned bus trips, organized the storage unit, and there is even a rumor that Bob has put in some time driving the Fiddler truck.

Joe and Cindy O'Brien: Joe has been our designated Fiddler photographer, coaxing smiles and snapping pictures. Joe has also played an important role in public relations and is always there to drive to gigs and help with hometown set building and set up. Cindy has been our gig driver coordinator and recording session scheduler. She also takes care of credit card processing and has been spotted chaperoning bus trips, putting up hometown posters, helping with stage set building, cooking and cleaning at fiddle camps, filling in as "rehearsal mom," driving to and from gigs and hosting post concert parties. And, every newsletter editor's favorite—a regular contributor to "Fiddlin' Around"!

Sharon Brown: Sweets and treat baker extraordinaire!

Karl Grundemann: Fiddle camp set up and clean up expert and gig driver.

John Gilbert and Gretchen Waters: John pitches in and helps with everything, such as cleaning after Fiddle camp, driving to gigs, putting up hometown posters, and setting up and tearing down and ushering at hometown concerts. Gretchen was the powerhouse behind the Germany trip. She is a major fundraiser for the Fiddlers. She also steps up to drive to gigs and is the Chordial accountant.



Kevin has been a rockin' guitar player in the Fiddler rhythm section for the last four years.

One of Kevin's favorite Fiddler gigs was the 2006 American Cancer Society's fundraiser: Cattle Baron's Ball in Cleveland, opening for country music star, Darryl Worley. He remembers being very impressed with the venue: the large stage, many lights, and technical equipment.

Some other favorite Fiddler memories are hanging out with the rhythm section during down time. *"We have a lot of common interests and just enjoy being together."*

Kevin likes his Fiddler history just the way it is; there isn't any Fiddler experience he would change. As a matter of fact Kevin tells us, *"I can't pick a favorite Fiddler moment, because I have too many!"*

Kevin says about his experience in Fiddlers, *"I think the best part about being in Fiddlers is making friends and spending time with them. Another best thing for me about being in the Fiddlers is being in the rhythm section. We have a lot of fun together."*

Looking to the future, Kevin plans a career in Audio Engineering, starting at Washtenaw Community College and then moving on to other institutions to complete degree work. He is also opening a sound reinforcement company August, 2010.

To new Fiddlers, Kevin offers the following advice, "*Do your job! Do your part! Do enjoy the time you have to enjoy. It goes by quickly."*



Jack has been one of our indispensible "men in black" sound technicians for the last four years.

As with Kevin, Jack's favorite Fiddler gig was the American Cancer Society's Cattle Baron Ball in Cleveland, opening for Darryl Worley. He said that besides it being a well put-together show, he appreciated it is a large scale tech event: the millions of dollars of tech equipment at the venue, some of which he got to use.

One of Jack's funniest Fiddler memories was when a group of Fiddlers was playing Frisbee in Boston on the 4th of July during the 2008 Fiddler tour. They threw the Frisbee to Mrs. Dakin, who fell over the curb. Everyone thought it was very funny, including gracious chaperone, Mrs. Dakin. In addition, Trevor hit numerous light poles, and they threw it into many apartment complex's plazas. All in all, it was a lot of fun and hilarious.

Jack says his favorite school moment was anything related to "Mock Rock." This is a mock musical performance put on by students in which they emulate different famous performing groups. In the end, a panel of judges votes on the "best act." Some of Jack's favorite memories from Mock Rock are the rehearsals, the performance, and the whole process. Jack says, *"Not being a performer in Fiddlers, I like being able to go out and perform. Winning this year was definitely one of my favorite memories."*

Jack's future plans include attending Michigan State University for engineering. After a year or so, he plans on transferring to the University of Michigan. He also has goals to train for a marathon, or at least a half marathon.

Words of advice for new Fiddlers from Jack are: "*Although you may not always like attending every Fiddler event, you will make some of the greatest friends in your life here. Whether you like it or not, we are family. So appreciate your time in the group, the friends you make, the places you go, and the experiences you have, because I guarantee that this will be one of the things you look back on years from now."*



Trevor has been one of the Fiddlers' solid, hardworking violists for the last three years.

For Trevor, one of his favorite Fiddler moments was when he was accepted into Fiddlers. He says, *"I had prepared for a long time for the auditions and before I knew it, they were over. Being accepted into the Saline Fiddlers was a big sign that my work had paid off. I knew I was in for a lot of music memorization, but the hardest part was behind me."*

As far as his favorite Fiddler gig, Trevor says, *"I think I speak for many when I say that my favorite gig was playing in Lindenberg, Germany. The crowd in the large town square where we played was really excited to see us and genuinely appreciated our music. In addition, we received some great German food. The audience asked us for encore after encore. I'm not sure how many we played, but the experience was unbelievable. People were dancing, taking pictures, and after the show, many people asked for our autographs on the CDs (we sold out of CDs) and t-shirts they purchased. After the concert and tear-down of the equipment, many Fiddlers celebrated the last night in Lindenberg with our gracious host families."*

Trevor is headed to the University of Michigan to study engineering (chemical or nuclear). He hopes to travel to Europe and Asia in his time off and would like to live either in the eastern U.S. or in Europe, wherever he can get a good job that suits his interests.

His words of advice for new Fiddlers: *"Enjoy the places Fiddlers takes you. Be adventurous and don't be a wallflower. Few high school students have the opportunity to go to as many places and to do as many things as you do. Take advantage by having fun when it's appropriate and working to get the job done so that there is more time to have fun later."*



In the rhythm section, **Richard** has treated us to his mandolin playing for the last three years.

Richard's favorite Fiddler gig is the annual Saline Holiday Parade gig at Union School. He says, *"Not only is it one of my favorite times of year, but exploring and hanging out with friends afterwards is fun."*

One of his favorite Fiddler memories was on his first Michigan tour. He and Ian waded into a VERY COLD Lake Michigan in the hunt for a Petoskey stone they saw just out of their reach. When they couldn't reach it with their feet, Richard decided to go under and get it. Richard explains, *"Not only did I feel as though I had hypothermia, but the rock turned out to be an ordinary rock, and my wallet was still in my pants. At the time it wasn't funny, but looking back it was hilarious."*

Richard's other funny Fiddler memories are pulling pranks with Jack, Ian and sometimes Trevor at Fiddler camps and tours. On one occasion while one of their fellow Fiddlers was enjoying a deep sleep, they remember writing all over him with permanent marker and putting chairs and appliances in his bed.

Future plans for Richard include attending the University of Michigan, School of Engineering where he would like to major in computer engineering. As he is also interested in becoming a neurosurgeon, he may minor in Biomedical Engineering. He would also like to be involved in Kevin's sound company and the computer optimization scheme he has drawn up with Ian Waters.

Richard's words of advice for new Fiddlers: *"Plan your schedules well, it makes things easier. Don't procrastinate, especially with school and AP classes. Enjoy what you do, otherwise I ask the question, "Why are you doing it?" Don't be afraid to step up and take the lead. Get involved with groups as well as Fiddlers; it helps you get good at multitasking and managing things."*



Desi has very much enjoyed her past four years as a Fiddler violinist, clogger, and singer.

Many of Desi's favorite Fiddler memories come from the Fiddler summer tours. She specifically enjoyed touring California in 2007. She enjoyed spending time with Fiddler friends at the beach, scaring someone by chasing after them with a bunch of green, stringy, gunky kelp; exploring museums; art galleries; and Alacatraz Island. She also has very fond memories of the Germany tour in 2009, playing music in the Alps, for the people of Lindenberg, and on the shore of Lake Constance. She has fond memories of visiting magnificent castles and churches, and, of course, taking lots of silly pictures with everybody.

Some of Desi's most memorable gigs were those where Mr. Culver treated them to ice cream after excellent performances. These were usually high energy, exciting gigs, so were fun events in and of themselves. Ice cream afterward always made them more special. Some of these gigs were Boothbay Opera House in Maine; Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival in Paulding, Ohio; and the Meyer Theater gig in Monroe, Michigan, when a Wendy's opened up for them after it had closed!

As far as school, her favorite memories are dissecting in Anatomy, playing the "Danse Infernale" in Orchestra, and painting pictures in Art. Her favorite assignment was the Food Presentation in Human Physiology. Desi says, "*Rachel (fellow Fiddler) and I worked together to prepare and present food from Australia, as well as research and present information about Australia's geography, culture, and food."*

Desi's future plans are *"to attend Olivet Nazarene University, study biology and become a physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner. Run cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track at Olivet, play my violin for fun. Get a job, get married, have kids, etc…"*

Desi's words of advice for the "fresh fish" are: *"Learn the music fast and smile. Then relax and have a good time!"*



Audiences have had the pleasure of listening to **Ian** as a Fiddler violinist since his Freshman year.

One of his favorite Fiddler memories was exploring and performing on a mountain in the Alps on the Fiddler 2009 summer tour to Germany. He remembers hiking with Jack and Richard for about a mile-and-a-half on a mountain trail. The mountaintop vistas of the surrounding farms, rivers and forests were breathtaking.

His favorite gig was playing at Boothbay Harbor, Maine on the Fiddler 2008 summer tour in the Northeast area of the United States. It was on a summer evening in a renovated Opera House that was small, quaint, and packed with an enthusiastic audience. With the enthusiasm of the audience, the music heated up; so did the room, as the windows were shut, so as not to wake the nearby fishermen who had to get up at 4:30 am the next morning to go to work. It was an exhilarating performance!

His favorite Fiddler parent moment was on the way to a gig in chaperone Mrs. Bonds' car when she drove them fearlessly into a boarded up section of Detroit. They had taken the wrong freeway exit, and quickly realized that the boarded up buildings and silence in the area was not the right neighborhood for the concert. They quickly got back on the freeway, and successfully made it to their destination.

Ian will be attending the University of Michigan in the Fall of 2010, where he plans on studying molecular biology.

His parting words of advice to new Fiddlers are: *"Realize the amazing opportunity you have been given. Every time you walk on the stage, connect with the audience and your band-mates, and just have a good time."*

Brad Phillips

A Fiddler Favorite

by Susan Cummings and Priscilla Olsen
photos by Joe O'Brien

Brad Phillips and The Saline Fiddlers go hand in hand. He has been a Fiddler since he joined as a high school freshman in 1999 when the Fiddlers were under the guidance of Bob Phillips (no relation, although Bob always hoped there was). After graduating from the University of Michigan in 2007 with a degree in Jazz Studies – he took up with the Fiddlers again, but as the Assistant Artistic Director this time.

Brad has become the Fiddlers' favorite song writer/ arranger. He has arranged 16 of the Fiddlers' tunes, of which 7 are his original compositions. Some of his favorite arrangements are the "Michael Jackson Medley", "Lake Champlain", "When I'm 64" and "TenEightcious".

Brad felt he had to write the Michael Jackson Medley after he heard the news of MJ's passing when the Fiddlers were on the tarmac at the Detroit Metro Airport ready to leave for the Germany Tour of '09. When he got home he realized he had to deconstruct this epic rhythm and blues/ pop music and put it back together for a fiddle band. So he started teaching himself the music by ear and after about 50 hours of arranging, he found he had a medley of MJ's most recognized tunes that had naturally flowed in a chronological order. Then he thought they wouldn't be able to use the medley because of the challenge of obtaining the copyright issues, but it worked out in the end.



Brad Phillips (on right) jamming with Mark O'Connor

Brad's arrangements take on many different sounds; such as, "Lake Champlain" is Texas fiddle waltz and "When Aly Throws a Fit" has a funky-fiddle feel to it that he approached like he was writing for a big band. "On My Way Home" (completely by accident) has the same intro as a Dave Matthew's Band song – one chord at the very end saves it from being identical. Then the rest of the tune follows that same jam-band-progressive-acoustic-pop feel. The underlying rhythm of "TenEightcious" is from a traditional Armenian folk tune he was working on for Millish. The song, "Waltz" came about just because he wanted to slow things down for the Fiddlers and write a slow, pretty waltz. The other half of "Waltz" he pulled from his homework for a jazz composition class he had taken (he just opened his notebook).

His all time favorite original tune, "Winter Getaway," he co-wrote with his wife. The Fiddlers were asked by Channel 4 News to play live on the air during the Thanksgiving Day parade in 2007 - they wanted something original, upbeat and recognizable – and it had to be exactly 3 minutes long! He decided it needed to be a song with lyrics, since audiences latch onto things like that. However, lyric writing is not his forte, so he asked his "poetic better half" for two verses and a chorus. He took the lyrics and in 2 or 3 hours, he finished the song. It was taken to the Fiddlers where it went through two key changes, was rearranged 4 or 5 times and had the background parts replaced with snippets of well known holiday songs. The kids learned and memorized it in two rehearsals and played it beautifully on air for thousands on Thanksgiving morning. The Fiddlers continue to perform this annually at the Saline Holiday Parade gig in Union School and other gigs for which they are booked near the holidays. Brad says, *"From start to finish, I am very proud of every aspect that went into making this project fly! I will always hold 'Winter Getaway' as one of my biggest successes as a professional composer and arranger."*



Brad, directing sound set up at winter hometown 2010

Brad began teaching an extracurricular, before-school strings class of about 45 students at South Arbor Academy in October and also teaches private mandolin and violin lessons, all this while performing in two groups, Millish and The Leigh Daniels Ensemble (a modern jazz group). Brad started performing with Millish when he was only a junior in high school. Several former Fiddlers have also passed through Millish, including Jeremy Kittel and Jesse Mason. You may be able to catch Millish entertaining the crowds at Conor O'Neil's Irish Pub in downtown Ann Arbor.

Recently, Brad has been performing with Jeff Daniels whom he met at a festival in 2007 and then again when he performed with him at the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea during the holidays in 2009. He will be flying out to New York in the early part of summer to work with Jeff on future performances.

When not immersed in music, Brad loves to hang out with wife, Kate and their two kids, Aly (3 years) and Will (1 year). Kate herself is busy finishing nursing school (she only has one more year!).

Brad's long term goal is to become a professor at a university teaching alternative strings styles. He doesn't see a strong presence of that at the collegiate level and wants to be a part of the first wave of teaching jazz, fiddling, and improvisation on strings. In the meantime, he continues to inspire the current fiddlers, showing them what can happen and what they can accomplish if they are passionate about their music.

Senior Baby Key

1	D—Richard
2	B– Trevor
3	E– Kevin
4	F-Jack
5	A-Desi
6	C-Ian

Thank You to All Our Generous Fans That Came Out and Supported Us at Our 3rd Annual Chordial!



Chordial Event is a Class Act

by Jen Lahnala

The third time was certainly the charm for the annual 'Chordial' fundraiser. Over twenty thousand dollars were raised over one evening (plus many hours of advance preparation) for the purposes of funding the many projects the Fiddlers undertake in one year.

The Chordial is the brainchild of Becky Pazkowski, former Fiddler mom and member of the Saline Fiddlers Executive Board. Becky had seen success with this type of event, where guests are invited to an enchanting evening of refreshment and entertainment, in her professional fundraising work. Two years ago she encouraged the Fiddler board to give the one-night fundraiser a try in order to help pay for a summer tour to California. The Chordial was so successful that they decided to make it an annual event.

For three years now, Saline's LaFontaine Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealers cleared their showroom of shiny new vehicles, replaced them with banquet tables, and allowed the Fiddlers to move in and set up their band, a bounteous hors d'oeuvre arrangement and silent auction, and bring in over one hundred special guests. Local radio personality Lucy Ann Lance has emceed the event with her enthusiasm and upbeat humor.

Continued on page 7

The Saline Fiddlers would like to thank the generous businesses and individuals who donated to the silent auction at our Chordial:

Khris Ortman, Spotted Dog Winery: John and Jill Olsen, Evangelical Homes of Michigan, Brecon Village, Holiday Inn and Suites of Ann Arbor, Mark and Julie Kuykendall, Ron Schofield, Amazing Creations: Patty Benedict, Pilot Mike Masten, Joe and Cindy O'Brien, Bonnie Leutheuser, Tim Neff, Priscilla Olsen, Susan Cummings, Peggy Rzepka, Rose Escot, Fred Ellicott, Tim Jones, Cindy Czubko, Dr. Lawrence S. Uhrie, Cindy and Jim Schloss, Little Caesar's Pizza, Leo's Coney Island, Flaming Shish, Mickey's Dairy Twist, Ed's Bread, Cottage Inn, Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack, Subway, McDonald's (Tammy Scout), Wings and Things, Country Side Pizza, Tippins, Domino's Pizza, KFC/Taco Bell, Mark's Midtown, Joyful House, Saline Inn, Hungry Howie's, My Favorite Café, City Limits Diner, Damon's Restaurant, Irv and Darlene Knickerbocker, Walt Armstrong, the Artists of 212 Art Center and the Saline Community.

PICKIN' CIRCLE PLAYER

Shar Music Company

PARDNER

Evangelical Homes of Michigan
LaFontaine Automotive Group
David and Kim Rock
Spotted Dog Winery

FIDDLIN' ENTHUSIAST

Doug and Kathleen Rhine
Stephen Davis
Kumon Math & Reading Center
Schakolad Chocolate Factory
Joan Scheske
Lucy Ann Lance

FOOT STOMPIN' FAN

Fannie and Lyle Filkins
Jeff and Shelly Banet
Bruce and Bonnie Bennyhoff
Joyce Kaferle
Mark and Val Morsfield
David and Priscilla Olsen
John and Anne Wharton
Barb Reed and Philip Zazove

FRIEND

Amy & Walt Armstrong
Fred and Shirley Ellicott
Maureen and Bill Kennelly
Thomas Kirvan
Dan and Johanna Kruse
Tom and Jen Lahnala
Kurt and Bonnie Leutheuser
Jim and Helen Oliver
Khris Ortman
Denise Rabidoux
Donald and Joanne Remenapp
Bill and Lynda Shea
Warren and Terese VanHout
Mark Wimer

NEIGHBOR

Maryanne Anderson
Paul Resnick and Caroline Anderson
Agatha Atko
Bernard and Barbara Banet
Janice Beck
Gary and Kari Bonds
Nancy & Walt Byers
James and Mary Lou Carras
Brian and Lynne Coughlin
James Danehy
Jill Durnen
Kimberley Ellicott
Leo Gianolla
Christin and Myron Grant
Mary Grondin
Louise Grondin and Mark Visovatti
Leo Januszewski
Tara Jennings
Thomas Kirvan
Matt Koziel
Bob Lawless
Joyce Leslie
Gary Loehndorf
Jean Malouin
Tom Murray
Luragay Olsen
Grace Olsen
Becky and Paul Pazkowski
Jerome and Joanne Pierson
Dr. Thomas Pullen, DDS
Don and Karen Ragland
Jo Rahaim
Robert Remenapp
Donald Terry and Sharon Banker-Terry
Cheryl and Timothy Theis
Dr. Terry Timm, DDS
Jerry and Heidi Tubbs
Frank Visovatti
Whole Foods Market
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Mary Gniewek and Don Zaksek
Diana Huckestein
Jeffrey and Anne Kittendorf
Larry and Carol Osterling
Susie Sweigart
Jane Waters
Donald and Lorraine Zaksek

New Sounds for Hometown Shows

by Doug Rhine

It is a challenge to describe the music of the Saline Fiddlers. There are folk tunes, Celtic melodies, pop, jazz, and swing sounds. But the Fiddlers never seem to rest. They are always thinking about expanding their horizons. This year the Fiddlers welcomed guest artists to their Hometown Concerts who introduced the group to two new sounds.

Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole Stomp brought the rhythms of Louisiana to the Hometown stage last November with their mix of Creole Zydeco, Cajun, Blues, and New Orleans Swamp Pop. That's right—Swamp Pop! That *had* to be a new sound for most folks in Saline. With a fiddle, a button accordion, and a big, shiny washboard they introduced the Saline crowd to the lively sounds of this very American style of music that comes with an unmistakable French accent. Dennis has collected music from up and down the Mississippi wherever cajun folk settled and sunk their roots. Creole Stomp takes that music and creates the mood of a lively party. Their sound invites the audience to kick back and maybe kick up their heels a little, too.



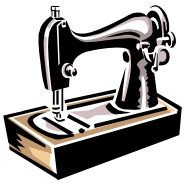
Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole Stomp
photo by Joe O'Brien

In February the Fiddlers welcomed **The Quebe Sisters Band** from of Fort Worth, Texas. This lovely trio of young fiddlers charmed the Hometown audience with their Texas manners, their champion fiddling, and their amazing three-part harmonies. They and their band brought Texas Swing alive on the stage. The Saline crowd liked them so much, as they say in Texas, they could've sopped 'em up with a biscuit. The Quebe Sisters' visit also created some excitement because of the Fiddlers' plans to tour in Texas themselves this summer. Maybe the Fiddlers will cross paths with this talented trio again sometime.



The Quebe Sisters Band
photo by Joe O'Brien

The Fiddlers spent time with both groups during their visits to Saline. In afternoon workshops the Fiddlers got to meet the musicians and to learn a little about their music. It isn't unusual for the Fiddlers to take some inspiration from these musicians and eventually work new styles into their show. We will have to keep our ears open.



All Dressed Up and Everywhere to Go!

by Judee Gniewek

Have you ever wondered where the Fiddler's costumes come from?

Planning for each year's new costume begins in the summer. A group of interested parents and staff come together to brainstorm ideas for colors, design and construction. The discussions turn into paper drawings that are approved by Artistic Director, Ben Culver. This past year our paper creations were mocked up into shirts to be tested under the stage lights. After this test, our color choices and design changed dramatically and evolved into what you see on the stage.

Our current costumes are truely a labor of love and dedication. MANY parents were involved in shopping, sewing, ironing, sewing buttons, and sewing, sewing, sewing. It is wonderful to see our creations come to life as the Fiddlers' play, sing and dance across the stage. It is a fun, creative way to become involved with the Fiddlers. If you are interested in helping with next year's costumes please contact Judee Gniewek (aka Louie's mom).

Chordial Event is a Class Act

Continued from page 6

Saline's Spotted Dog Winery and the culinary staff of Evangelical Home has provided elegant refreshment, all as generous in-kind donations. And a current Fiddler has described to the audience how the experience of belonging to The Saline Fiddlers has helped him feel more comfortable in front of audiences and become better at time management. This year, senior Ian Waters shared how he has grown during his four years with the group.

A Texan theme ran through the evening events, beginning with the floral decorations and the quesadillas to the torte-like ginger-banana bread mango desserts, to the violin painted in a beautiful southwest motif for auction—and the ten-gallon getup of Executive Director Will Warner, who even rode a stick pony to the microphone. Will described to the audience the final plans of the summer 2010 Tour of Texas, and how the fundraiser will ensure that the Fiddlers have enough money to get back home from the tour!

The amazing thing about the Chordial fundraiser is that everything that made the evening so classy was provided by generous donations of local businesses and individuals. Enterprising parents and staff assembled the donated violins, gift baskets, flowers, food and drink and presented them in pretty packages for sale or gifts to the guests. Another amazing surprise was the classy offer of Shar Instruments to match donations up to $5,000.



Many, many people donated their goods and of themselves to make a really classy, fun and relaxing night, and the entire Fiddlers performers, staff and extended family appreciate every little and large contribution made.

Class dismissed!

A New Truck for the Fiddlers

by Will Warner



The new Fiddler Truck, all dressed up with it's new logo!
photo by Doug Rhine

The Saline Fiddlers had outgrown its first truck and so last fall we began a search to find a replacement. Skipping to the end of the story, I can say we are now the proud owners of a three-year-old, 19500 GVW, 20 foot box truck. It is a beautiful vehicle with plenty of room and hauling capacity. Its acquisition was an adventure.

We spent a couple months looking locally. Bookings Manager Mark Visovatti and I test-drove a few trucks as far away as Columbus, Ohio, but found nothing suitable.

Thanks to the internet, however, we located what seemed to be the perfect truck in Oakland, California—low mileage, affordable, big enough but not too big. Again using the internet, I found a certified truck mechanic near Oakland and engaged him to inspect and test-drive it for us. He reported that the vehicle was sound. The dealer agreed to fix most of the noted defects, give it a tune up and new front tires, and take it over Donner Pass for pick up in Reno, Nevada.

The board of directors approved a request to purchase the truck and finance it with a loan, which was then arranged by Mark Kuykendall, the Fiddler dad who keeps our books and does our banking.

In early December, with cashier's check in hand, Event Manager Doug Rhine and I set off by air. We found Reno cold and snow-covered, with more snow on the way, and the dealer professional and knowledgeable. I signed the papers, handed over the check, picked up the keys and we hit the road.

"Cold and snowy, with more snow on the way" pretty much describes the entire three-and-a-half-day, 2100-mile drive home. Weather conditions and the sight of tractor-trailers on their sides in the ditch forced us off the road early every night.

Like every road trip, this one had its highlights. We got to watch rodeo on TV in Laramie, Wyoming. Salt Lake City was beautiful against the snow-covered Uinta Mountains. We stumbled upon high quality sushi in a little town in Utah (Hoo-ah!). Lacking an owner's manual, we searched in vain for the windshield washer fluid reservoir, but were saved by a cell phone call home to Mark Visovatti who found the answer on the Google. The "WORLD'S LARGEST TRUCK STOP" was on our route and I can confirm that it is a veritable Texas of truck stops.



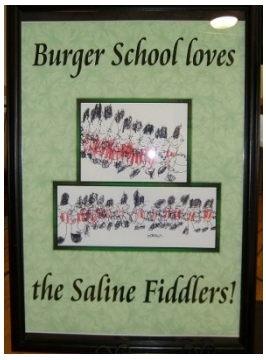
Will Warner, posing with the new truck in Nevada
photo by Doug Rhine

Behind the front desk of a Motel-6 in Iowa I spied a picture of a young man in army dress greens with an 82nd Airborne Division patch and Combat Infantry Badge. As his mother, a woman originally from New Delhi, India, checked us in, she told me about her son who was then serving his adopted country in Iraq.

Our new truck is in service. The former furniture hauler now bears the big Saline Fiddlers logo, again courtesy of Chuck Grieb of Double Start Design, and transports the equipment of the world's largest fiddle band. She'll be well and truly ours after only 40 more payments.

Burger School Loves The Saline Fiddlers

by Kelly Blaney



I recently had the pleasure of chaperoning a Saline Fiddler performance at Burger School for Students with Autism at their St. Patrick's Day Party. Burger School for Students with Autism is a part of the Garden City Public School District and is the largest school of its kind in the United States, with children ranging in age from 6 to 18 years old. I always enjoy every time I hear the Saline Fiddlers play, but the Burger School gig stands out as the most rewarding show that I have seen yet.

The Burger students are one of the most energetic, unreserved audiences that I have experienced! Once the music starts they can't stay still. They start jumping out of their seats to dance and move around the gym floor. The music makes them all smile and you can immediately see the impact on each child. Music reaches each one of them, and it brightens their day. All the kids and most of the teachers and parents join in the fun.

On this occasion, they were so glad to see us they made a poster and had it framed for us to take back to Saline, not to mention the snacks and special treat bags sent home with each Fiddler! Thank you for letting the Fiddlers play for you, Burger School, and for treating us so royally!

It was a great way to spend the afternoon!

Thank you to **Cindy O'Brien** for interviewing the seniors and writing their Fiddler biographies on pages 3 & 4.

Fiddlin' Around

The official newsletter of
The Saline Fiddlers
We publish four times yearly or as needed.

Susan Cummings, Editor
Will Warner, Executive Director

www.salinefiddlers.com

Would you prefer to get the newsletter in color by email?
Please email your preference to webmaster@salinefiddlers.com.

Opportunities to See The Saline Fiddlers

Friday, June 4, 7:00 pm
South Lyon Concerts in the Park
McHattie Park Gazebo
Dorothy Street, South Lyon, MI
www.southlyonmi.org

Friday, June 11, 7:00 pm
CD Release Party
Saline Summer Concert Series
N. Ann Arbor St, Saline, MI
www.cityofsaline.org/www.besaline.com

Saturday, June 19 (Time TBA)
Mayfly Music Festival
Wolverine Park
242 Toledo St., Dundee, MI
www.mayflymusicfestival.com

Tuesday, June 22, 7:00 pm
Swartz Creek Fine Arts Concert Series
Pajtas Theatre
8099 Civic Drive, Swartz Creek, MI
www.cityofswartzcreek.org

June 28—July 6 Summer Tour of Texas

Thursday, July 8, 7:00 pm
Pigeon Bandshell Concert Series
Pigeon Bandshell,
Corner of Park St. & Rollie Smith Dr.
Pigeon, MI
www.pigeonbandshell.com

Saturday, July 10, 4:30 pm
Marine City Arts and Music Festival
Nautical Mile Park
Marine City, MI
www.marinecitymusicfestival.com

Wednesday, July 14, 12:00 noon
Plymouth Music in the Park Series
Kellogg Park
Plymouth, MI
www.plymouthartsc.com

Thursday, July 15, 7:00 pm
Hudsonville Concert Series
Veterans Park, next to City Hall
3275 Central Blvd, Hudsonville, MI
www.hudsonville.org or
www.hudsonvillechamber.com

Friday, July 16, 7:00 pm
The Festival at St. Joseph Church
6805 Mast Road, Dexter, MI
www.stjosfestival.com & www.stjos.com

July 21—25 Fiddling Around Michigan Mini-Tour

Friday, August 6, 6:30 & 8:00 pm
Carey Fest
101 East Findlay St., Carey, OH
www.careyohio.org

Saturday, August 7, 4:30 pm
Hogstravaganza Festival
100 West Main St., Homer, MI
www.homerchamber.org

Sunday, August 15, 5:00 pm
Music at Main Concert Series
Main Library
4600 Walnut Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI
www.wblib.org or 248-682-2120

Thursday, August 19, 7:00 pm
Stars in the Park Concert Series
Heritage Park Amphitheatre
Farmington Rd, between 10 & 11 Mile Rds
Farmington Hills, MI
www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us



Tour of Texas Performance Schedule

June 29: San Antonio—San Pedro Presbyterian Church, evening
June 30: Austin—State Capitol Rotunda, noon lunch series
June 30: The Oasis on Lake Travis in Austin, 7:30pm
July 2: Texas State University Strings Camp in San Marcos, fiddling workshop and evening performance
July 3: San Antonio—Arneson River Theatre, Fiesta Noche Del Rio, 6:00 pm
July 4: Ingleside—Naval Station Wharf, Sail South Texas 2010 International Tall Ships and Independence Festival (near Corpus Christie), 3:30pm

Fiddling Around Michigan Performance Schedule

July 21: Superior Concert Series at Soo Locks, Soo Locks Park, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 7:00 pm
July 22: Bayside Live! Concert Series, New Pavilion, St. Ignace Public Marina, St. Ignace, MI, 7:00 pm
July 23: Rogers City Summer Concert Series, Lakeside Park Bandshell, Rogers City, MI, 7:00 pm
July 24: Charlevoix Venetian Festival, Clarence Odmark Pavilion Bandshell, downtown Charlevoix MI, 6:00 pm

Check our website: www.salinefiddlers.com and click "Schedule" for details about any of these performances.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these performances!



Hometown Concert Fall 2009

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

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

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See Page 9 Inside for Details

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

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