



Fiddlin' Around

The Saline Fiddlers

Volume 19, Number 2

www.salinefiddlers.com

Spring 2012

Senior Edition

This Edition of "Fiddlin' Around" is dedicated to our Two Senior Fiddlers and Their Parents. Read All About Them on Pages 4, 5 and 9.

Thank you to Cindy O'Brien for interviewing the seniors and writing their final Fiddlers biographies!

Song of the Southeast Summer Tour 2012

by Susan Cummings



The Fiddlers will be loading up the bus on Tuesday, June 26th and taking off on a new adventure. They are looking forward to performing in a part of the US they have never before visited in their 18 year history. The Song of the Southeast Tour will include six performances throughout Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Each of the six performances is special and unique and we want to tell everyone a little bit about each one:

1. The first performance will be on July 27th at the Canton Theatre in Canton, GA. The Fiddlers will be performing for the local community in their beautifully restored early 20th century theatre that originally premiered slide shows and silent movies.
2. Their second performance is on July 28th in Duluth, GA where the Gwinnet County Schools Orchestra program is very excited to host the Fiddlers. The Fiddlers will be presenting a workshop for interested Middle School and High School string students in the afternoon and then performing in the Duluth High School Auditorium in the evening. Duluth High School boasts the largest school orchestra in the state of Georgia and the 12th largest in the US.
3. They will arrive on June 30th at the Winyah Auditorium in Georgetown, SC which is just down the coast from Myrtle Beach. The Winyah Auditorium began life in 1879 as a school and was recently renovated and refurbished into a center for cultural arts, public meetings and programs. The Fiddlers are looking forward to performing for vacationers and local residents in a venue that holds so much local pride.
4. On July 2nd, the Fiddlers will be performing for an enthusiastic audience in Colonial Williamsburg on Merchants Square. Merchants Square is next to the historic area and is home to over 40 unique shops, galleries and restaurants, including the nationally acclaimed Trellis Restaurant. With its conception dating back to 1927, Merchants Square is recognized as one of the earliest, if not the first planned shopping districts in the United States.
5. The Fiddlers will spend the 4th of July in Culpeper, VA. Culpeper County was chartered in 1749 and that is the same year a 17 year old George Washington was commissioned to survey and plot the town and county of Culpeper. The Fiddlers will take part in their annual celebration in Yowell Meadow Park located in downtown Culpeper.
6. The final show on July 5th will be at Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, WV. In the heart of Appalachia, the college offers an Appalachian Studies program where class options include Appalachian String Band Music and Appalachian Flatfooting and Clogging. The college is excited to showcase the Fiddlers as an example of what is musically possible for American youth.

The Fiddlers, parents and staff will return to Saline on Saturday, July 7th. They will be fulfilled, happy and tired because they will have offered their show to a whole new group of people, toured a part of the country they have never visited and had a whole lot of fun along the way.

See page 9 for performance details

CD Release Party!



**Thursday, June 14,
at 7:00 pm
in Downtown Saline**

Breaking Free will be for sale at our CD release party, to be held in conjunction with the Saline Downtown Merchants Association Summer Concert Series in downtown Saline.

**Bring a lawn chair and
join us for a great show!**

Please see page 8 for "The Making of a CD"

We would like to thank everyone who made either a monetary or in-kind donation to the 2012 Chordial. Your generosity made the event a huge success!"

Hoedown Host

Shar Music
Spotted Dog Winery

Pardner

Great Lakes Prosthetics & Orthotics
Lafontaine Automotive Group

Fiddlin' Enthusiast

Cynthia & John Bonczyk	Northwest Acoustical	Joan & Gary Scheske
Dale Fisher Photography	Rachelle Roush	Will & Nancy Warner
Evangelical Homes of Michigan	Saline Kumon Math & Reading Center	John & Anne Wharton

Foot Stompin' Fan

Amy & Walt Armstrong	Theresa & Ed Brosius	Holiday Inn & Suites	Becky & Paul Pazkowski
Jim & Martha Balmer	Walt & Nancy Byers	Tom Kirvan	Dave Phillips
David & Judy Blaney	Sam & Cici Callen	Jennifer Lahnala	Doug & Kathleen Rhine
Kelly Blaney	Susan & Jeff Cummings	Priscilla & David Olsen	Ron Schofield
		Mike & Lori Blaney	Jennifer & Patrick Sortor

Friend

David Schmidt	Ross & Joyce Kaferle	Lawrence Uhrie	Andy Leutheuser
Tom Mac's Photography	Maureen & Bill Kennelly	Terese & Warren VanHout	Whole Foods
Pat Aretha	Bonnie Leutheuser	Nature's Garden Center	Ann Arbor Cooks
Janice & Mike Beck	Money Source	Brecon Village	Travis Pointe Country Club
Fred & Shirley Ellicott	Paul & Peggy Rzepka	Matt Koziel	Luminosity Salon
Louise Grondin	Bill & Lynda Shea		

Neighbor

Patty Benedict	Betty Danneffel	Joyce Leslie	Purple Rose Theatre Co.	Darlene & Paul Slagle
Kari & Gary Bonds	Jill Durnen	Lynda Shea	Karen Ragland	Linda & Robert Spittler
Howard & Kelvin Braun	Kimberly Ellicott	Sue & Tom McLinden	Bob Remenapp	Frank Visovatti
Marla & Greg Chandler	Mary Grondin	Music Under the Arch	Jeannette Susan & Ron Schofield	Jean & Clyde Wimer
Kat Compau	Leslie & Geoff Jeal	Cindy & Joe O'Brien	Ron Schofield Sr.	Mark Wimer
Sue Cowen	Lucy Ann Lance	Khris Ortman	John & Mary Shea	Wings, Pizza & Things
				Diane Winner

Supporter

Benito's Pizza	Gabriel's Cheesesteak	Gail & Andrew Jennings	Cheryl Makolin	Kristine Polzin	James Sexsmith
Brewed Awakenings	Judee Gneiwiek	Jet's Pizza	Mangiamo Italian Grill	Barbara Rohrs	Mary Slawski
Brookside Golf Club	Steve Godell	Lake Forest Golf Club	Brian Marl	Rustic Glen Golf Club	Snap Fitness
City Limits Diner	Green Mountain Coffee	Leo's Coney Island	Mi Zarape Restaurant	Saline Inn	Stonebridge Golf Club
Common Grill	Cynthia Hines	Lodi Farms	Miles of Golf	Saline Market	Wireless Zone
Country Market	Taña Huyck	Lodi Food Mart	Noodles & Company	Janice & Randy Schofield	Village Party Store
	Turners Florist & Greenhouse			John Zemba	

The 2012 Chordial



Chordial Guests

enjoying good food, fine wine and great entertainment



David Olsen,
*Executive Director,
dressed and ready
to head Southeast*

Picture the beautiful LaFontaine showroom void of cars for just this night, filled with round tables covered in purple linen cloths and large bouquets of spring flowers rising out of the middle of each table. By each place setting sits a bottle of Spotted Dog Wine with our Fiddler logo and tied up with raffia and a delicious pretzel drizzled in chocolate and sprinkles! And if that is not enough to get you interested in coming to the Chordial next year, the wonderful appetizers and desserts that were arranged in the most amazing way by Jen, the chef at Brecon Village and the wines for sampling, from Spotted Dog Winery should have you wishing it was next week and not last month!

It was an evening filled with music from our Fiddlers, the energetic and talented Lucy Ann Lance as our emcee and lots of good conversation and shopping! Yes, you could also bid on our Silent Auction items that were gathered and organized by Judee Gniewek and Kelly Blaney. My husband, Kurt and I both came away winners. He won tickets to a UM football game and tailgate lunch and I won the unique and beautifully crafted Adirondack Chair donated by Ron Schofield. These were just a couple of the fantastic items that were donated for the silent auction which raised \$4,000!

The 5th Annual Chordial which was held on April 17th, raised \$20,356 this year. This event is made possible by the wonderful donations from our generous local businesses and community members and the present and past Fiddler parents who help with all the behind the scene tasks to pull the evening together. It's a group orchestrated by Priscilla Olsen, who has a vision and the energy of no one else I know! Thank you all!

I would also like to thank our Fiddler Board members, Louise Grondin, and Peggy Rzepka, who chaired the table captain committee, a vital part of the event, and Amy Armstrong who

seemed to be there for every loose end and to tie up the auction at the end of the night with Gretchen Waters. And to all of you who attended the evening, your donations and support for our wonderful high school Fiddlers means so much to us all. We love this group and all that it offers to our children.

In closing, I would also like to wish Becky Pazkowski a very fond farewell as she and Paul make the move to Florida for Becky's new job! Becky brought the vision of the Chordial to the Board five years ago. She has encouraged and guided the Board with her wonderful sense of professionalism, kindness and true passion for the success of the Saline Fiddlers. Becky, we will certainly miss your friendship and guidance and we all wish you the very best! Keep in touch and we'll be sending you an invitation to next year's Chordial!!

The best to you all and a very safe and fun summer!

Fiddle On,
Bonnie Leutheuser
Board President

Fiddler Food for Thought

by Kelly Blaney, Fiddler Food Coordinator

Traveling and performing requires a lot of energy! The performances take us to remote and exciting places where we have been served many fabulous meals and sampled fair food across the state. For instance:

- Blueberry ice cream at the Blueberry Festival
- Pancakes at the Maple Syrup Festival
- Apple pie and dumplings in Ohio
- Chicken Broil
- German cuisine
- Pulled Pork sandwiches

We also have our tried and true Fiddler favorite dishes that have come about from many a meal at Hometown Show rehearsals, camps and on the road to gigs. The most requested food is always Mrs. Slagle's mac and cheese! She has shared the recipe with us; however, it comes out best when she adds her own special secret stir! ☺ Also a favorite are Mrs. Lahnala's breakfast cinnamon rolls, Mrs. Huyck's taco salad, Mrs. Water's peach cobbler and Mrs. Blaney's raspberry fruit dip.

*This recipe was big hit at the last
Hometown Show rehearsal dinner:*

Taco Orzo Pasta

Brown 1 to 1-1/2 pounds ground round; drain and add 1 package taco seasoning and cook according to package directions. Then stir in 1 cup salsa of your choice. Prepare 1 box orzo pasta as directed on package, drain and put in a serving bowl. Place beef mixture on top of cooked orzo pasta, then top with shredded cheddar cheese and serve with sour cream.

Give it a try and see how well our Fiddlers eat!



A fond farewell is wished to graduating senior, **Vicky**, who has served as Fiddler violinist, section leader, dance captain/clogger, and vocalist!

According to Vicky, the change in herself from a "shy, out-of-the-way" freshman Fiddler to a confident leader as a senior Fiddler has been dramatic. She says, *"It's the difference between black and white. As a freshman I tried not to stand out; as a senior I refused to stay in the background."*

Vicky says one key skill she developed in Fiddlers, *"was announcing, for sure! It used to be one of the scariest things, to see your name on the set list next to the song you were going to announce. Now I actually enjoy talking in front of crowds, telling stories and making them laugh. I volunteer to announce a lot, and give advice to the younger kids."*

An unexpected skill she learned and honed during her four years with the Fiddlers was the art of compromise. Vicky says, *"Compromise. A whole lot of compromise. Being in track, swimming, cross country, marching band, church band, and a bunch of other stuff taught me how to prioritize and communicate, so I could participate in each while giving each its deserved*

amount of time."

One aspect of Fiddlers that Vicky wishes she could do over, was get to know more Fiddlers when she was an incoming freshman. She says, *"When I was a freshman, I knew almost nobody in the group for nearly a year. Looking back, I wish I could've been outgoing enough to get to know some more people. Oh well, that's freshmanhood for ya!"*

Some of Vicky's favorite tunes are *"Catherine Kelly's/Lake Effect, Catharsis, Hoedown, and Wilson the Warrior. They are all fun to play, and all fun to listen to. Catherine Kelly's was also one of the first tunes I learned with the group at summer camp; memories :)."*

Vicky's favorite gig was in Rudolstadt, a town in the wooded area of Thuringia, Germany. During their 2009 Summer Tour of Germany, the Fiddlers played two gigs at Rudolstadt's annual international roots and folk festival called 'Tanz - und FolkFest Rudolstadt'. Vicky says, *"I had no idea that Germans loved fiddle music so much... we must have played Big Yellow Taxi at least three times a day on that tour..."*

As a matter of fact, the Germany Summer Tour was Vicky's favorite tour. Vicky says, *"This was my first ever summer tour, so that by itself, made it a major event. On top of that, going overseas and experiencing a different culture for the first time in my life was amazing! The host families were very hospitable, taking us right into their homes and lives, and the scenery was gorgeous! The Texas tour was a close second; I've got quite a thing for NASA, which we visited during our time there."*

In addition to the violin, Vicky enjoys other string instruments. She says, *"I love the mandolin, and I'm learning to play it now. Thank goodness it is so close to the violin! But, I also wish I could play cello, it's so pretty:)."*

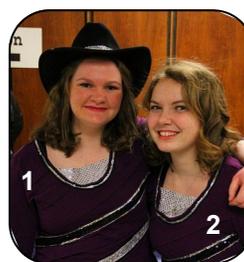
As Vicky mentioned earlier, she has many other pursuits outside of music. Some of these are swimming, pole vaulting, cross country, church youth leadership, marching band, color guard in the marching band, and student light technician. As she also mentioned earlier, balancing school work, being a Saline Fiddler and all of these activities takes a lot of compromise. :)

As far as future plans after high school graduation, Vicky will be attending Central Michigan University. She will be exploring a variety of interest areas during her undergraduate career. With her diverse talents and experiences, Vicky will be a great benefit to whatever field of interest she settles on!

Vicky has the following words of wisdom for new Fiddlers: *"Go for it. There's a lot of things you can do that you think you can't; dance, sing, lead a section, play a solo, learn a new instrument, arrange an old song, or even write a new one. You've got nothing to lose, take it from someone who knows, the more you give it, the more fun you'll have, so give it everything you've got."* 😊

Which Baby is which Fiddler?

Answers on page 9





It has been great having **Cassandra** as a Fiddler violinist, section leader, warm-up leader, and set-list coordinator!

Over the last four years in the Fiddlers, Cassandra has grown from the shy underclassman she once was to the confident leader she is now as a Senior. Cassandra says, *"When I first joined the group I was very shy; I never imagined I'd be doing the things I do now. Today's Cassandra is a considerably more outgoing person. I've also learned to speak well in public, time manage more effectively, lead groups of people to a common goal, adapt better to the changes thrown at me, enjoy the wonderful company that surrounds me, and, of course, become an improved musician."*

In terms of what she wishes she could do over in her Fiddler career, Cassandra says, *"I wish I had gotten to know the upperclassmen better when I first joined the Saline Fiddlers. I missed out on a lot of group activities, because I was not able to drive and was, in all honesty, very nervous as a freshman. Those are friendships I missed out on, when I was given the huge opportunity of making them by just being a member of such a committed ensemble."*

When asked about her favorite songs, Cassandra says, *"It's hard to choose a favorite song. For a 'fiddling' group, we have a large range of musical genres, and I love playing all of them. From Michael Jackson to traditional folk tunes, I'd have to say they're all pretty great."*

In terms of favorite Fiddler "moments," Cassandra shares, *"To sum it up, I love being on stage performing with my best friends. It's a wonderful feeling to be united with fantastic people by our passion for playing our instruments. They're like a family to me, so I try my best to embrace every moment, particularly the ones in which we're working together to create harmony."*

Cassandra remembers some of her favorite gigs, *"The ones that really stick out are the Hometown Shows, playing at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, and the Jeff Daniels & Friends gig. Hometowns are a great time to catch up with alumni and perform for family and friends. Playing at the VA Hospital is a rewarding event, because it's an opportunity for us to show respect to veterans. Meeting Jeff Daniels was a very exciting moment, and the song we learned specifically for that gig was very fun."*

"I laugh so much when I'm with this group, it's hard to pick out only one funny event," Cassandra shares, *"But I do remember announcing a song as the Fiddler cloggers set up the dance boards to prepare for the tune. I happened to catch a glimpse of the scene, to see Meredith, Rachel B, Rachel M, and Vicky staring nervously at a large worm that had invaded their clogging area. I stopped what I was saying to insert '... And there's a worm on the dance boards,' just as a disgusted Meredith picked it up and threw it to another location. After we all got our laughter out, we continued on with the gig as if nothing had happened. It's always very uplifting when all of the Saline Fiddlers and even the audience is laughing."*

Cassandra admits picking a favorite tour is hard, but she does share that *"In terms of location, I really enjoyed touring Germany. Before freshman year, I hadn't traveled farther than Nevada. So, going to a whole new country was very eye-opening for me; we're always told that there are cultures quite different from ours, but to experience it is very different than just hearing about it. The castles, churches, and even streets are beautiful, and our host families were very kind to us and appreciative of our music. But I was still practically a new kid at the time, so touring Wisconsin last summer was another favorite tour of mine, because I got to spend more time with people I'd already bonded a lot with."*

Cassandra enjoys other musical instruments in addition to violin. She says, *"I spent a lot of time learning the piano when I was younger, and I hope to go back to regularly playing it soon. Lately I've been jamming out on the ukulele, but I'm not all that great so I guess I'll have to say that I wish I could play that instrument."*

Cassandra is also involved in many activities outside of Fiddlers. She says, *"Being in the Saline Fiddlers does require a lot of commitment and time, but we all do many activities outside of this group. I, myself, work at Kumon Math and Reading Center, am a member of National Honor Society, run Saline cross country, play for the Saline tennis team, edit for the school's literary magazine, and play in the pit orchestra for the Saline drama club."*

After high school graduation, Cassandra will begin studying engineering at the University of Michigan, hoping to move into studying at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business during her undergraduate career.

Cassandra's words of advice to new Fiddlers are: *"Embrace every moment with the Saline Fiddlers. I know how stressful it is now, learning all of this new music, but soon enough you won't have to worry so much about what you're playing, and will be able to focus on performing and building long-lasting friendships. Of course practice, and manage your time well so the music doesn't pile up too much in one week. But, just relax and be yourself! We're all very excited to get to know you. And, when you look back at your 'Fiddler career,' you aren't going to remember the music as much as you are going to remember those important moments you had with people you care about, and who care about you in return."*

The Guys in the Back

(aka "The Rhythm Section")

by Susan Cummings

You all know about the wild, crazy-talented violin, viola and cello players that are right up in the front keeping your fingers snapping, but behind it all, keeping the melody grounded with their beats, riffs and rhythms are seven guys with the tenacity to hold the whole tune together.

Assistant Artistic Director Brad Phillips says, "*The rhythm section is what makes the Fiddlers NOT sound like an orchestra. Aside from playing a different style of music from an orchestra, these guys are what set the Fiddlers apart.*"

The current rhythm musicians in the Fiddlers play electric bass, guitar, mandolin and drums. In the past there have also been banjo and dobro players (openings available!). There are also auxiliary rhythm instruments that any one of the seven guys may pick up and play for different tunes such as the washboard, triangle, shaker, cabasa or spoons.

Guitar The guitar has had a place in the Fiddlers from the beginning and is probably the most popular and most necessary rhythm instrument for any group. There have been as many as eight guitar players in the Fiddlers at one time—though only about four were ever playing guitar at the same time. The other four would play one of the auxiliary rhythm instruments.

The guitar is a very versatile instrument because it has a wide range of pitch and bridges the low bass and higher mandolin. Junior Ian and sophomore Andrew (aka Dewy) really enjoy the guitar. They both agree that some of their favorite Fiddler tunes are the more musically aggressive, driving tunes such as Hungry Man #1 and Catharsis. Dewy says, "*those are as close to heavy metal music as the Fiddlers get.*"

Mandolin The mandolin has only recently become a consistent instrument in the Fiddler's 18 year history. Bob Phillips, the Fiddler's founder, used to play the mandolin occasionally for the group and after that, different musicians would only play the mandolin for certain songs. Junior Keith says that when he graduates next year, he will be the first Fiddler to have played the mandolin as his primary instrument all four years.

Keith says, "*The mandolin adds musical accents, and alternative rhythms and higher harmony to the guitars. I also play the "ornamental riffs" such as in Travelin' Soldier, TenEightious and Hoedown.*" Katherine Kelly's Lake Effect and Bowl of Bula are Fiddler favorite tunes that really let the mandolin shine.

Drums The drums are the newest addition to the rhythm section. The first drummer joined the Fiddlers in 2005 because Artistic Director Ben Culver was aiming for a bigger, more energetic sound. The current drummer, junior Vince, is only the fourth drummer the Fiddlers have ever had. The drums serve as the rhythmic foundation—as one Fiddler put it, "*Vince is a human metronome.*" Vince really drives the rhythm, and the more contemporary tunes such as Wilson the Warrior, the Michael Jackson Medley and Breaking Free can't be performed without him.

On a logistical note—the drums are a whole different set of concerns when it comes to traveling. A violin is quick and easy to pack up and tuck under an arm, but Vince's drum set involves ten different cases—many of them large and awkward. The case that holds his stands and hardware weighs close to 100 lbs! He also needs to make sure he has a truck or van available to move his equipment to and from gigs and rehearsals. Vince is not on the rotation for set-up or tear-down at rehearsals because he has his own personal set-up and tear-down. He spends about half an hour himself just setting up his drums and then the same amount of time packing them up again.

Bass The bass is the foundation of the whole group by bridging the harmony and the rhythm. The bass is another rhythm instrument that has been in the Fiddlers since the



The Rhythm Section

back row: Keith—mandolin, Eric—bass,
Vince—drums, Ian—guitar
front row: Tristan—bass, Dewy—guitar

beginning. The first Fiddler bass musicians performed with the huge stand-up double bass—but that soon evolved into an electric bass. Traveling with such a huge instrument proved to be very difficult; it is also really hard to mic a double bass and get a good, full sound through the sound system. Junior Eric says he still tries to take his double bass to some of the closer gigs, but it is MUCH easier to travel with an electric bass.

The Fiddlers are fortunate to have two bass players; but only one can be plugged into the sound system at one time. Eric and freshman Tristan trade off plugging in while the other one picks up the washboard or cabasa. Tristan admits that he will be glad when he is the senior bass player and can take the lead.

Eric also serves as the rhythm section leader. Being section leader for rhythm is very different from leading the violins or cellos; Eric admits he doesn't know much about guitar, mandolin or drums. He says, *"I trust the guys to figure out their own parts—I just make sure that we 'feel' the music together. I also take a lead during performances by leading the tempo changes."*

All the rhythm guys are also orchestra students in the school music program (except Vince who is a percussionist in the school Wind Ensemble and Marching Band). However, guitars, mandolins and electric basses are not instruments played in orchestras. So between them they also play classical violin, cello and double bass. The rhythm guys don't have the advantage of extra practice on their chosen instrument during school hours so they need to be individually motivated to learn and practice their Fiddler instruments in addition to their school orchestra instruments.

Brad Phillips comments, *"Where else but in the Fiddlers would these kids have the opportunity to learn and perfect their techniques on these instruments? The Fiddlers give them fun music to play and the consistency to practice and perform with a committed group."*

Giliese 581D on iTunes

by Cassandra—violin, class of 2012
and Eric—bass, class of 2013

Andrew Kratzat is an amazingly talented bassist and the composer of **Giliese 581D**, the first song the Fiddlers will release on iTunes. Andrew is a close friend of Brad Phillips, the Fiddler's Assistant Artistic Director. They met at school in 2004 and have performed together countless times—both being members of the Ann Arbor based group **Millish**. Andrew has also taught various Fiddler bass players over the years.

Andrew and his fiancée were in a terrible accident about a year ago, from which they are still recovering. Soon after the accident, Brad found the tune **Giliese 581D** in a collection of unreleased songs called the **Andrew Kratzat Singers**. So in honor of Andrew, Brad arranged this tune for the Fiddlers.

There's an old saying which many bass players hold close to the heart: *"When you do something right, people won't be sure if you've done anything at all."* Andrew Kratzat applies this to all of his basslines; however rich and intricately woven his parts are, he always does everything for a greater purpose. He conducts his life in a very similar way—always thinking of something bigger than himself. He's the first one to say the right thing, and the last one to say too much. But when Andrew stopped playing, no one went without noticing it.

On July 26, 2011, a semi-truck began to slow-down as the driver noticed the stopped cars for construction on I-94 in Parma Township. To avoid hitting the Civic in front of him, he drove into the right shoulder, but it was too late; the

trailer of the truck hit the stopped Honda Civic, pushing it into another semi-truck stopped in front of them. The talented bassist along with his fiancée, Alicia Doudna (also a talented musician on violin), were life-flighted to the University of Michigan hospital where they were placed in the ICU with critical injuries.

Months later, Andrew and Alicia began to come out of their comas, but there is still a long road to recovery ahead of them. Alicia has been released from the hospital, and even performed at a benefit concert for Andrew and herself last November. Andrew's recovery has been much slower; he has only recently begun playing the bass again and talking.

The Saline Fiddlers want to help Andrew and Alicia—and encourage others to help as well. On June 14th, our new CD titled *Breaking Free* will be released, not only in a physical form, but also on iTunes. On this CD, we have a track called *Giliese 581D*—the song is about a planet in our galaxy that may possibly sustain life, and Brad Phillips, the arranger of the piece, feels that it serves as a message of hope.

The proceeds from this song bought on iTunes will be going to Andrew and Alicia's recovery. Please help bring these outstanding people back into the world of music.



Eric, performing the bass solo in Giliese 581D on Andrew's own instrument



A Fond Farewell and Thank you to Board Member, Becky Pazkowski

by Will Warner, Former Fiddler Executive Director

group in some way. These parents make excellent members of the Board of Directors.

A prime example is alumna Fiddler mom Becky Pazkowski. Becky joined the board in 2006 and serves to this day. With her all experience in community service, especially in fundraising, and given the fact that she makes things happen, she has been a superb asset of the organization.

A little story: In Becky's first year as Chair of the Board, I had to report some depressing budgetary projections. As I was laying out the options for cutting spending, Becky said, "...or, we could raise more money!" Her enthusiasm and her credentials led me to suspend skepticism while she proposed a special fundraising event that we all now know as The Chordial. Even better, she was stepping up to lead the effort to make it happen, and happen it did. Its success rescued the budget that year, and this annual gala has become indispensable in maintaining the Fiddlers as a going concern.

But, alas, all good things must come to an end. Becky is leaving us to become Vice President of Philanthropy at Plymouth Harbor, a retirement community in Sarasota, Florida. "I will be helping to create a new foundation," Becky reports. "We were not looking to move—I will dreadfully miss our beautiful community—but when this wonderful opportunity came up, we decided to go for it."

She is quick to add: "As soon as I can, I will work on getting the Saline Fiddlers some exciting gigs down there." If Becky turns her hand to it, it will come to pass.

"What an impressive organization this is," says our departing board member. "It has been so wonderful working with the Saline Fiddlers." Right back at 'cha, Bex.

The Making of a CD

by Priscilla Olsen, Event Manager
and David Olsen, Executive Director

music which has vitalized our 18th year of musical entertainment. Four classes of Fiddlers and several Fiddler alumni have contributed their artistic talent to the production of this CD. We are very proud of these young musicians, awed by what they have achieved, and grateful to the artistic staff that guides them. Additionally, we have one song on the CD entitled "Giliese 581D" that was inspired by Andrew Kratzat—a Fiddler friend who is on a long road to recovery after an automobile accident last year.

With this release, the latest troupe of young Fiddlers defines its niche 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.

As you can probably imagine, producing a CD is quite an undertaking. The schedules of 27 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. Producing a CD is an unforgettable experience with its own lessons to teach and rewards to be discovered.

Breaking Free is the fifth 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. We hope you pick up the new CD at a gig near you. We appreciate your support. Enjoy!

Breaking Free is the Saline Fiddlers' tenth CD and the title of one of the songs on the CD written by Fiddler alum Brad Phillips. This CD highlights the current Fiddler



1. Breaking Free
2. The Warehouse Trilogy: The Warehouse, Sliabh Na Mban, Reel Set
3. Father Jack Jigs
4. Box #10
5. Hugo's Big Reel
6. Mr. Sandman
7. Old Dangerfield
8. Battle of New Orleans
9. Pittsfield Union Grange Dance Set: Old Dan Tucker, Sandy Boys, Salt River
10. Stay All Night
11. Wilson the Warrior: A Day in the Life of William H.D. Phillips
12. Giliese 581D

Opportunities to See the Fiddlers

Saturday, June 9, 4:30 pm

Whitehouse Cherry Festival
Village Park in Whitehouse, OH
www.whitehouseohiochamber.com

Thursday, June 14, 7:00 pm

Saline Summer Concert Series
10th CD Release Party
S. Ann Arbor St. at US 12, Saline, MI
www.besaline.com
www.salinedma.org

Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 pm

Swartz Creek
Summer Concert Series
Pajtas Theater
8099 Civic Drive, Swartz Creek, MI
www.swartzcreekfinearts.org

Thursday, June 21, 7:30 pm

Canton Sounds of Summer Series
Heritage Park
1010 S. Canton Ctr. Rd., Canton, MI
www.cantonfun.org

Song of the Southeast **Summer Tour 2012** **June 26—July 7**

Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 pm
Historic Canton Theatre
Canton, GA
www.cantontheatre.com

Thursday, June 28, 7:00 pm

Gwinnet County Public Schools
Workshop & Performance
Duluth High School Auditorium
Duluth, GA
Workshop 1:00 – 3:00 pm,
Performance 7:00pm
www.duluthhigh.org/index.php

Saturday, June 30, 7:30 pm

Pawleys Island
Cultural Arts Organization
Winyah Auditorium
Georgetown, SC
www.winyahauditorium.com
www.culturalcouncil.info

Monday, July 2, 11:00 am

Colonial Williamsburg
Williamsburg, VA—Merchants Square
www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Wednesday, July 4, 5:30 & 7:00 pm
Culpeper 4th of July Celebration
Yowell Meadow Park, Culpeper, VA
www.culpeper4thofjuly.com

Thursday, July 5, 8:00 pm

Davis and Elkins College
Harper-McNeeley Auditorium
Elkins, WV
www.deww.edu

Thursday, July 12, 12:00 noon
University of Michigan Hospital
Gifts of Art Concert Series
Hospital Courtyard
1500 East Medical Center Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI
Med.umich.edu/goa/

Thursday, July 19, 7:00 pm
Southern Lakes Parks & Rec
Summer Concert Series
City Hall Gazebo
301 South Leroy, Fenton, MI
www.slpr.net

Friday, July 20, 7:00 pm
Livingston Arts Council
Summer Concert Series
Livingston County Courthouse
Amphitheatre
200 E. Grand River Ave.
Howell, MI
www.theoperahouse.us

Wednesday, August 1, 12:00 noon
PCAC Music in the Park Series
Kellogg Park, Plymouth, MI
www.plymoutharts.com

Tuesday, August 7, 10:30 am
Tunes on Tuesday
Mary Alexander Court Town Square
Stage, Northville, MI
www.downtownnorthville.com
www.northvilleparksandrec.org

Saturday, August 11
12:00 noon and 2:00 pm
Sammy Thompson's
Farm Plow Day
11315 Thompson Highway, Blissfield, MI
www.blissfieldadvance.com

Sunday, September 23, 3:00 pm
Fernwood's Autumn Air Event
Fernwood Botanical Gardens
13988 Rangeline Rd.
Niles, MI
www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Sunday, October 14
2:30 and 4:00 pm
Applebutter Fest
24231 Front Street
Grand Rapids, OH
www.applebutterfest.org

We are constantly adding
gigs to our schedule. Go to

www.salinefiddlers.com

to see when they will be
performing near you!

FIDDLER **PARENTS!** **We Can't Fiddle** **Without 'Em!**

We can't recount every little, wonderful thing these folks have done for the Fiddlers over the years, so here are a few highlights:

Diane and Wendell Winner – Diane drives to gigs, has provided many a meal and snack for fiddle camps, ushered at Hometown Shows, hosted the reception table at Hometown Shows, chaperoned a summer tour and has taken care of the student accounting. Wendell, besides being Diane's very willing assistant in all the above, has driven to gigs and once made an awesome white chicken chili for camp that the kids very quickly scraped clean!

Terese and Warren VanHout – Terese and Warren have been with the Fiddlers for many years since their older son Alex ('06) was a Fiddler too. Terese has pretty much done it all at one time or another for the Fiddlers. She has coordinated rehearsals, camps and Hometown Shows. She has driven to gigs, taken a turn as the "food mom," worked on stage decorating, supervised the merchandise table, cooked camp meals, gone on summer tours as a chaperone and nurse, and organized the end-of-the-year potluck.

Warren played a key role when the group re-organized into the Saline Fiddlers, facilitating a smooth transition. He has been a big help in the set-up and tear-down of stage sets at hometown shows. He has built many a stage decoration too. We have a collection of well-built props constructed by Warren that we continue to use far into the future. He always has a clever solution to stage decoration concerns (Go Warren!).

Senior Baby Key

- 1 B—Cassandra
- 2 A—Vicky



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



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.....	Booking Manager
Ed Brosius.....	Technical Manager
Lynda Shea.....	Business Manager
Kevin Carnahan.....	Technical Intern

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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