



Fiddlin' Around

Volume 15, Number 2

www.salinefiddlers.com

Winter 2009



A Winter Hometown Show

Let's Have a Great Big Round of Applause for Daisy May Erlewine and Seth Bernard

The Saline Fiddlers are proud to announce their 15th Annual Concert Series Show, Saturday, February 7th, with guest artists Daisy May Erlewine and Seth Bernard.

Michigan has for some time now been a deep resource for songwriters and roots musicians. Seth and Daisy May are two of these outstanding Michigan-grown artists.

Born into a family of musicians, Daisy May Erlewine has been playing music all her life. She learned to sing and play piano at an early age, and her acoustic guitar is seldom far from her side. Erlewine, who was home schooled, paid her singer-songwriter dues in her late teens with several years of hitchhiking back and forth across the U.S., even riding freight Trains and always writing songs and playing her music. Now with four CD's to her name, Daisy May works a variety of venues coast to coast focusing on the Midwest and her home state of Michigan. Her inspired songs and powerful clear voice have a sweetness that delights audiences.

Grand Rapids Magazine says: "With a voice that vacillates between a cowgirl lilt and a honey warble, Daisy May operates comfortably in the worlds of old-time country and Dylan-esque folk."

In a review of the Ann Arbor Folk Festival 2007 the **Michigan Daily** reports: "But yet again, the highlight of the night was the first performer, Daisy May. Accompanied by fellow Earthworks musician Seth Bernard, Daisy May graced the audience with a voice that rivals Patsy Cline in strength and beauty."

Daisy May will again be joined by Michigan singer-songwriter, Seth Bernard, whose excellent guitar work and soaring harmonies are seamlessly woven into their song-stories. As they perform together, you can just feel the synergy! Their playing is fun and heart-full, their songwriting is imaginative and insightful.

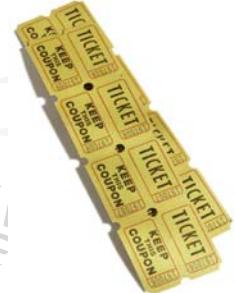
In 2006 they released their first duo album, recorded in the historical Calumet Theater, backed by the Copper Country Quintet (Lansing's Own Dominic Suchyta on bass, Drew Howard, and Andrea Moreno-Beals).

The Fiddlers will perform their rousing show of new music and old favorites followed by Daisy May and Seth. The show will begin at 7:00 pm at Saline Middle School (The Old Saline High School), 7190 North Maple Road, Saline, MI 48176. Tickets are between \$15 and \$20 and may be purchased on-line at SalineFiddlers.com or call 866-257-5333, ext. 1.



Seth Bernard and Daisy May Erlewine

By Cindy O'Brien



Stop by the SHAR
Instrument Petting
Zoo before the show



where
children can try out
quality instruments
that are just their size

Catching up with the Phillips Family

By Jen Lahala

The Fiddler story has been told many times in the last fifteen years – how a high school orchestra teacher wanted more for his students and at the same time wanted to keep traditional American folk music alive. Most people who hear *about* high school fiddlers are usually not impressed. Most people who *hear them and see them play* are pleasantly amazed.

So what ever happened to **Bob Phillips**, the man who has modeled music programs across the country?

No story about Bob Phillips can be told without mentioning **Pam Phillips** in the same breath. While Bob taught inspiring young fiddlers to both play music well and have fun doing it, his wife Pam was busy arranging numerous performance opportunities, making travel plans and creating the entire package

known as the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, as the group was first called.

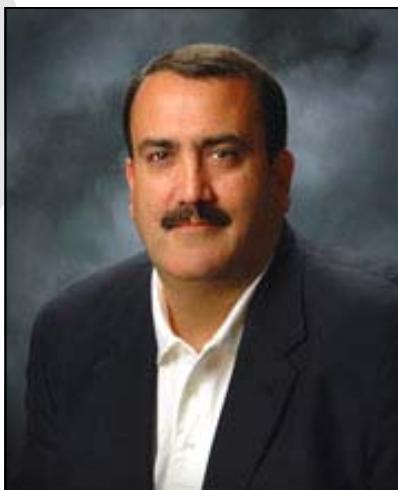
After creating and running the Fiddlers for the first eight years, Bob and Pam retired from the group and handed it over to Middle School Orchestra Teacher and current Artistic Director Ben Culver and several parent volunteers. A year later Bob retired from teaching in the Saline schools all together and the couple moved to western Michigan, where they began publishing music for all students interested in fiddling.

Bob and Pam are still in the fiddling business – the **Phillips Family Fiddlers** business. They work for Alfred Publishing. Bob composes educational music and writes instructional books. Pam organizes the production of the music. They conduct clinics for teachers around the world and present instructional camps and events. Bob and Pam are excited about a new project with **Mark O'Connor** to be released in March at the National American String Teachers Association: The O'Connor Violin Method. Bob is co-author and Pam project manager.

They have three daughters who grew up in the Saline Fiddlers and are now married. Two are string instrument teachers and the third teaches math. All have taught at the Phillips Family Fiddle Camps and the Michigan ASTA camps. Bob and Pam have three grandchildren and are expecting their fourth in February.

“The impact that the Fiddlers has had on string teaching around the country is immense. People look to the Saline fiddle groups as models to this day,” says Pam of the group she and Bob started many years ago.

Bob and Pam welcome visitors to their website, **phillipsfiddlers.com**, which lists all the books and pieces that Bob has done as well as links to recordings of them.



Bob and Pam Phillips





New Years Eve In Kalamazoo

By Will Warner

In Kalamazoo, Michigan the entire city celebrates New Year's Eve. This year the Saline Fiddlers joined them. At midnight the Fiddlers and many parents and siblings mixed with several thousand "Kzooans" in Bronson Park, the city's main square, to count down the last seconds of 2008 and watch the first fireworks of 2009. It was cold, but fun.

This annual event draws Kalamazoo's citizens downtown for an evening of entertainment, food, and community spirit. Our group was one of 28 acts, performing in nine buildings surrounding Bronson Park.

We got to see an incredibly good young magician, Alan Smola, whose show followed each of our sets. Alan and his lovely assistant/girlfriend amazed us with their professional magic show.

This was an overnight outing and many of our own families went along. It was fun seeing everyone jammed into the tiny Comfort Inn dinning room the next morning, drinking coffee, making waffles and toast, munching on bananas and cereal, talking about the shows.

Kalamazoo has a very good thing going with its New Year's Fest. The crowds were huge. The entertainment was first-class. Guy Lombardo himself would have enjoyed it. The Saline Fiddlers were well-received and won some new fans.



Lindenberg: Our Sister City

By Gretchen Waters

Lindenberg, the second largest town in the Lindau district of Bavaria, Germany, is one of Saline's two Sister Cities. It is located in an area in southern Germany with hilly meadows, lush forests and enchanting valleys with a backdrop of mountains. Nearby are Lake Constance, many castles and historical sites, as well as the countries of Austria and Switzerland.

Lindenberg is over 1150 years old, having been established when Patacho and Sigibert, two important aristocrats, gave estates in "Lintiberc" to the monastery of St. Gallen. In more "recent" times Lindenberg passed from being a part of Austria to Germany in 1805.

Lindenberg has always been a "market town," and its people have always been known for their hospitality to the many visitors from other cities and countries that have come throughout the centuries. Hundreds of years ago, the city was a hub of horse trading between areas to the north and the cities of Italy. The Italian horse traders introduced Lindenberg to the craft of straw hat making – a skill for which the people of Lindenberg became famous.

Today the town of Lindenberg has 11,000 plus people. They are still widely known for their warmth. This summer they are going to welcome the Fiddlers into their hearts and homes and our kids can't wait to share a bit of America and the joy of music with them!





Send a Fiddler to Germany Campaign

By Gretchen Waters



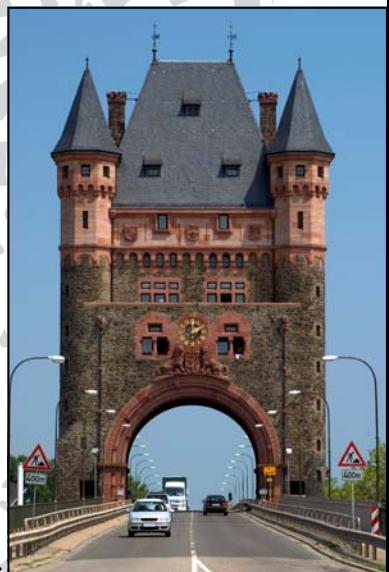
In 2007, a group from Saline's sister city of Lindenberg, Germany were entertained by the Saline Fiddlers during their visit to our community. Not long afterwards, we received a letter from Mr. Johann Zeh, the Mayor of Lindenberg, inviting the group to come to their city in Germany so that all the citizens of Lindenberg could hear these talented young musicians. Everyone in the Saline Fiddlers organization was thrilled by this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Then reality began to set in... How could our small, not-for-profit organization plan and pay for such a huge undertaking?

After reviewing the financial resources that could be provided by the Saline Fiddlers organization and the Fiddler families it was clear that outside help was needed to make the Germany

Tour a reality. We created a "Send a Fiddler to Germany" fund raising campaign and began to contact potential corporate and foundation donors to see if there was support for our effort before we made a public appeal for assistance. The response has been fantastic!

Heading the list of major sponsors for the "Send a Fiddler to Germany" fund raising campaign is our "Name the Tour" sponsor - Shar Music Company. Shar also is assisting us with tour planning through their business connections in Europe. Also providing special help to our fund raising campaign is Dr. Terry Timm who is donating a percentage of the service fee he receives for every new orthodontic patient during the first six months of 2009.

Once we were confident that the community was willing to help us send the Fiddlers to Germany,



we publicly announced our fund raising effort at our last Hometown Concert. Many individuals and businesses have contributed to the effort already. We are at the time of this printing officially two-thirds of the way toward our ultimate fund raising goal, but we need to finish the job!

The city of Saline and all of Michigan and Germany need your help. If you have not already done so please consider joining our sponsors listed on the next page to help send the Fiddlers to Germany!

Saline Orthodontist, Dr. Terry Timm, partners with Ben Culver and the Saline Fiddlers to help the group make it to Germany.



A Great Big "Thanks" to All Who Have Sponsored the Fiddlers So Far



Major Germany Tour Sponsors

Shar Music Company
Dr. Terry Timm
IBEW/NECA Local 252
Laborers Local 499 LECET

"Send a Fiddler to Germany" Sponsor

Buhr Foundation*
Huron Valley Sales,
Inc.*
K&D Industrial
Services, Inc.*
Liebherr Aerospace/Gear
Technology
Mercantile Bank
Phoenix Contractors
Roger & Coco Newton*
Redies Foundation*
Saline Rotary Club
Multiple "Send a Fiddler"
donations



John and Christine Linden
Robert Petrancosta
Saline Masonic Lodge
Ilene Sullivan & Jeffrey Ulrich
United Bank & Trust
Ray and Pat Stillwell
Thomas & Janet Thomas

"Send a Fiddle to Germany"

Sponsor

John Alt
Kelven and Howard Braun
Jim and Lou Carras
Design Hub
Tricia Frazer
Bill and Martha Grimes
Tom Kirvin
Kumon Math & Reading Center
of Saline
Kenneth Liabenow
Bill Roach - State
Farm Insurance
Monika Sacks
Grace VanHout
Milt & Jan Weidmayer



Germany Tour Supporters

Kathy & Tom Albaugh
R. E. Anthony



Barry and Audrey Barkel
Margot Benson
Marva Cernuto
Brian Connelly
Sue Cowen
Marye Delhey
Jeffrey Duncan
Lorraine Finney
Pat Franklin
Nancy Gleisner
Mary Ann & Lonnie Hafner
Herb David Guitar Studio
Charles & Mary Ann Hill
Ron & Fran Hoard
Nina Keener
Bill and Maureen Kennelly
Marjorie Klein
Tom and Chris Lerchen
Jean Linden
Gary and Silvana Lohndorf
James and Martha Malmer
Mitch & Rebecca Michaluk
Bill and Lucy Miller
Richard Petershagen
Warren & Marilyn Rentschler
William Roach
Judy Ryan
Patricia and Frederick Schwarz
Ada Showler
Lyle & Josephine Slider
Brian Westphal
Nancy Winchester
Eugenia Wobbe
Charlotte Wolfe
Richard & Christine Yant
Thanks to All!!!!!!

"Send a Cello to Germany"

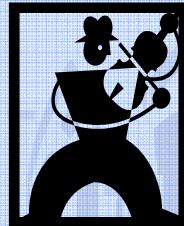
Sponsor

American Wera Inc.
Gerald and Maddy
Dakin
DTE Energy Foundation
Lyn and Rich Hess



YES, I would like to help send the *Saline Fiddlers* to Germany!

Make checks payable to **Saline Fiddlers**
All contributions are tax deductible!



Send a *Fiddler*
to Germany!
 \$1000

Send a *Cello*
to Germany!
 \$500

Send a *Guitar*
to Germany!
 \$250

Send a *Fiddle*
to Germany!
 \$120

Help in any way
you can.
 \$ _____

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____

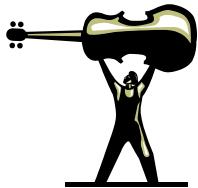
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Please send contributions to: Saline Fiddlers, P.O. Box 315, Saline, MI 48176

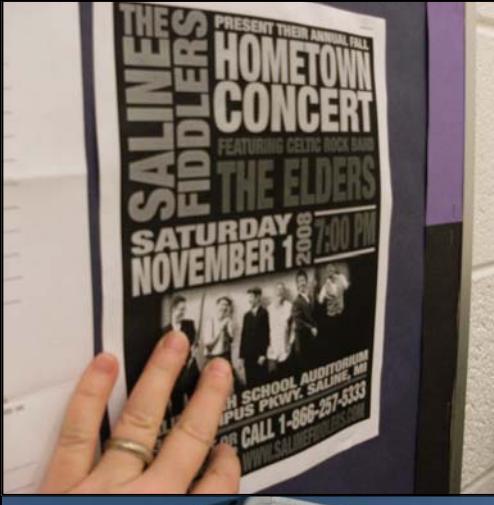
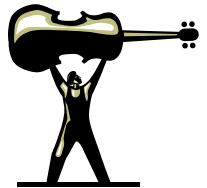
"Send a Guitar to Germany" Sponsor

Walt & Amy Armstrong
Copper & Brass Sales
(ThyssenKrupp)
Frederick & Shirley
Ellicott
Fannie and Lyle Filkens





What Does it Take to Put On a Great Hometown Show?



Amp Rack Power Cable
Monitor Speaker Cables
Mains Speaker Cables
IEC Adapter Bag

The guest artist is contracted and the local auditorium is secured. Between 10 and 20 rehearsals go into preparing each hometown concert, held, throughout the year each Sunday from 2:15 pm until 5:15 pm each Sunday.

Posters and flyers are designed and printed, and students and parents post them in prominent areas. The group's website is updated with concert information. Promotion is key. Radio interviews are arranged. Tickets are designed, printed, and put on sale through our phone system and website. Tickets are sold over the next few months.

Staff and parents meet to discuss the design and theme of the set. They draw up plans and make lists of materials that will be needed. Once a theme is determined materials are acquired, the parents roll up their sleeves and get to work. Much of the assembly is done off set in individual homes.

The guest artist's equipment is rented and picked up. The Tech Crew is responsible for overseeing setup of the sound equipment and running sound checks. The Fiddlers themselves unload the truck, set up wires, cables, microphones and play music for the sound check. This process takes approximately two hours to complete. Then a complete dress rehearsal is run.

On the day of the show, parents and staff converge on the stage with assigned parts of props to be assembled as quickly and skillfully as possible taking care to steer clear of the Fiddlers with the sound equipment. As the years have gone by, Fiddler families have passed down ideas and tricks of the trade which have culminated in the set-up going as seamlessly as it does given how complex the process is.

The Fiddlers arrive early on the day of the concert. They meet with the guest artists and hold a





workshop. This time is an opportunity for the guest artist to teach the Fiddlers one of their musical arrangements. Each Hometown Concert allows the students to expand their knowledge of music in this way.

As the kids continue their work it's time for the Fiddler parents to jump in again.

The group travels with a snack box and water at all times. The meals during a Hometown show, however, are prepared by the loving hands of Fiddler parents.

The main food preparation and organization of meal times is orchestrated by Fiddler mom, Darlene Slagle (pictured above with the food cart), whose son, Devin, plays banjo for the group. It is important to keep the kids energy levels high on such an important day.

Just before the concert the halls of the school are filled with small groups of Fiddlers practicing their parts. While they always enjoy kidding around with each other levity on a day like this is always very brief because concentration is at its peak.

Immediately before the concert begins and before the first members of the audience arrive the Fiddlers don their uniforms, do a final fine tuning of their instruments and take the stage for one last sound check.

Parents in the main hall set up tables, staff the ticket booth and CD tables and set up a reception table filled with baked goods and punch for after the concert.

It's show time!

After the show the group tears down the set and returns all the equipment to the truck in an organized manner usually finishing around midnight. Then everyone heads over to a Fiddler home for a party to celebrate the show.





SALINE *Fiddlers*

Ben Culver, Artistic Director

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

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

Fiddlin' Around is the official newsletter of the
Saline Fiddlers.

We publish four times yearly, or as needed.
Beth Bartley, Editor.
Photos courtesy of loving Fiddler families.
Will Warner -Executive Director

www.salinefiddlers.com



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

Upcoming Public Events

- » February , 7 th Annual Winter **Hometown Concert** Featuring guest artists **Seth Bernard and May Erlewine** 7:00 pm, Ellen Ewing Auditorium, Saline High School, Saline, MI
 - » February 21, **Ferris State University Festival of the Arts** , 7:00 pm, Williams Auditorium Ferris State University Visit: <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/visitors/festival/>
 - » May 3, **Friends of the Novi Public Library Member Appreciation Day** 3:00 pm, Novi Middle School Auditorium, 49000 11 Mile Road Novi, MI Visit: www.novilibrary.org
 - » May 17, **St John's Concert Series** 6:00 pm , St John's Episcopal Church 574 South Sheldon Road Plymouth, MI Visit: www.stjohnsplymouth.org
- Watch for new gigs to be added weekly.
For the latest info visit our website:
www.salinefiddlers.com

PRESORTED STANDARD
NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 115
SALINE MI 48176



To