Fiddlin' Around

The Saline Fiddlers

Volume 17, Number 2 www.salinefiddlers.com Spring 2011

Senior Edition

This Edition of "Fiddlin' Around" is Dedicated to Our Seven Senior Fiddlers and Their Parents. Read All About Them on Pages 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Land O'Lakes Summer Tour

by David Olsen

Summer is just around the corner and that means travel time for the Saline Fiddlers. After two straight years of long distance journeys to Germany and Texas, we have pulled in the reins somewhat to stay in the Midwest.

The Saline Fiddler Summer Tour will be heading out on June 27th to Chicago, Wisconsin and Northern Michigan. Wisconsin represents the 24th state in which the group has performed. Our itinerary will take us to Navy Pier in Chicago, the Wisconsin Dells, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Sheboygan, Sturgeon Bay, Egg Harbor, Manitowoc, Lake City and Crystal Mountain before we head back to Saline on July 6th.



The S.S. Badger getting underway from Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Over this 10 day excursion, the Saline Fiddlers will perform at six great festivals, as listed on the right. Weather and waves permitting, we also have an opportunity to perform on the S.S. Badger, a coal-fired passenger and vehicle ferry that has been in service on Lake Michigan since 1953, as we cruise across Lake Michigan from Manitowoc to Ludington on July 3rd. This is the first time that we have taken our road show over the water. Hence the name of our summer tour was born.

This year's tour will also provide an opportunity to partake in some adventurous activities at the Mt. Olympus Water Park, riding Jet Boats, discovering Door County, Wisconsin, staying at a historic haunted hotel, and many other surprises along the way. As always, tour planning was a challenge to obtain just the right venues and opportunities for our talented teens; but, our committee of Mark Visovatti, Gretchen Waters and I feel confident that a good time will be had by all.



Navy Pier on Lake Michigan in Chicago, Illinois



Land 'O Lakes Summer Tour Performance Schedule

Wednesday, June 29, 7:15 pm
Fond du Lac Buttermilk Festival Series
Buttermilk Creek Park Amphitheater
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
www.fdlsymphonicband.org

Thursday, June 30, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm
Green Bay Summer in the Park Music Series
Jackson Square Park, Green Bay, Wisconsin
www.downtowngreenbay.com

Friday, July 1, 7:00 pm
Sheboygan Twilight Concert Series
Fountain Park Band Shell, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
www.visitsheboygan.org

Saturday, July 2, 7:00 pm
Egg Harbor Sunset Concert Series
Peg Egan Performing Arts Center Amphitheater
Egg Harbor, Michigan
www.theartofmusiclive.com

Monday, July 4, 1:00 pm
Greatest 4th in the North Celebration
City Park Stage, Lake City, Michigan
www.lakecitymich.com

Tuesday, July 5, 6:30 & 7:30 pm
Crystal Mountain Resort Special Entertainment
Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, Michigan
www.crystalmountain.com

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

Answers on Page 9







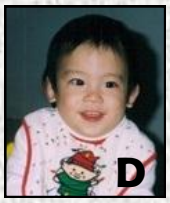






















The Fiddlers' Most Enthusiastic Fans
Fiddler Parents

Gary and Kari Bonds—Kari drives to gigs, provides meals at camps and is the keeper and coordinator of the donor/mailing database. She assists with Hometown Show stage decorating, puts up posters and has offered up the use of her home for Hometown Show preparations. She and Gary together did a tour of duty coordinating Hometown concessions. Gary, also a gig driver and stage decorator, is best known as the keeper and coordinator of the Hometown Show black stage boards. Gary and Kari will be around another 2 years since their younger daughter decided to join the Fiddlers too!

Richard and Ruth Hwang—Both of Richard and Ruth's sons have been Fiddlers! Ruth spent years as the Hometown Show coordinator and helped build stage sets. She has driven to gigs, baked and cooked, and provided food for camps. Richard has driven to many gigs.

Mark and Julie Kuykendall—Julie has co-headed the Chordial Silent Auction, coordinated and displayed the Fiddler Hometown Show portraits, cooked and provided food for camps, helped with Hometown Show decorating, hosted Hometown parties (at home and at Mark's hotel), helped at the merchandise table and is always willing to pitch in and go the extra mile. Mark has been the Fiddlers' dedicated Business Manager for years (along with his trusty assistant Julie). Mark has also driven to gigs, put up Hometown posters and has been a big promoter which has created opportunities for the Fiddlers. Mark and Julie both have deep Texas roots and had a big hand in arranging the Texas Summer Tour of 2010.

Larry and Debbie Menchak—All four of Larry and Debbie's children have fiddled! They are both very involved in the Hometown Shows by being in charge of the huge responsibility of ticket sales, and they have a big hand in selecting and signing the guest artist. They also put up posters and have other promotional advice and input. They have kept the donor/mailing database in order, driven to gigs and provided food for camps. They also have hosted numerous Fiddler kid parties. They won't say good-bye yet as they have one more daughter in the group for another two years.

Mark and Val Morsfield—Val keeps busy driving to gigs, cooking camp food, baking sweets and tagging along as the camp and tour nurse/chaperone, where she became known as the originator of the "bedtime story." She has been in charge of the Fiddler medical supply bag, ensuring it contains needed supplies. She has decorated and provided guest artist hospitality at Hometown Shows, and filled in as Event Manager at gigs and supervised the merchandise table. Mark drives to gigs and has helped out as an usher at Hometown Shows.

Jim and Marge O'Connell—Marge has helped with camp clean up, driven to gigs, and, along with Jim, has headed up the Hometown Show guest artist hospitality. Jim, also a gig driver, is probably best known for his discussion with the Fiddlers just before the very first Chordial, about the purpose of the event and the proper etiquette they should observe.

Mark and Melissa Phillips—Melissa has driven to many gigs, cooked and coordinated some spectacular camp breakfasts. She has co-headed the Chordial Silent Auction, hosted many informal Fiddler social gatherings and is there to help with anything at Hometown Shows. Mark has driven to gigs and ushered at the Hometown Shows, spending the last two years as head usher.



Rachel B. has been a hard working, dedicated Fiddler during the last four years, who has honed her skills as violinist, clogger, and primary female vocalist.

Rachel says, *"During my first year in Fiddlers, I was somewhat shy on stage and found it difficult to balance smiling, moving, and playing at the same time. Now I feel more comfortable on stage and I can talk better in front of large audiences without getting nervous (most of the time). I have also grown confident in taking on greater responsibility and learned time management skills that will carry over to future endeavors."*

Rachel says each summer tour has been awesome, but her favorite one would have to be the Texas Tour. She says, *"I really enjoyed the weather, even though it was a BIT humid. But being able to go to the NASA center and see the Alamo was really cool! My favorite part was when we went down to Corpus Christi and toured the U.S.S. Lexington CV-16. My Grandpa Bonds served on that ship during WWII, and after all the stories he told me, I finally got the experience of seeing it myself."*

Rachel says, *"I love everything about Fiddlers!"* In addition to music, travel, and the sense of accomplishment coming with hard work, many of her favorite memories are the great times shared with Fiddler comrades. In addition to Fiddlers, Rachel has participated in National Honor Society for one year and run cross country at Saline High School for three years. In the Fall, she plans to study biology at the University of Michigan, with the goal of attending medical school and becoming a physician or surgeon.

Her words of advice to new Fiddlers are, *"Take each moment for what it is. Time in Fiddlers goes super fast! Don't dwell on small things; focus on working hard, playing the music, and just having fun!"*



It has been great having **Markus** as a Fiddler violinist, leader and business dynamo for the last four years!

Markus reflects, *"My first year, I was just stressed out about learning the notes. After that, I had a gradual transition to pursuing higher musical goals, and I ultimately also learned more about how to lead effectively."* As a matter of fact, he always knew rehearsing a lot was going to be part of the job, but did not imagine that he would be leading as much as he did. Markus says, *"We spend a lot of time in sectionals, especially at camp, and I really enjoy those. My section is like a little family, and we manage to have a lot of fun while getting things done."* In addition to playing violin and leading his section, Markus got involved in the promotional side of Fiddlers. He organized "mini-gigs" and helped design posters to help promote the Hometown Shows

Markus' favorite Fiddler gig was in Lindenberg, Germany, at the final show performed during the Fiddlers almost two week tour of Germany in 2009. Markus says, *"We got to show our appreciation for all of our hosts by playing for them. The town square was packed with our new friends and host families, and we ended up playing encore after encore."*

As far as summer tours, Markus' most favorite, so far, was the Texas tour. He said, *"It was very well planned, and we did a lot of fun stuff."* The most memorable part of it for him was the group comradery. *"Everyone seemed to get along very well and there was a very comfortable group dynamic."*

This coming Fall, Markus will be attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue a major in Music Business. Markus says, *"It's going to be a big change to live in Nashville, and I am looking forward to it! I hope to be in the music industry after that. I don't have a specific job in mind yet; I could work in bookings, do road managing, work at a venue, or do a number of other possible jobs."*

Markus' words of advice to new Fiddlers are that it is very important to put in a consistent amount of work, energy, and enthusiasm, even on the days when you don't feel like it. He says, *"Just remember that you've worked really hard to get to where you are, and that not many kids get to do what you get to do. It's important not to take Fiddlers for granted."*



Everyone has loved hearing **Brad** on the violin for the past four years! What a treat!

Brad says he has changed a lot during his time as a Fiddler. *"I have grown as a musician and also as a person and leader. I started off in Fiddlers a lot more shy and timid than I am now, and I was not comfortable with leading people at all. Now I'm a section leader and teacher, and I really enjoy it."*

One of the main musical areas of growth for Brad has been learning how to improvise. He says, *"When I joined Fiddlers, I had no experience improvising, and now, especially in the past two years, I have started improvising solos."* Brad says Fiddlers has been a great place to learn and practice this skill.

Brad's favorite gig was the show at The Oasis Restaurant in Austin, Texas in 2010. Brad's favorite tour was the Germany tour in the summer 2009. *"It was fun meeting and staying with host families, and playing gigs for foreign crowds. They were really enthusiastic."*

In addition to Fiddlers, Brad has performed on violin with the local band, Millish; soloed with the Livingston Symphony Orchestra; attended the International Music Academy Plzen, in Plzen Czech Republic; and this summer will be going to the Mark O'Connor String Camp in Tennessee.

Future goals include attending The University of Michigan School of Music, *"diving deep into learning jazz over the next four years."* From there he plans to get his Masters in Music, and take every opportunity he can to develop a performing arts music career. He doesn't know exactly what path that will take, but he is willing to try many different types of performances and opportunities.

Advice to new Fiddlers from Brad is, *"always keep a positive attitude towards the group and everyone in it. It will make things easier for you and more enjoyable for everybody."*



A fond farewell is wished to graduate **Rachel M.** who has been a hardworking and fun-loving Fiddler violinist and clogger for the last four years.

Rachel shares that she has gleaned many things during her Fiddler career. She says, *"I have learned a lot about working with others and the importance of putting the group's needs before your own. I have also learned the best way to learn music in a very short amount of time."*

Her most memorable summer tour had to be the 2009 Germany tour. Rachel says, *"It was the best two weeks I've ever had."* The performances in Rudolstadt, in the province of Thuringia, once part of East Germany were interesting. The Fiddlers were invited to play two performances at TFF Rudolstadt, an international folk festival there, and were perhaps the only American group performing. The first performance was for an enthusiastic audience in a small lounge. The second performance was outside on a large stage. This crowd was also very enthusiastic, with people and many families dancing in front of the stage.

Her most memorable show, however, was the farewell performance played in the town square, in Lindenberg im Allgau, Germany.

Other interesting experiences that Rachel has enjoyed are teaching violin, being on the Saline High School track team, and being home-schooled through her sophomore year in high school. In the Fall, she is excited to be attending The University of Michigan, planning on studying biomedical engineering.

Rachel's words of advice to new Fiddlers are: *"Know when to work and when to have fun, because the fun will be so much better when you know you have earned it!"*



Greg, talented violist and lead male vocalist, has been a key member for the last four years.

As Greg reflects on his Fiddler career, he says one of the most important things he has learned is, *"You get out of it what you put into it."* With increased dedication, one can turn a mediocre *"good grasp of the music and decent relationships"* into one of the best experiences in life, both musically and relationship-wise.

He has also learned how to pace himself and manage his time effectively. Greg says, *"One has to know when to put forth 110% in effort and when to rest. Recognizing this is important to your own sanity."* However, even when resting, Greg says one always has to be on high alert, because there are often things that need to be done that you must see and do without anyone telling you.

One of Greg's most memorable Fiddler events was the first time he played with the group. Greg says, *"I felt semi-confident about the music at the time. We played "Catharsis," and I was blown away by how fun it was."* The 2009 Germany tour was *"incredible."* His favorite show was part of this tour, the farewell show in Lindenberg, Germany. Greg says, *"We got four encores, and to this day, I have never played for such an enthusiastic crowd!"* Some of the other standout Fiddler shows for Greg were playing as a part of the 2010 Jeff Daniels Show in Ann Arbor and playing the 2008 Hometown Show with the Elders.

In addition to music, Greg has played soccer at Saline High School for a couple of years and has been active in his church, serving on the worship team there. Greg will be attending the University of Michigan in the Fall, planning on studying therapeutic psychology or physical therapy.

Greg's advice to new Fiddlers is: *"Don't let Fiddlers consume your life, but don't let it slip by either; I guarantee you will regret it. The more involved you become, the more fun you'll have. Oh, also do other things with your instrument besides Fiddlers; play in a pit orchestra; put together a quartet and try some wedding gigs. There's so much to be had from this group, so much. Take every ounce you can get!"*



Marty has been a solid, appreciated violinist for the Fiddlers. He's the "guy with the curly hair!" -- as he is introduced at Fiddler shows, who then bows and flips off his black hat to show that curly hair!

Marty says he has gained many life lessons and made many friends during his tenure with the Fiddlers. He says he has learned the importance of a strong work ethic—working hard towards a common goal with the Fiddlers and then being rewarded with high quality musical accomplishments and lots of fun. He has also learned responsibility and the importance of integrity of character.

One of Marty's favorite memories was playing the closing show in Lindenberg, Germany, during the 2009 summer tour. Marty says, "*It was incredible playing four encores for all our host families and new friends."* But Marty says his all-time favorite tour was the East Coast Tour in 2008. He enjoyed the long bus rides with his friends, played some of the best shows of his life, and stayed for three days in a mansion with a host family.

One of his favorite shows during this tour was playing at Boothbay Harbor, Maine, on a warm summer evening, in a small crowded Opera House for a roaring crowd. The hotter it got, the more enthusiastic the crowd became, and the more enthusiastic the Fiddlers became! It was a very memorable and fun event. Of course, it was capped off with homemade ice cream, from a local confectionary which stayed open late to serve the thirty hot and enthused Fiddlers after the show.

Well-rounded Marty has also competed in several sports. He won the Michigan Cyclocross state championship in 2009, and came in 3rd in the Michigan Mountain Biking state competition in 2010. In addition, he played freshman and JV soccer as well as running track for two years at Saline High School. In the future, he plans to go to Virginia Polytechnic Institute to study engineering, where he will also race bikes and work on a baja car team.

His words of advice to new Fiddlers are, *"Enjoy it while you can, because it goes by fast."*



Meredith has been a valiant three-year cellist and clogger with the Fiddlers who will be missed by all.

She says she has changed and grown a lot during these three years. *"I've become much more confident in music and willing to try new things out without the fear of messing up. I've learned to be more appreciative of others' hard work that has made me who I am, not just my own effort."* She credits her family, teachers and peers with helping her reach her musical goals. In addition, she has grown in the responsibility of leadership, being both the cello section leader and the clogging dance captain.

As far as favorite tours, Meredith says, *"The 2009 Germany tour was my first summer Fiddler tour and one of the most memorable experiences of Fiddlers! I got to do a lot of hiking when I was with my host family, the Nottenbergs. They were the best host family ever! On the first day of tour my host Carla came with her friend Monika to pick up Dan Lahnala and me with two cellos and two large suitcases. We had to put all the stuff into a little car called a Twiggie. It was a little squished…"*

In addition to music, Meredith has many other diverse interests, talents, and accomplishments. At Saline High School she participated in volleyball; varsity crew; cross country; link crew; and varsity lacrosse for which she was captain and MVP. At church she participated in Young Life. She has had several jobs including working at the Spotted Dog Winery and at Brecon Village teaching photography, in addition to free lance photography work and teaching two cello students.

As far as future plans, Meredith will be attending Eastern Michigan University, majoring in biology and environmental science, as well as playing on their lacrosse team. She is also an applicant to the University of Michigan Naval ROTC program. She would like to pursue a career in the military as an Environmental Health Officer and retire to the Peace Corps.

Meredith's words of advice to new Fiddlers: *"Don't stress TOO much. There are more important things in life than taking seven AP classes and getting a 4.5 GPA and getting into the most prestigious university in the world. While these are admirable things to strive for, the moment you let them get the best of you, it's probably time to rethink priorities. Live your life."*



Congratulations!

To Our Final Graduate of 2011

Artistic Director,
Mr. Ben Culver

After seven years of study, he has completed his Masters Degree in Arts Management from Eastern Michigan University.

Welcome To Our New Fiddlers!



Andrew	**Guitar**
Andrew	**Violin**
Tristan	**Bass**
George	**Cello**
Garrik	**Cello**
Philip	**Tech**

Welcome David Olsen

The Saline Fiddlers' 3rd Executive Director

by Will Warner—Retired 2nd Executive Director

The Bylaws of the Saline Fiddlers give an oversight role to its Board of Directors, complete artistic control to its Artistic Director and responsibility for everything else to an Executive Director who fashions and oversees a staff of Fiddler parents. It is a crucial, challenging and time-consuming job.

In January, David Olsen took the helm of the organization as its third Executive Director. He brings to the position 40 years of business management experience at Bechtel Corporation and Consumers Energy Company and a 10 year association with the group in other roles. Dave has a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from U of M and an MBA. Dave's involvement started, as it does for most of us, as the parent of a Fiddler—in Dave's case, two Fiddlers: a cellist and violist, which might explain why he is so low-key. For many years he has been a major force in planning our summer tours, fundraising and marketing.



Will Warner *(Retired 2nd Executive Director),* ***David Olsen*** *(3rd Executive Director) and* ***Doug Rhine*** *(Retired Event Manager)*

Additionally, Dave and Priscilla Olsen (Priscilla is the group's Event Manager and not-so-low-key mother of the cellist and violist), together with Ben Culver who has been there from the beginning, serve as institutional memory for the organization. They provide knowledge and perspective drawn from our long history and cherished traditions. All of this ensures that each new class receives the same robust and life-changing Fiddler experience.

I am pleased to pass the baton to my friend David Olsen. My decade with the group was the most rewarding of my life and I retired hoping that the whole wonderful miracle that is the Saline Fiddlers will go on, just as I knew it, forever. With the continued leadership of people like Ben Culver and Dave Olsen, I'm confident it will.

Thank You to All Our Generous Fans That Came Out and Supported Us at Our 4th Annual Chordial!

Pickin' Circle Player

Shar Music Company

Tourist

Dale Fisher Photography
Steve Davis
Evangelical Home
Lafontaine Automotive Group
Northwest Acoustical
Spotted Dog Winery
Mike & Donna Stephens

Groupie

Joan & Gary Scheske
Ron Schofield Jr.
Will & Nancy Warner
John & Anne Wharton
Saline Kumon Math & Reading Center

Concert Goer

Larry & Patricia Aretha
Amy & Walt Armstrong
Kelly Blaney
John & Cindy Bonczyk
Walt & Nancy Byers
Holiday Inn and Suites
Ross & Joyce Kaferle
Joe & Vi Kellersohn
Tom Kirvan
Tom & Jennifer Lahnala
Ken & Fran Liabenow
Joe & Iris Mehailescu
Money Source Financial Services
Val Morsfield
David & Priscilla Olsen
Jim & Linda Olsen
Bill & Lynda Shea
Garrick Slawski
Robin Sloan & Tim Allen

Fan

Mark & Sandra Aretha
Robert & Leighann Bailey
Shelly & Jeff Banet
Patty Benedict
David & Sheila Blough
Brecon Village
Karen Casady
Conlin Travel
Sue Cowen
Shannon Culver
Susan & Jeff Cummings
Jim Danehy
B.J. Danneffel
Ann Davis
Mary Ann Doneth
Jill Durnen
Laura Earle
Fred & Shirley Ellicott
Jack Evilsizer
Lyle Filkins
Leo Giannola
Bob Grondin
Louise Grondin
Mary Grondin
Dr. David Hume
Kendall Academy of Golf
Matt Koziel
Susan Kung
Joyce Leslie
Andrew Leutheuser
Bonnie & Kurt Leutheuser
Nature's Garden Center
Diane & Troy Newberry
Cindy & Joe O'Brien
Khris Kiser-Ortman
Larry & Carol Osterling
Becky & Paul Pazkowski
Meredith Phillips
Polo Fields Golf & Country Club
Karen Ragland
Bob Remenapp
Paul & Peggy Rzepka
Judy & J.D. Shipman
Darlene & Paul Slagle
Spotted Dog Winery
Stonebridge Golf Club
Tim Theis
Travis Pointe Country Club
Dr. Lawrence Uhrie
Frank Visovatti
Claude & Jean Wimer
Mark Wimer

Friend

Marge & Bernie Aretha
Bill's Barber Shop
John Boyer & Mary Jean Raab
Brecon Grille
Brewed Awakenings
Brookside Golf Club
Country Market
Marge Delhey
Hilltop Nursery
Taña Huyck
KFC
Lake Forest Golf Club
Lodi Farms
Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack
Mangiamos
Miles of Golf
Tim & Mary Neff
Reddeman Farms Golf Club
John Remenapp
Riverside Grill
Rustic Glen Golf Club
Saline Ace Hardware
Saline Sport Shack
Teresa Schmidt
Mark Schofield
Ron Schofield Sr.
Mary Stefani
Subway
Dr. Terry Timm
Turner's Nursery
Ugly Dog Distillery
Walmart
Whole Foods-Eisenhower
Whole Foods-Washtenaw
Wings, Pizza N Things

Words of Wisdom from the Senior Fiddlers

Things We've Learned about Fiddler Parents

- They are like soccer moms for musicians.
- They're there to help! Usually….
- Mrs. Olsen will always ask if you have lipstick.
- They're really still kids at heart, just like us.
- Talk to them. Many of them are quite humorous.

Words of Wisdom from the Senior Fiddlers

Things We've Learned About Audiences

- Audiences clap to their own drummer.
- Give them something to smile about, they want to see a performance.
- They sit in the shade—no matter how far away the shade is.

WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT HOMETOWN SHOWS?

by Caroline Hart

When Terese VanHout asked me to help produce the Hometown Show last fall, we sat down to go over all the aspects involved in putting on the show. I was amazed at how much energy and effort goes into each one. I was actually skeptical about whether this much work really made sense – and twice a year, no less!



Fiddler Merchandise tastefully displayed for sales at the Winter Hometown Show

After the show last fall, I became a believer in the purpose and the importance of these high-energy events which take months to prepare. The result of everyone's efforts makes for an exceptional night of great musical performances, gracious hospitality and inspirational levels of commitment on the part of our Fiddlers. It's also a wonderful opportunity for future Fiddlers to experience what's possible and to try out real instruments for themselves from Shar Music Co. at the Instrument Petting Zoo.

Each fall and winter, the playlists and new music are introduced at Fiddle Camp. Over the next several months, the group works intensively to perfect the songs, staging and all aspects of their performance. Even on the day of the show, the Fiddlers are involved in a workshop with the featured guest artist. In the period of about an hour and a half, they learn and rehearse a song (for the first time) which they will perform with the guest artist that same evening! It truly is amazing how easy they make it look.

Working with these guest artists is an invaluable opportunity for our young musicians to develop an understanding and appreciation of what it means to be professionals and this comes through in the performances that follow throughout the year. Perhaps this is why we always hear from our audiences how it is hard to believe they are in high school – they go above and beyond all expectations.



Jennifer Nowicki, greeting Hometown Guests as they enjoy cookies and punch during intermission.

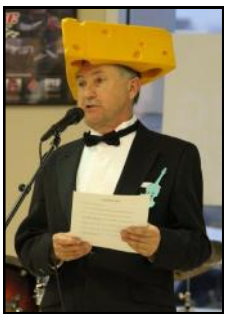
We are so grateful for the use of the Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center which provides the best production facility of it's kind – making the show technically and aesthetically top quality – and highlighting our talented performers. If you haven't treated yourself to a show there, you've missed out. Don't let it happen again! The date of the Fall Hometown Show is Saturday, November 5th. Mark your calendar! See you there!

THE 4TH ANNUAL SALINE FIDDLER CHORDIAL

by Bonnie Leutheuser, photos by Matt Heiber

It was more than an evening of great entertainment, delicious food and wine, fun auction items and good conversations. It was an evening dedicated to raising monies for the highly anticipated Saline Fiddler Summer Tour to Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan as well as an opportunity to meet the incoming class of musicians. The summer tours are the frosting-on-the-cake for our Fiddlers after "playing" hard all year. These tours are a wonderful opportunity for our kids to experience different parts of our country, meet people from many walks of life and share their music.

I'm delighted to report that this year's Chordial raised nearly $24,000!



Executive Director David Olsen, sporting a Wisconsin Greenbay Cheesehead Hat.

The Saline Fiddler Board appreciates and thanks our sponsors who made it possible for all donations to benefit the Fiddlers!! LaFontaine Dodge Chrysler Jeep supplied the location and all the tables, chairs and linens; Spotted Dog Winery donated the wine for tasting and table favors; Whole Foods provided the flowers; Schakolad made the very cool chocolate violins; and once again Evangelical Homes of Michigan donated all the Summer Tour themed hors d'oeuvres and desserts which were delicious! The wonderful array of silent auction items by so many businesses and individuals this year certainly added to the excitement. And who makes it more fun than Lucy Ann Lance, our very own emcee, the hostess-with-the-mostess! The evening was jump-started by Shar Music Company offering to match the first $5,000 that was raised during the event. We appreciate and love all the support these businesses and individuals provided. Thank you!

The success of the Chordial also comes from the many parents and board members who donated their time and talent behind the scenes. Becky Pazkowski kept the purpose and vision fresh in our minds so we stayed on track and reminded us that we can do this! Louise Grondin and Peggy Rzepka organized all the tables and table captains, Amy Armstrong and Julie Kuykendall gathered and organized the wide variety of Silent Auction items, and Pricilla Olsen and her committee transformed the dealership into a festive spring event! Gretchen Waters kept the adding machine busy and coordinated our follow-up. We also appreciate all the folks who were Table Captains and invited friends, family and business people to the Chordial. And to the attendees, we send you a very big thank you for your enthusiasm and support! You, my friends, made it a very special evening!

The Saline Fiddlers is a group of high school students and musicians we are proud of, we believe in and we want to see playing well into the future! I'm happy to support them and I'm so glad you are too!

Thank you all so much and travel safely this summer!



Lucy Ann Lance and Ben Culver

The Chordial Silent Auction

A Mad Merriment Money Maker

by Priscilla Olsen, photos by Matt Heiber

Thanks to co-chairs Julie Kuykendall and Melissa Phillips, the 2011 Chordial Silent Auction was the most robust ever! The bidding was fast and furious as people hovered over their coveted items. There was so much from which to choose – from University of Michigan football tickets (which included parking) to private catered dinners for four to Walt Armstrong's unique violin lamps – there was something for everyone!



Dale Fisher Framed Art Photos

One of the highlights was the handmade mahogany Adirondack chair that craftsman and Fiddler dad Ron Schofield, Jr. designed and built in his home workshop… the seed has been planted that a pair of those masterpieces would be appreciated for next year's Chordial – get busy Ron! (No pressure).

A big hit were the three golf packages that David and Priscilla Olsen put together. They brought in over $600 and were a real deal, especially if you like to hit the links. The biggest ticket item was a week long stay at a luxurious log cabin in the mountains outside of vacation destination Gatlinburg, TN which a lucky bidder won for only $800.

Another item caught in a bidding war was the lighted Europa bubbler fountain that was donated by Nature's Garden Center and included gift certificates from local garden centers and garden accessories from Junga's Ace Hardware. Rumor has it that the lucky winner will host a garden party to show off her new prize.



An original violin lamp crafted by Walt Armstrong



Hand burned and color stained gourds crafted and donated by Ron Schofield, Sr.

Several photo books and framed art photos were up for grabs from famed local aerial photographer Dale Fisher. Dale is a personal friend of Artistic Director Ben Culver's and he was pleased to donate these spectacular local photographic landmarks such as Mott's Children's Hospital, the Big House and other treasured sites.

Says Khris Kiser-Ortman, *"I ended the night with the Saline restaurant gift certificate package which included some of my favorite haunts such as Mac's and Brecon Grill. I so enjoy the Chordial and the Fiddlers will always hold a special place in my heart."*

The evening ended with the exciting announcement that the 2011 Chordial was the most successful one yet, with over $5,000 brought in by the auction items alone. Kudos to each and every one of you for your contributions and for your dedication to this amazing premier youth fiddling showband.

Let us know if you would like to be invited to the 5th annual Chordial in April 2012 by sending an email to chordial@salinefiddlers.com. It promises to be another spectacular event. So see you next year and get ready to party!

Words of Wisdom from the Senior Fiddlers

Things We've Learned about Sleeping

- Never fall asleep first on tour or at camp.
- Sleep is wonderful, but rare.
- Don't be the first to fall asleep in your hotel room, cuz the others WILL prank you.
- Greg falls asleep just about anywhere….
- It's impossible to sleep on the bus
- Sleeping on a tour bus is trippy.
- There IS a perfect way to sleep on the bus, don't let anyone tell you any differently. You will be ridiculed for it, but dang it, you'll sleep well. Contact Greg for more information.

Fiddlin' Around

The official newsletter of

The Saline Fiddlers

Susan Cummings, Editor
David Olsen, Executive Director

www.salinefiddlers.com

Future Newsletters

Unless we have received a request for a paper copy, "Fiddlin Around" will only be distributed by email in the future.

Please see the enclosed postcard for more information.

Words of Wisdom from the Senior Fiddlers

Things We've Learned About Fiddler Costumes

- Fiddler costumes are half black.
- They can always, ALWAYS be more bedazzled.
- Black skirts and tights do NOT go well with hot, sunny summer days.
- They're never as bad as people think.
- Polish your shoes!

Thank you to **Cindy O'Brien** for interviewing the seniors and writing their Fiddler biographies on pages 3, 4 & 5.

Opportunities to See The Saline Fiddlers

Friday, June 10, 7:00 pm
Saline Summer Concert Series
N. Ann Arbor St, Saline, MI
www.salinedma.org

Saturday, June 18, 1:00—2:00 pm
Potter Park Zoo Kids' Fest
Near the Discovery Center
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI
www.potterparkzoo.org/W1M

Thursday, June 23, 7:00 pm
Monroe Concert Series in the Park
St. Mary's Park Bandshell
Corner of W. Elm Ave & N. Monroe St.
Monroe, MI
www.ci.monroe.mi.us

Friday, June 24, 7:00 pm
DIA: Friday Night Live!
Detroit Institute of Arts
5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.dia.org

June 27—July 6
Land 'O Lakes
Summer Tour
See the Front Page for details

Friday, July 8, 7:00 pm
Manchester Community Fair
Manchester Community Fairgrounds
Wolverine St. & E. Vernon St.
Manchester, MI
www.manchesterfair.org

Saturday, July 9, 7:00—9:00 pm
Elsie Dairy Festival
Main Street Stage, Elsie, MI
www.elsiedairyfest.com or www.elsie.org

Saturday, July 13, 12:00 noon
Plymouth Music in the Park Series
Kellogg Park,
W. Ann Arbor Trail & Main St.
Plymouth, MI
www.plymoutharts.com

Thursday, July 14, 12:00 noon
Gifts of Art Program Performance
In the Courtyard, U of M Hospital
1500 E. Medical Center Drive,
Ann Arbor, MI
www.med.umich.edu/goa/performances.htm

Saturday, July 16, 12:00 noon
Downtown Farmington
Founders Festival
Main Stage
Near Grand River and Farmington Road
Farmington, MI
www.foundersfestival.com

Tuesday, July 16, 12:00 noon
Milan Senior and Community
Activity Center Picnic
Milan Senior & Activity Center
45 Neckel Court, Milan, MI
www.milanmich.org or
www.blueprintforaging.org

Wednesday, July 20, 7:00—900 pm
Flushing
Concert in the Park Series
Riverview Park, 218 S. Cherry St.
Flushing, MI
www.flushingchamber.com

Saturday, July 23, *Time TBA*
Blue Water Fest
Port Huron, MI
www.thebluewaterfest.com

Wednesday, August 3, 6:00 pm
NTI (Electricians) Block Party
Main Street between William & Liberty
Ann Arbor, MI
www.visitannarbor.org

Tuesday, August 9, 10:30 am
"Tunes on Tuesdays" Series
Northville Town Square
Between Mary Alexander Ct. & Main
Street, Northville, MI
www.downtownnorthville.org or
www.northvilleparksandrec.org

Thursday, August 15, 6:00 pm
UA (Plumbers) Block Party
Main Street between William & Liberty
Ann Arbor, MI
www.visitannarbor.org

Sunday, September 4, 2:00 & 4:00 pm
Marshall County
Blueberry Festival
Centennial Park
1600 N. Michigan St., Plymouth, IN
www.blueberryfestival.org

Saturday, September 17, 4:00 pm
Northville Victorian Festival
Northville Town Square
133 W. Main St., Northville, MI
www.northville.org

Sunday, September 18, 1:30 & 3:30 pm
Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival
503 Fairgrounds Dr., Paulding, OH
www.villageofpaulding.com

Saturday, September 24, (time TBA)
Saline Harvest of the Arts
Oktoberfest
North Ann Arbor St., Saline, MI
www.salinedma.org/hoa/

We are constantly updating and adding to our performance schedule.

Go to www.salinefiddlers.com and click on "schedule" for our most up-to-date information.

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

Words of Wisdom from the Senior Fiddlers

Things We've Learned about Our Fellow Fiddlers

- Some just need to be left alone when they're grumpy.
- Best Friends For Life!
- They become your second family.
- People are never as important as they think they are, and we (the Fiddlers) are always more important than they think we are.
- Fellow Fiddlers know you better than anyone.
- They're all good people at heart. Remember that when you want to strangle them (and the other way around!).

Senior Baby Key	
1	D—Markus
2	F—Greg
3	E—Rachel B.
4	G—Meredith
5	B—Marty
6	A—Brad
7	C—Rachel M.

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

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4th Annual Chordial Entertainment

Ben Culver……..	……**Artistic Director**
Brad Phillips……	Assistant Artistic Director
Reid Smith……..	Assistant Artistic Director
Sheila Graziano……..	……..Choreographer
Dianne Newberry……	……..Vocal Coach
David Olsen……..	…….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

See Page 9 Inside for More Information

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