The Newsletter of the Saline Fiddlers

Fiddlin' Around

Volume 15, Number 2 www.salinefiddlers.com Fall 2009

SHAR Music Presents: The Saline Fiddlers' 2009 Germany Tour

By Will Warner

A year-and-a-half in the planning, this summer's tour took the Saline Fiddlers to Germany. We were able to combine an extended stay in Saline's sister city, Lindenberg im Allgau, with a schedule of performances in the German provinces of Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, and Thuringia.

Lufthansa took us directly from Detroit to Frankfurt. Robert Burkhard of Burkhard-Reisen (i.e., "Burkhard Travel") met us with his motor coach. We were in his capable hands for the next 11 days of concerts and sight-seeing.

Also meeting us there was sound engineer Robert Schmidt of Pool Sound, our supplier of gear for the tour. Robert assisted our own technical staff in the successful mounting of nine shows in those 11 days.

The first show was scheduled for the marketplace of Tubingen, Ann Arbor's *partnerstadt.* It appeared to be rained out, but a funny thing happened: The bands scheduled to perform at a peace rally in town all went home; the rain stopped; the stage was there and ready; we were granted permission to use it.

The Saline Fiddlers began to play and a crowd gathered. Then, in a move reminiscent of Abbie Hoffman's during the Who's performance at Woodstock, a rally organizer came up on stage, took the center microphone and a gave speech, something about world peace. He introduced other speakers. Finally, he invited us to play as long as we liked.

After seeing a bit of Tubingen, it was off to our home-away-from-home, Lindenberg. Late in the evening of the second day, students, staff and chaperones met their host families, the people who took us into their homes, fed us and entertained us for seven days. Over that week, during time with their host families between performances, many Fiddlers got to see Munich, Austria and Switzerland.



On the Promenade at the Harbor in Lindau, Germany
Photo by Joe O'Brien



The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Fiddle Music!
Photo by Nancy Warner

The Saline Fiddlers performed for the assembled students at the Lindenberg Gymnasium (high school). The group played to a large and enthusiastic crowd in the medieval town of Wangen. The next show took place on the lake-side promenade at the harbor of Lindau, with the Alps across Lake Constance as a backdrop. The next was at a chalet on top of an Alp.

Intermixed with the performances were visits to the Mad King Ludwig's castle at Neuschwanstein—the one that inspired the famous Disney castle—and to a violin museum tucked away deep in the Alps at Mittenwald. The group visited several beautiful churches and old castles, and many landmarks in Lindenberg. We were treated to a tour of the Liebherr plant, headquarters for the Liebherr factory here in Saline.

On the last evening before departing Lindenberg, the Fiddlers performed in the town square for our sister city. All of our host families combined with many others in a huge and lively crowd. In a show that will not be forgotten, the Fiddlers and the audience fed off each others' energy until darkness finally came after the fourth encore.

Leaving Lindenberg the next morning, we headed north for Rudolstadt in the province of Thuringia. Later that day, the group played two shows at the international music festival, TFF-Rudolstadt. We were one of dozens of acts at the world music gathering, perhaps the only one from America. Audiences at both shows were wonderful; the second performance generated a mosh pit of dancing fans, and later, on-line guestbook entries from Dresden, Mannheim and Berlin. Go to salinefiddlers.com for links and more pictures

Back in Frankfurt two days later we said goodbye to our friends Robert Burkhard and Robert Schmidt and headed home.

The Saline Fiddlers thank the people of Lindenberg, the Lindenberg-Saline Friendship Committee, and Rinehard Sieber of the Lindenberg Gymnasium for all they did to make our visit so memorable. We also thank tour sponsor SHAR Music and major sponsor Dr. Terry Timm of Saline for their part in creating this once-in-a-lifetime tour.

Thank You! For Making Our Germany Dream Come True!

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Welcome to the New Fiddlers

and there sure are a lot of them!

The addition of these 13 musicians brings the Saline Fiddlers up to a total of 29 members—even after the 10 graduated seniors moved on.

These talented kids are all in the Class of 2013. They are looking forward to continuing the Fiddler legacy, thrilling audiences with their polished performances and youthful exuberance, and having a lot of fun doing it, too.



Patrick ……..	Viola
Keith …….	Mandolin
Ian …….	Guitar
Allie …….	Fiddle
Rebekah ……	Fiddle
Vince ……..	Drums
Louie ……..	Fiddle
Alyssa ……	Cello
Cameron ……	Cello
Mellissa …….	Fiddle
Amelia ……	Fiddle
Eric …….	Electric Bass
JJ ……...	Sound Technician

Our Graduating Seniors

Every year at this time we take a moment to honor our Senior Fiddlers graduates. And man, there are a lot of them!

Goodbye to senior drummer
Travis.
Good Luck at the Police Academy!



Devin



If you heard some amazing banjo picking during Fiddler Concerts during the last couple of years, that would have been senior banjo player, **Devin**. Devin has always been a violinist with the Saline High School Orchestra, but, Devin explains, "In 6th grade, the banjo really caught my eye." The Fiddlers gave Devin an opportunity to further pursue his love of banjo playing. Devin says, "My favorite musician is Béla Fleck who is the greatest banjo player ever, and my favorite banjo music would have to be the album *UFO Tofu,* by Béla Fleck and the Flecktones." Devin also enjoys jazz and rock music. Some of Devin's favorite Fiddler memories are riding the bus on tour and hanging out in the back with some of the upper classmen. He especially enjoyed being in the rhythm section and playing entertaining songs. One of his most memorable Fiddler events was playing at Lindenberg and being hosted by the local community during the Germany tour. Devin says, "It was exciting to experience a completely different culture and play for an entirely new group of people. I especially enjoyed hanging out and relaxing with the German kids." The last gig in Lindenberg was awesome!

Devin's favorite food is a nice, big steak! Favorite movies are The Legend of Ron Burgandy and Step Brothers. One favorite memory in Saline was playing volleyball at the Saline Recreation Center with Fiddler friends. Devin also played water polo with the Saline High School team. One of his favorite water polo memories was "playing against Grand Ledge on senior night, because we got every senior to score a goal!"

Devin's favorite teacher was "Mr. Schlanderer because he kept me interested in school." His favorite school assignment was "final exams, because that meant school was over." Devin will attend Purdue University to pursue chemical engineering and play water polo. Good luck, Devin!

Michael



Michael joined the Saline Fiddlers as a fiddle player a mere three years ago, but he has packed many memories into this short time. "The beach day at Santa Monica was so fun and relaxing," he said. "That has to be my favorite." He also said he really enjoyed the Oxnard Gig in California.

His favorite memory of Artistic Director, Ben Culver is after he eats a pop tart. One can only assume this has to do with the resulting sugar rush that follows.

Michael's favorite food is a bacon cheeseburger. His favorite movie is Air Force One, staring Harrison Ford. Michael says his favorite Saline High School teacher was Ms. Lauchu, but he still feels that his favorite school moment was…graduation! His best memory of living in Saline was, he says, "flying a kite out the window of Andrew's car."

Michael plans to attend U of M in General Studies, then hopefully attend the business school next year.

Ian



Ian has been with the Fiddlers the past four years as part of the sound crew. His favorite food is Mexican. His time with the Fiddlers has been a great experience—from the excitement of the Hometown Concerts to the Cattle Baron's Ball—Ian and fellow Fiddler senior, Brendan, have experienced it all.

Ian's favorite Fiddler gag involved surprising a fellow Fiddler by putting lemonade mix in a shower head on a Fiddler trip. The culmination of Ian's time with the Fiddlers came when the group played at his graduation party. Some of Ian's alumni friends joined in the music and Mr. Culver gave a speech that meant very much to Ian. As his final act, Ian spent a wonderful tour with the group in Germany. One of his fondest memories was the time spent with his parents on that trip.

For his future, Ian plans to attend law school with an eye towards becoming a talent agent. His first major purchase will be an Aston Martin Vanquish. Ian's advice to future Fiddlers, "don't let anyone tell you what you can or can't do."

Jacob V.



Jacob V. has played the cello for the Saline Fiddlers for the past four years. He is best known to his audiences for his signature clapping launch from the stage during the playing of Mason's Ape Ron.

As a high school and Fiddler graduate, he has many memories he will carry with him. "There's a story involving Scott, Casey, some towels and the dead of night that really shouldn't be retold," Jacob recalls. On a lighter note, his favorite memory of Artistic Director, Ben Culver involved him placing inspirational, motivational quotes on the back of all the music binders at fiddle camp to get the kids in the right frame of mind.

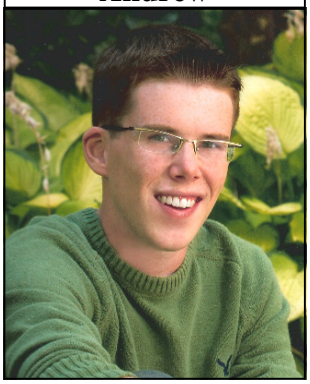
Jacob cannot pinpoint any one particular friendship as more special than another since he considers his entire graduating class to be very close.

As he looks back on his high school years, Jacob credits teacher Mark Hill (newspaper advisor) for helping him develop his writing skills. He will remember Mr. Hill as a "very funny and smart guy." As school assignments go, Jacob recalls, "I particularly enjoyed AP Calc BC because of Dr. Hassberger's outstanding teaching, newspaper class for the fun and challenge of writing tough news stories and my own monthly column, and choir during my senior year because of the very different type of musical work and Mrs. Freeman's excellent direction."

His words of advice for younger Fiddlers, "always put the lessons from Fiddlers in perspective to learn how to apply them to all of life and practice like crazy if you want to be good."

This fall Jacob will attend Ball State University in Muncie, IN as a cello performance and music education double major on a full tuition scholarship. "My dream is to be a performer, but I'd be very happy as a teacher as well," he says.

Andrew



Aside from playing the viola with the Saline Fiddlers for four years, **Andrew** has quite an impressive history. In 2008 he was named Saline Youth of the year. This is not surprising since he has a great interest in government and hopes to run for President one day. It makes perfect sense, then, that his favorite High School teacher was Mrs. Budnik who taught Government or that his favorite movie is Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, starring Jimmy Stewart.

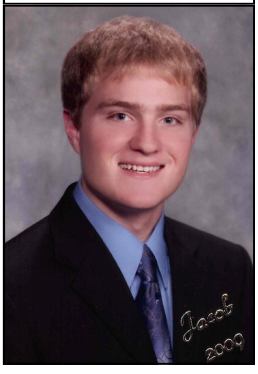
In the Fiddlers, Andrew said he enjoyed most the "Mosh Pit Gig" during the Katrina Relief Tour. He says that, within the group he felt closest to the viola section (past and present) of which he was a part. Andrew liked it when Mr. Culver would do "strength profiles" with the group at camp, which involves everyone getting the opportunity to tell everyone else what their strengths are. He fondly remembers when Mrs. M. (Fiddler, Greg's mother) read him "Good Night Boston" while he enjoyed milk and cookies.

As school memories go, Andrew says he really enjoyed Hazmat Week—the time the High school was evacuated due to mysterious student illnesses.

Andrew plans to attend the University of Michigan to pursue a dual degree in Business and Public Policy.

In his sage advice to new Fiddlers he quotes Thomas Edison, "*Opportunity is often missed by most because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work*. "Don't ever turn away from potential opportunity because it looks challenging," says Andrew. "Take a risk and try new things because it will only pay off in the end."

Jacob M.



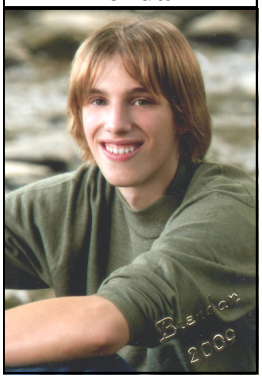
Jacob M. has been a member of the Saline Fiddlers for the past three years performing as a violinist, singer and clogger. Jacob has enjoyed performing from coast to coast, from San Francisco to Boston, and all the way to Germany. Some of his cherished memories of the Saline Fiddler tours are the stunning architecture, varied landscapes and the cultural foods. Some of the delicious foods he ate were fresh Atlantic Ocean lobster in Maine, the giant deli sandwiches at the Carnegie Deli in NYC and the apple strudel in Germany. This puts Jacob right in line with the one great Fiddler truth which is—Fiddlers love to eat!

As Jacob thinks back on his career as a Fiddler, he has concluded that his favorite Fiddler moment was the night he performed for a highly enthusiastic audience in an opera house in Boothbay, Maine. What he liked the most about that gig was that the audience clapped along with the Saline Fiddlers for the entire show.

Jacob plans to study chemical engineering at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. He plans on learning to ski during the snowy winters at Tech.

Jacobs words of advice for incoming Fiddlers, "practice your Fiddler music until you know it like the back of your hand and then continue practicing/reviewing it so you don't lose what you've already gained."

Brendan



Brendan remembers while growing up, being very curious and interested in "sciency" things like dinosaurs and combustion engines, and his parents supporting him in each and every one of his interests. Some of his other childhood memories are having a "bowl" haircut like his brother until 4th grade, and his fun 6th grade teacher, Mr. Ernest, who played 4-square with them and taught them the "old" rules, which were the best!

Favorite high school teachers of Brendan's were psychology teacher, Ms. Howard, and science teacher, Mr. Lauchu. Favorite movies were Blues Brothers and Princess Bride. Favorite food is PIZZA!

Brendan has been a Saline Fiddler rhythm player for his last three years in high school, playing washboard, electric bass and other rhythm instruments. During his senior year he has served as the rhythm section leader. Musical instruments that Brendan likes to play, besides electric bass and upright bass, are guitar and ukulele.

Brendan's favorite Fiddler gig was the Oxnard gig in California. There were sooooo… many people!! Brendan's favorite tour was the one they just returned from, the Germany tour! The crowds were enthusiastic. At the closing gig in Lindenberg, Germany, they did FOUR encores! The Rudolstadt World Folk Music Festival, the biggest folk festival in Europe, was also great. The crowds loved both of the two performances and exuberantly danced, clapped and showed appreciation.

The Saline Fiddlers experience has meant a lot to Brendan. He has learned to be organized, to manage his time, and to get the job done. His advice to new Fiddlers is "to do your homework. What may seem like one small assignment quickly becomes 16 little assignments in Science II…"

Brendan will be attending Michigan State University in the fall and will be majoring in Secondary Education focusing on Biological Sciences. He will also be playing upright bass with the Michigan State University Concert Band.

Tyler



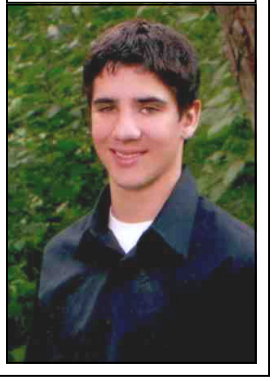
Tyler has played fiddle for the Saline Fiddlers for the past four years. Tyler's memories of the fiddlers and high school are numerous. Unlike Jacob, however, he is prepared to share some of the details of the story that "really shouldn't be retold." It was the "first year at camp when Scott was chasing Jacob and giving him a well deserved punishment with a wet towel," he says. "We learned the next morning that many of the girls had been watching. His favorite memory of Artistic Director, Ben Culver was when he had a lot of sugar on the tour bus and played (much to everyone's dismay) the song "The Sun is a Mass of Incandescent Gas" about ten times in a row. The two individuals Tyler feels particularly close to from the group are Jacob and Sarah.

Tyler's best school memory is when his varsity soccer team beat the Salem Rocks (the number one team in the state) to move on to the semi-finals in the State Tournament this year. His favorite school assignment was a physics test, we were asked to describe the motion of a ball dropped straight through a tube running along the rotational axis of the earth. "I felt very accomplished when I was the only one in the class that fully solved the differential equation that proved that it would behave as if it were on the end of a spring."

His words of advice for younger Fiddlers, "**DO NOT SNEAK OUT OF YOUR HOTEL ROOM AT NIGHT ON TOUR!!!"**

Tyler will be going to the University of Michigan to study Biomedical Engineering, after which he will be going to medical school to fulfill his dream of being a doctor.

Drew



Drew enjoyed playing the violin for the Saline Fiddlers for 3 years. He recalls one of his favorite moments with the group when they played in downtown Boston, Massachusetts. Since it is one of America's oldest cities, Drew enjoyed learning about the history of the city and seeing some of the historic old buildings and other sights there. He also recalls some of the pranks that were played on Tyler there—with accomplices Jacob and Michael at his side, they put whipped cream in his hands, ice in his bed and arranged objects from the room around him to wake up to the next day.

As friends go, Drew feels close to the entire Saline Fiddlers group, but is especially good friends with this year's graduating seniors.

His favorite gig was the "Cattle Baron's Ball," which is held to raise money for Cancer research. Drew said he enjoyed the decorations and the details of a professional stage.

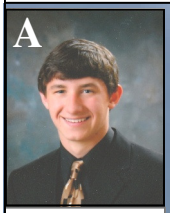
While he enjoys the music of the Saline Fiddlers, Drew is a guy who loves his 80s rock music. He enjoys the classics such as AC/DC and the like. He loves the movies Saving Private Ryan and Good Will Hunting.

Drew's fondest memories of school will be English teacher, Mrs. Denzin, the final day of school and senior prank day when bouncy balls were released down the stairs of the school.

His advice to new Fiddlers, "it goes by quick, so don't wait to accomplish what you want to do!"

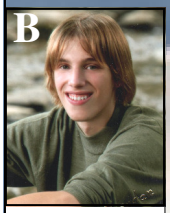
Can You Match The Fiddlers To Their Baby Pictures

A



Jacob V.

B



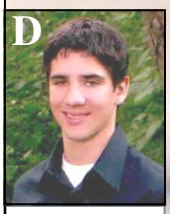
Brendan

C



Michael

D



Drew

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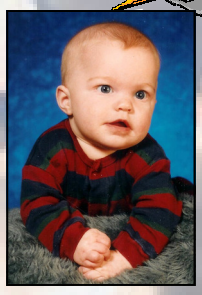
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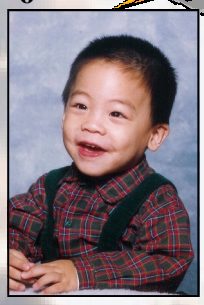
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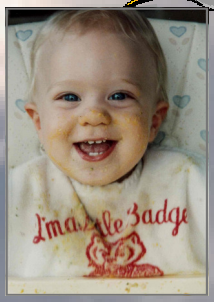
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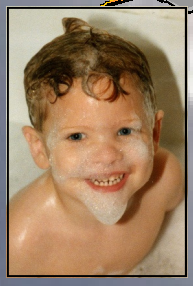
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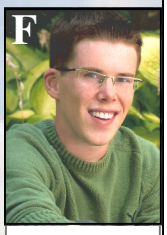


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Ian

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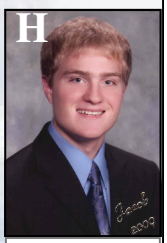
Andrew

G



Tyler

H



Jacob M.

J



Devin

Fiddlin' Around is the official newsletter of the
Saline Fiddlers
We publish four times yearly or as needed.
Susan Cummings, Editor.
Photos courtesy of loving Fiddler families.
Will Warner, Executive Director
www.salinefiddlers.com

A. Jacob V. = #3, B. Brendan = #4,
C. Michael = #6, D. Drew = #8,
E. Ian = #5, F. Andrew = #1,
G. Tyler = #2, H. Jacob M. = #7
J. Devin = #9



Saline, Michigan

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Will Warner, Executive Director
Brad Phillips, Assistant Artistic Director
Doug Rhine, Event Manager
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Ed Brosius, Technical Manager
Mark Kuykendall, Business Manager
Sheila Graziano, Choreographer
Dianne Newberry, Vocal Coach

For bookings call: 866-257-5333

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Upcoming Public Events

Labordayz Festival
September 6, 2:30 PM, Jaycee Stage Pavilion, Michigan City, IN, michigancityfestivalsinc.com or emichigancity.com

Good Old Days Festival
September 12, 6:30 PM, 69310 Beebe St., Richmond, MI, richmondgoodolddaysfestival.org

National Kidney Foundation Walk
September 13, 1:30 PM, 300 Fuller Rd., Ann Arbor, MI, abkwfriends.org

Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival
September 20, 1:30 and 3:30, 503 Fairgrounds Drive, Paulding, OH, villageofpaulding.com

Christmas in Ida Festival Concert
December 4, 7:00 PM, 8295 Van Aiken St., Ida, MI, christmasinida.com

Watch for new gigs to be added weekly

For the latest info visit our website at

salinefiddlers.com

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