

d-
Ellis
rist-
week.

Arts & Entertainment

THE MONROE EVENING NEWS: YOUR GUIDE TO LEISURE-TIME EVENTS IN AND AROUND MONROE COUNTY

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2011

C

Barbara Krolak, features editor
phone: 240-5776
e-mail: barb@monroenews.com



Chorale rt

e Seaway
a will tie up its
y Garland" this

perform a variety
at 7:30 p.m.
y in the Flat
Community
Aspen Dr.

der the direction
, will include
y," Handel's
d Is Born,"
sic," "Baby It's
Christmas
asting on an

Handwritten musical notation and lyrics on aged paper, including phrases like 'Tis the season for music' and 'Saline Fiddlers pump up Christmas spirit'.

Tis the season for music

Saline Fiddlers pump up Christmas spirit

BY SUZANNE NOLAN WISLER
suzanne@monroenews.com

Start Christmas early with the Saline Fiddlers. The group, beloved by many in Monroe County, will make an encore appearance Saturday at Monroe County Community College's Meyer Theater.

"This group does not disappoint. (Members) bring high energy to the stage, and the audience will leave here in a good mood and ready for the holidays," said Tom Ryder, campus and community events coordinator at MCCC.

The 1½-hour show will contain some new material.

"No two Saline Fiddlers shows are ever the same. The show at MCCC will include many new tunes the Fiddlers have added this year, as well as some holiday (selections) that are sure to surprise the crowd," said Mark Visovatti, the group's booking manager. "You might see some Santa hats start appearing on stage during the show."

Saline Fiddlers consists of 27 hand-selected Saline High School music students, ages 13 to 18, who combine high-energy violin music with singing, clogging and dancing. Their music ranges from American folk fiddle and bluegrass to jazz, western swing and Celtic.

The show marks the group's third Monroe County appearance within a year. The first at MCCC, held last March, was so well-received that the Fiddlers were invited back.

"The house was nearly full. It was an amazing show," said Mr. Visovatti. "The Fiddlers were on fire that evening and really fed on the very receptive audience. One thing I think makes the show special is that the Meyer Theater is a well-designed, state-of-the-art and beautiful venue



for performances. It is a pleasure and honor to perform there."

This summer, Saline Fiddlers also played at St. Mary's Park, as part of the Entertainment in the Park series.

"Performing in Monroe has been a real treat for Saline Fiddlers this year," said Mr. Visovatti. "The city people count the audience and had about 1,000 people for that show. The weather was threatening rain storms most of the day and especially during the second half of our show. Some people got a little nervous and left. Our director, Ben Culver, asked the audience, 'Shall we continue the show?' People stood up, applauded and yelled out 'Yes!' That was all the encouragement needed as the Fiddlers went on with another great show right to the end for

the enthusiastic Monroe audience."

Since the summer's concert, Saline Fiddlers, which has six new students, has toured Wisconsin and northern Michigan. They make about 60 to 80 appearances a year.

"Some of the gigs we do are for area hospitals and senior communities. It is always a pleasure to bring the joy of music to folks who are limited in their travels," said Mr. Visovatti.

The group has five holiday shows planned this month.

"Keep in mind the Fiddlers are in high school full-time, have extracurricular activities, church or other community commitments and have Fiddler rehearsal for three hours each week. That makes for a busy schedule," he added.

IF YOU GO ...

Who: Saline Fiddlers

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Meyer Theater, La-Z-Boy Center, Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

Tickets: \$15 or \$25 for VIP seating (includes balcony seats, cash bar and snacks). Tickets will be sold at the MCCC cashier's office, at the door and through www.monroecc.edu/theater/events.htm

More information: 384-4272 or 384-4201; www.salinefiddlers.com