



Fiddlin' Around

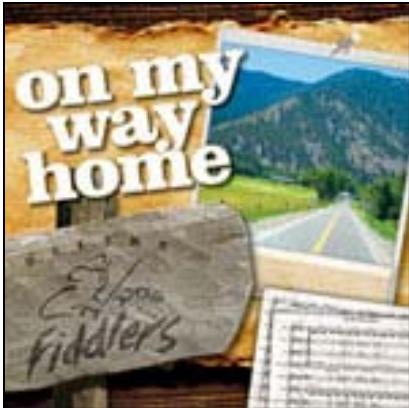
Volume 14, Number 2

www.salinefiddlers.com

Summer 2008

You're Invited to a CD Release Party!

By Will Warner



On My Way Home preserves the Fiddlers' stage show as it is during this, our 14th year of operation. Four classes of Fiddlers contributed their hard work and talent to it. We are very

and by students Andrew and David, now alumni. I find this especially exciting.

For years the Fiddlers have been unique interpreters of existing material from many musical traditions. Tremendous artistry has gone into scoring this material for a 30-piece ensemble and performing it.

Now we seem embarked on an adventure of discovery, of invention. What will emerge from this collaboration in creation? I can hardly wait to know.

Many of those who leave our concerts with a copy of CDs will later sign the guestbook on our website, saying I couldn't wait to hear it, so I listened to it in the car, hence the title of our new CD, "On My Way Home."

Please join us at Union School, 200 N. Ann Arbor Street, in Saline, at 7:00 PM, June 13th. There will be food, a performance by the Saline Fiddlers and the new CD will be on sale for the first time anywhere!



proud of these young musicians, awed by what they have achieved, and grateful to the artistic staff that guides them.

As you can probably imagine, producing a CD is quite an undertaking. The schedules of 30 busy teenagers have to intersect repeatedly to bring them together with the recording engineers, in the studio, ready to don headphones and step up to the mics. The effort pretty much takes all of Spring.

It's a crucible through which every Fiddler has passed, an experience that has its own lessons.

A year before producing this recording we signed contracts with two composers, Jesse Mason and Brad Phillips. The result has been a show, and now a CD,

including a large number of tunes commissioned specifically for the Saline Fiddlers. This is in addition to by them, by Artistic Director Ben Culver,



The Saline Fiddlers proudly present

Our newest CD

On My Way Home

Available June 13

As always, just \$16 away from FREE!

www.salinefiddlers.com

From Freshman Fiddlers to Senior Musicians, It is again time to

Congratulate the Graduating Seniors

Sarah

As a child, I would have to say I enjoyed being outside and getting dirty all the time. When I was little I was kind of a bossy little kid, almost a bully, and I loved to take charge and organize games for people to play, such as House. My best friend, Brooke, and I had a secret club we put together. Only certain people were allowed in. I was such a Tomboy and had a lot of guy friends, played a lot of sports and was always really dirty.

I think the crazy fad I went through was getting a perm in sixth grade. It was the thing to do and it looked awful. My hair was cut really short and it was really curly. Those were not pretty picture years. Another fad/trend was when we were little and wore leggings.

One of my most memorable moments would have to be getting in touch with my inner "gangsta" self with Andrew on the Mississippi tour. We got up in front of everyone making some raps and just shouting them out over the speakers.

SARA'S FAVORITES

Yellow

Potato Soup

Chocolate Milk

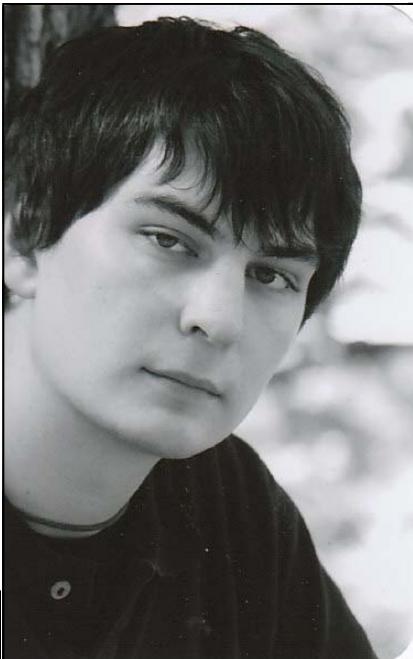
Cookie Dough Ice-cream

Movie "The Notebook"

Skiing

My favorite color is yellow. For a car I want a yellow Mini Cooper with a checkered top when I'm older.

My suggestions for new Fiddlers: I would have to say, Ladies, always look before you pull your skirt down to go to the bathroom because it'll happen at least once where it might just end up in the toilet.(Try not to flush it down.) Another thing is to smile, smile, smile on stage, because if you have fun it's going to be the best experience of your life. By far some of the best relationships and family you will make in High School will be with the Fiddlers:)



Dan

I went through the normal fads with my friends growing up. Some of the stuff we were involved in were a Pokémon phase, Britney Spears and I really liked climbing trees.

Probably one of the most significant historical events that I have lived through was the terrorist attacks of September 11.

I was a Boy Scout with troop 446 and had the honor of earning the rank of Eagle Scout (which is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America) To accomplish this, I was able to map Wilderness Park (Willis Road) and create brochures for the community.

I like to read books. One of my favorite authors is James Frey who wrote A Million Little Pieces. My favorite action movie is the Die Hard series. I

DAN'S FAVORITES

Scouts

Reading

Video Games

Guitar

The Military

The CIA

Dan Continued.....

like to play video games. My favorites are Kingdom Hearts and Halo.

My mom, Lynda, was a huge part of the Fiddlers as well. She acted as Administrative Manager for several years. It was her job to book gigs for the group, as well as complete all the paperwork and manage promotional materials.

Most of my career with the Saline Fiddlers was playing bass guitar. It is interesting to note that when I played the washboard I went at it so aggressively that it flattened the ridges on the "instrument."

My favorite event was the Winnebago Convention in Iowa in 2004.

For the future I will be attending Xavier College and taking ROTC (officer training). I am planning to go into the armed services and train as a ranger or go into the army special forces. I can see myself working for the CIA after that.

Some thoughts for future Fiddlers: Stay on top of school and don't plan much outside of the group activities.

Casey

I have a really intense need for music and performance in my life, and Fiddlers has helped me meet that, as well as helped me connect with people in, and given me some experience within the music industry. I really love going to concerts. The Ann Arbor music scene has really become a huge part of who I am. I also like to draw, write, and play my instruments. The intersection of art and activism is something in which I'm very involved.

I've been volunteering for a longtime, for example at an LGBT resource center in Ann Arbor called WRAP. I am the founder and have been president of the school's gay-straight alliance (GSA) for all 4 years.

I'm proud to have been a part of creating so much change in Saline. I was personally invited by the mayor to be a part of Saline's Environmental Commission, which is a neat accomplishment at 17 (though I'm 18 now).

I have a Pomeranian named Nudnik QueeQueg who likes cheese and having his arm pits rubbed and I am also looking after a parrot, Geet, who likes to cuddle, shriek and eat my shirts. He's currently sitting on my laptop.

My favorite memories: I really enjoyed hiding people's stuff (especially Nick's shoes). Once, Mary was in an excessively giggly mood and was threatening to throw a plate of mashed-up frozen bananas at people. I was walking by her and managed to defuse the situation with a very coordinated, gentle Xena-like kick sending the banana into Mary's face. Everyone laughed hysterically except me—I felt the need to remain a stoic enforcer of justice.

I will be attending Oberlin College for Environmental Science next fall and might end up at The University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and the Environment for graduate School. Essentially I want to save the world.

I don't have any regrets in my life so far, but I really wish I could go to Australia as a student ambassador again as the person I am now, as opposed to my 12 year old self.

My advice to new Fiddlers: Go to concerts a LOT. Learn from other performers (of any genre) how to connect with an audience. Practice, because you really do get as much out as you put in - as often true with the thermodynamic black box of life.

**CASEY'S FAVORITES**

Music

Social Activism

Recycling

Walks in the woods

PBS

Ann Arbor

Gina

I have pets. Two Yellow labs- Scout and Sophie. They are both very special to me!

I go to St Andrews every Sunday and I am involved in their youth group- LIFE. My faith is a huge part of my life

I love my parents! They are both very supportive, I don't know what I would do without them. I have so many fond memories with my family; I think that our family vacations supply some of the fondest memories.

When I first moved to Saline I remember driving by runners and thinking that anyone who would run outside in the winter was absolutely insane. Eight years later I think that any runner who doesn't run outside in the winter is a pansy.

One memorable moment in my life would have to be seeing my name on the list of people who made it into The Saline Fiddlers. That was one of the first memories I have of setting a really important goal, working really hard towards it, and then finally achieving that goal. It was a great feeling.

I am really proud of all that I've accomplished in high school. From being a varsity athlete, to being a part of the Saline Fiddlers, to being a



GINA'S FAVORITES

- Faith
- Family
- Education
- Running
- Her Dogs

4.0+ student. I've really worked hard to achieve all of these things

I will be attending Hope College next year. I will be in the pre-med program, though I'm not positive of what my major will be yet. I have decided to pursue their neuroscience minor. I would like to go to U of M for Medical School to become a neurologist.

The Saline Fiddlers has been a huge part of my life. It helped me to come out of my shell. It taught me to set my goals high, and to work hard to achieve those goals.

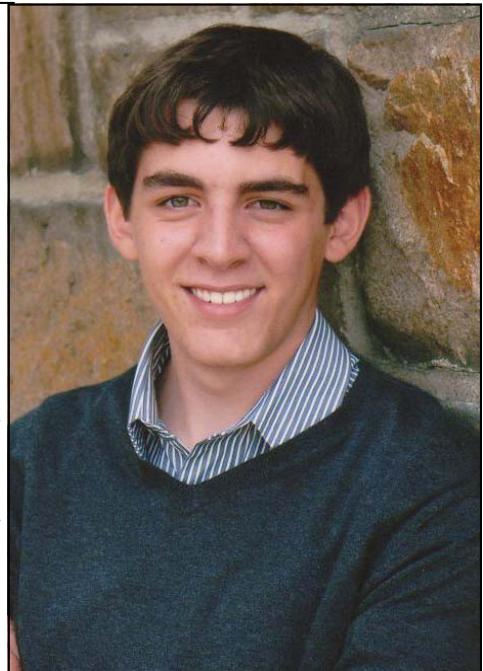
They also gave me valuable teamwork and leadership skills as well as a set of amazing friends. New Kid Advice: do the work, practice the songs. Don't rely on the older kids because you are the future of the Saline Fiddlers and in a few years you will be the older kids.

Nick

My first and only job I had is working at Jungle Java in Ann Arbor. It's a big play area where parents bring their kids to play structure and they sit down, drink coffee, eat sandwiches and relax. My responsibilities are to serve food, make coffee, and clean. One funny thing is that the Saline Fiddlers were partly responsible for me getting the job. The owner is a big fan of the group and when I told her I was a member in my interview she got really excited and hired me right afterward.

Next year I will be attending American University in Washington D.C. and I plan on majoring in political science. I'm not exactly positive about what I want to do after college, but I know that I want to do something government/law related. Being in D.C. for four years will offer me tons of internships so I hope that I can narrow down what I want to do after college while I'm there. One thing I know is it'll be really exciting to be in D.C. next year because of the upcoming election.

Some of my school accomplishments are: I was the president of Saline



Nick Continued.....

National Honor Society, involved in Link Crew, played cello in the orchestras, and was part of Hornet Light and Sound.

The Saline Fiddlers has given me tons of memories. It made my high school experience unique and most of all fun. One of my favorite memories was during our southeast tour when all thirty of the fiddlers stayed in one cabin in the middle of the North Carolina mountains. It was really cool because there wasn't anyone else around and it was so quiet (except for the thirty teenagers).

Suggestions for new Fiddlers: Always remember that you can't be a Fiddler forever. It only lasts for four years so make sure you have as much fun as possible while it lasts. Also, don't fall asleep on other people's pillows or blankets on the bus.

NICK'S FAVORITES
Politics
Law
Washington DC
Cabins
Mountains

Mix and Match

Match the toddler or baby on the left with the older Fiddler on the right.



 A	 Dan
 B	 Gina
 C	 Nick
 D	 Casey
 E	 Sarah

A = Nick

B = Sarah

D = Dan

C = Gina

E = Casey

A Great Big Thanks...



April 22 The Saline Fiddlers held a fundraiser at LaFontaine Dodge/Crysler/Jeep to plan for the next portion

of their ongoing summer tour in 2008.

The group is currently in their 14th season, the fiddlers have been to the District of Columbia, 19 states and 4 foreign countries. Current target for the next musical extravaganza is the east coast. The Saline Fiddlers board came up with a great idea to help raise funds for this and future tours: a formal, by invitation only, fundraiser complete with dinner and a show.

The over 90 attendees were wined, dined, given an opportunity to see the



impact of the group through testimony and a private performance by the fiddlers. Nothing but rave reviews were heard from those attending and due to

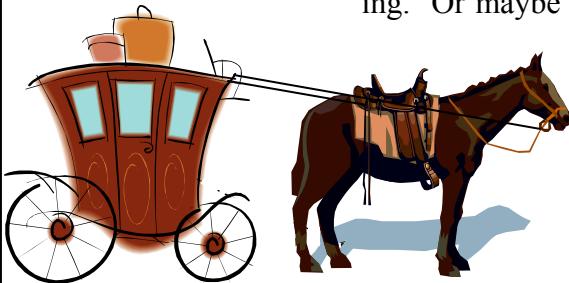
the generosity of the contributors, the event raised over \$3,000 more than the target amount set for the event for a grand total of \$17.5k. A big Fiddle Pickin Pal thanks goes out from the Saline Fiddlers to those who attended and contributed, the table captains, the fiddler families who organized and ran the event and a special thanks to the folks at La Fontaine for their support and use of their facility. You all are the best!



Summer Tour

The Saline Fiddlers will be traveling to the East Coast this summer. They will make stops in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Vermont. This will be another big bus trip during which the kids will combine hard work with some sight seeing and learning about another area of this great country of ours while doing what they do best: Introducing their special brand of great fiddle music to new audiences. Check out their itinerary on the right. If you know someone in any of the areas the kids will be playing, let them know we're coming.

Or maybe you are planning a vacation of your own to one of these locations. Stop by and say howdy!



- ♪ June 30, 7:30 pm, **Concert with the Sparta Strings**, Sparta Middle School, Sparta, NJ
- ♪ July 1, 7:30 pm, **Benefit Concert for Jenna's Dream**, Yorktown Stage, Yorktown, NY www.jennasdream.org
- ♪ July 4, **Quincy Market**, Boston, MA
- ♪ July 6, 7:30 pm, **Boothbay Opera House**, 86 Townsend Ave., Boothbay Harbor, ME www.boothbayoperahouse.com
- ♪ July 8, 7:30 pm, **Summer Music at Grace**, The Opera House at Enosburg Falls, Enosburg Falls, VT www.gracechurchsheldon.org

Identical?

Nope. Take a look at some of the guys at the recording studio. There are 6 changes that have been made to the picture on the right. See if you can find them all.



1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

1. Brad Phillips hat has a happy face on it. 2. Although the group is in the recording process, there is already a copy of "On My Way Home" on the sound table. 3. Nick is holding a microphone. 4. The studio tech is reaching for a sub sandwich with his left hand. 5. Some of the knobs and slats are missing on the sound board. 6. There is a picture of Sarah on the table to the right of the guys.



Ian, Jack and Ed Brosius, our awesome sound crew



Ben Culver, Artistic Director
 Will Warner, Executive Director
 Brad Phillips, Assistant Director
 Karen Bedigian Dakin & Randy Dakin Event Managers
 Mark Visovatti, Administrative Manager
 Ed Brosius, Technical Manager
 Mark Kuykendall, Business Manager
 Sheila Graziano, Dance Choreographer
 Dianne Newberry, Vocal Coach

For bookings call: 1-866-257-5333
www.salinefiddlers.com



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



Upcoming Public Events

- ↗ June 13, 7:00 pm, **CD Release Party for On My Way Home**, Historic Union School, 200 North Ann Arbor St., Saline, Michigan
- ↗ June 18, 12 Noon, **Music in the Park**, Kellogg Park, Main St., Plymouth, MI
www.storytellerdesign.com/musicpark.html
- ↗ June 28, 3:00 pm, **Livonia Spree**, Livonia, Michigan, www.livoniaspree.com
- ↗ July 16, 1:00 pm, **Ann Arbor Street Fair**, Ingalls Mall Stage, 881 North University , Ann Arbor, MI www.artfair.org
- ↗ July 17, 12 noon, **University of Michigan Gifts of Art Luncheon Entertainment**, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor, MI
- ↗ July 18, 8:00 pm, **Rotary Pavilion, Cadillac Festival of the Arts**, www.cadillac-mi.net
- ↗ July 20, 1:00 pm, **Farm Lane Bluegrass Festival**, Farm Lane Campgrounds, Grass Lake, MI www.farmlanecampground.com
- ↗ July 26, **Yale Bologna Festival**, Yale, MI, www.yalechamber.com
- ↗ July 31, 7:00 pm, **Pigeon Bandshell Series**, Recreation Park, Pigeon, Michigan
www.pigeonbandshell.com

For the latest info visit our website:
www.salinefiddlers.com

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