

Fiddle Beat

*Brought to you by Fiddlers ReStrung
Saline Area Schools—Saline Community Education*

Vol 4. No. 2 — January 2008



HOMETOWN CONCERT TO FEATURE GRANT GORDY QUARTET'S PROGRESSIVE STRINGBAND MUSIC

Fiddlers ReStrung presents their Annual Hometown Spring Concert on Saturday, March 1st, at Saline Middle School. Supported and sponsored by Saline Area Schools, Fiddlers ReStrung is a talented group of high school students who play and dance to traditional folk, Celtic and bluegrass music. Led by Artistic Director Cori Smith, the group performs year round at fairs, retirement communities, schools, charity fundraisers and private events. In addition, they tour annually and perform two Hometown Concerts each year.

Appearing with Fiddlers ReStrung is the Grant Gordy Quartet from Denver, Colorado. The Grant Gordy Quartet features Gordy on guitar, Adam Galblum on fiddle, Ian Hutchison on bass, and Dominick Leslie on mandolin. The group plays "new acoustic music" or progressive stringband music, and performs mostly original tunes written by Gordy.

His style ranges from bluegrass to western swing to folk rock to jazz. He has an interest in fusing seemingly disparate genres in his writing and performances and is always looking for new musical challenges. Gordy has played onstage with the David Grisman Quintet and with Chris Thile. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall with fellow musicians Edgar Meyer, Mike Marshall and Saline's own Jeremy Kittel at the Edgar Meyer Young Artists Concert.

Opening the program will be Saline's Middle School Fiddle Club led by their new Director Krista Knight. Some of these young fiddlers will audition and become the newest members of Fiddlers ReStrung this next season. The Fiddlers ReStrung mission is to preserve and perform American fiddle music and serve the community. The concert serves to fulfill this goal and exposes students and community residents to a wide variety of



talented professional musicians.

The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Saline Middle School, 7190 Maple Road, Saline, Michigan. Reserved seating tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets in advance, please call (734) 429-7210. After February 10, tickets may also be purchased in-person at the Saline Community Education Office, 200 N. Ann Arbor Street, Saline.

For more information, please visit our website at www.fiddlersrestrung.com.

March 1, 2008—Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple Rd. - 7:00 pm

Reserve tickets by calling (734) 429-7210 or purchase at Saline Comm. Ed. after Feb. 10th

www.fiddlersrestrung.com



SUCCESSFUL TOYS FOR TOTS HOLIDAY CONCERT

The beginning of the holiday season serves as inspiration for what each of us hopes to keep in our hearts all year long: helping those in need. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Program, which has benefited over 173 million needy children since its inception. The Saline Fire Department has helped local children for many years and extended their efforts to include surrounding communities since their alliance six years ago with the Marine Corps' Program. In collaboration with those efforts, Fiddlers ReStrung, a high school fiddle group sponsored by Saline Area Schools, joined in the collection efforts this year as they hosted a Hometown Holiday Benefit Concert to kick-off the Saline Fire Department's campaign drive. Saline Fire Chief Craig Hoeft remarks, "It is always great to work with Fiddlers ReStrung and the talented young men and women who work so hard, yet make it look so easy. Thanks to Mrs. Freeman and her choir who have helped us out every time we ask, which is quite often. Most of all, it is always a great feeling to help someone in need, but an even better feeling to help a child in need."

The concert featured a montage of community talent. Members of the Saline High School Choral Music Dept. volunteered their time and talents under the direction of Norma Freeman and piano accompanist Bob Cindric. Holiday spirit filled the auditorium as Brittany S., Krista S., Kristine O., Kelli A., Sandra P. and Andrew M. opened with two carols, "Angels We Have Heard On High" and "We Three Kings". Soloist Kristine O. performed a moving rendition of "Ave Maria", followed by "The Prayer" skillfully harmonized by Sandra P. and Andrew M. The Middle School Fiddle Club debuted with their new director Krista Knight. Favorite traditional fiddle tunes included "Ashokan Farewell" and "Rakes of Mallow". The bluegrass band Lonesome County took the stage with its own community ties.

Member Kevin Frank is an alumnus of Fiddlers ReStrung. The band featured many tunes from their self-titled CD; including original score "Old Kentucky Home", composed one melancholy evening following Chicago rush hour traffic.

Fiddlers ReStrung opened the second half of the concert with a variety of fiddle tunes, many of which differ in origin as well as composition. "New Ross' Reel" is a lively progressive Celtic tune. Alternately, the Swedish tune "Josefin's Waltz" offers a serenely beautiful melody. This particular fiddle tune has opened creative opportunities for FRS musicians as it marks the first time ever that an arrangement will be improvised each time it is played. A precious bit of American culture was glimpsed as Kari F., Fraser C. and Courtney T. clogged to "Redican's Jig". Originally choreographed by the famous Marley family of Connecticut, this jig has been handed down through the generations since the 1930's, and eventually to FRS choreographer Sheila Graziano.*

A solo piece was later featured and artfully executed by senior bass-guitarist Matt D.. His song, "The Vision", was written by the great bass-guitar player Victor Wooten, whose prestigious camp he attended this past

**The Marley Jig*

Longtime FRS friend and choreographer Shelia Graziano explains the history of the Marley jig. "The Marley jig steps were choreographed in the 1930's by the Marley family of Connecticut. Anna Marley, a mere child then, danced her whole life and had a dance studio in Connecticut. In the 1980's, when she was well into her 70s, she taught the family dances to English folk singer/dancer Tony Barrand. He was the last person to learn these steps from a Marley. Tony in turn taught them to me earlier this decade Thus we are links in the chain of preservation of this historic series of dances."



summer. “The technical challenges of this particular tune are vast and can only be matched by the musical maturity needed to play it well. Matt’s performance showed his mastery in both of these elements,” explains Artistic Director Cori Smith. As the last note faded, audience members were cheering their praise.

On hand to accept donations on behalf of “Toys for Tots” was Saline firefighter and U.S. Marine Corps Reservist Kurt Schneider, who is scheduled to be deployed to Iraq next June. Joining him were three fellow Marines from Selfridge Air Force Base, all in full dress uniform. When Saline’s Fire Chief Craig Hoeft invited the men on stage, they were greeted by a standing ovation by the entire theater audience.

The success of this collaborative community effort was evident at the end of the day. The Saline Fire Dept. returned to their station with over 150 toys for needy children and more than \$300 in cash donations from generous concertgoers.



Cellists Catherine N., Adriane R., Eli Bender (music intern) and Jeremy S.



*1st Row L-R—Tomas S., Kevin W., Stephen F., Assistant Director Josh Herter, Kari F., Artistic Director Cori Smith, Courtney T., Kelly Pond (music coach), Asheema S.
2nd Row—(L-R) Tommy H., Jake H., Matt D.*



Some of our newest members performing at their first hometown concert include Trevor M., Sabine B., Anjali S. and Cindy R.



Sing it like you mean it!



Seniors Kari F. and Courtney T.

KINDLING WINTER'S WARMTH

At the heart of Fiddlers ReStrung's principles is their commitment to serve the community through charity. Each year, one-third of their schedule is reserved for just that purpose. As representatives of Saline High School, these young musicians understand the importance of supporting the community that in turn supports them.

FRS entertained at the "Save A Heart" fundraiser sponsored by the University of Michigan. "Save A Heart" is an organization that raises funds to benefit patients and their families of UM's Congenital Heart Center at C. S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. This year's 15th annual celebration included wine tasting, food samples from local restaurants and a silent auction. Proceeds from the event were divided between programs in the Congenital Heart Center and the construction fund for the Congenital Heart Center in the new Mott Children's Hospital. Funds allow for continued assistance for patients and their families in many ways, including travel and lodging expenses. It is their goal is to relieve the families' financial burden during an already stressful time.

Interspersed during the early winter months are visits to retirement communities and health care facilities to entertain people who might not otherwise have an opportunity to see the group perform. Return visits included Glacier Hills Retirement Community and Whitehall Healthcare Center, both located in Ann Arbor. Brookhaven Manor residents in Ann Arbor similarly enjoyed a private show and especially loved the clogging performances. When staff and residents at Oakhaven Manor in Howell heard about FRS' high-energy entertainment through other area residents, they were quick to schedule their own private performance. They were not disappointed.



Brookhaven Manor



Glacier Hills Retirement Community

Fiddlers ReStrung's holiday spirit emerged in early November. As a prelude to their efforts to bring joy to local children with toys under the Christmas tree, they entertained at Wyandotte Goodfellows' 6th annual benefit show "No Child Without a Christmas". The East River Folk Society, a Downriver-based nonprofit organization that celebrates the joy of music with monthly, public performances, sponsored the event.

Fiddlers ReStrung is proud to be able to assist in these fundraisers and pleased with the warm welcomes by senior residents. After, all, during the cold winter months, charity, friends and family is what keeps us all warm.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



*Practical, confident, patient
ambitious, persevering,
disciplined and witty*

January 3—Stephen
January 5—Asheema
January 9—Lisa
January 10—Jake
January 22—Anjali



*Friendly, humanitarian,
honest, loyal, inventive,
independent and intellectual*

January 23—Courtney
February 9—Kari

FIDDLERS RESTRUNG AUDITIONS

Sunday, February 3rd—7:00 p.m.
Saline High School Orchestra Room

Auditions are open to students in 8th grade and above who demonstrate a high level of musical talent in addition to great character and personal integrity. Students must be enrolled in one of the music classes offered in the high school. Fiddlers ReStrung members are dedicated, willing to work, and perform their best on a regular basis.

Please arrive early to unpack and tune. The process consists of a musical audition and a personal interview with other ReStrung members. Parents are welcome to attend, meet the Artistic Director and other fiddler parents as well as ask questions.

*Reserve your tickets early by
Visa, Check or MasterCard*

Hometown Concert

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Saline Middle School

7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline

Featuring Guest Artist

Grant Gordy Quartet

Tickets \$15/Adult

\$10/Students & Seniors

Call (734) 429-7210

Or purchase in person after Feb. 10th at
Saline Community Ed. Offices
200 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline

ALMA COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT

Fiddlers ReStrung performed for students and staff at Alma College, in Alma, Michigan on November 20th. Alumni connections arranged for the Fiddlers to play and dance at Alma's Hamilton Commons for over 1,000 students right before Thanksgiving break.

Beforehand, ReStrung toured the Alma campus dorms, academic buildings, and athletic facilities. They watched Almas's Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Percussion and Steel Drum Ensemble setup for their concert that evening. Fiddlers also found out about the spring term off-campus and study abroad opportunities, internships, and study



Lisa S., Audrey G. and Asheema S. clog for Alma students as they dine. FRS members chose to set aside their fiddle uniforms for the day since their visit included a campus tour.

grants for independent research that are available to undergraduate students. Students learned about Alma's success in medical and dental school admissions and the close student-faculty interactions that provide opportunities to do undergraduate research.

Parents particularly loved hearing about merit awards (based on your grade point average) and need-based scholarships. Some Fiddlers had their first campus tour and an opportunity to find out about general academic and extracurricular requirements for admission to colleges. They also had the chance to view college life up close and discover some of the advantages of a liberal arts education.

If you have a college connection, please contact Fiddlers ReStrung about any opportunities to perform at your alma mater in 2008!

THE ROCK STAR TREATMENT

“It was almost like being a rock star,” muses one FRS musician as the group entered from both sides of the enormous, spotlighted stage in the ballroom of the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. FRS entertained at this year’s banquet dinner at the 123rd Annual Convention of Michigan Association Fairs & Exhibitions. As the last scheduled event for attendees of the packed three-day event, most people are tired and just want to get home. For the first time, however, not one single person left their table of dessert and coffee as Fiddlers ReStrung took the stage.



From their opening song, “Deadwood”, they had a captive audience. Casual appreciation quickly turned into genuine enthusiasm, which resulted in a standing ovation after the classic fiddler closing song, “Orange Blossom Special”. The popular piece features solos and downright delightful choreography. An encore was called for and the group obliged with a song they learned from former guest artist Natalie MacMaster called “The Farewell Set.”

Several attendees came forward after the show to learn more about Fiddlers ReStrung. Hopefully, the interest results in prospective gigs this summer. A heartfelt thank you to the organizers of this event for giving FRS this wonderful opportunity to showcase their talents!



Catherine N. & Adriane R. set up for “Orange Blossom”

You Know You’re In **FRS** If

- 1 *You spend your Sundays practicing your instrument*
- 2 *You get a call from Mrs. Frank because you haven’t turned in your absence slip*
- 3 *You clog*
- 4 *You can’t go to the party because you’ve got a gig*
- 5 *You have to listen to music for homework*
- 6 *You play, sing, hum, or clog fiddle tunes during the day*
- 7 *You know who Laurie Lewis, Darol Anger, Jeremy Kittel, Peter Ostrushko, and Mark O’ Connor are*
- 8 *You dread the Maple Sugar and the Hornpipe*
- 9 *You wear a cowboy hat*
- 10 *You only wear black and red clothes*
- 11 *You spend half your summer on vacation, the other half... at fiddler gigs*
- 12 *You play the snap game*
- 13 *You have three friends at Michigan St. who jam until 4:00 a.m.*
- 14 *You make fun of violas and the people who play them*
- 15 *You never stop having fun!!!*

~ Contributed by Junior violinist Stephen F.

FRS at Saline's Christmas Parade

*As usual, the temperature was near freezing, but everyone huddled together and had fun nonetheless.
A light snow just at the start of the parade put everyone in the holiday spirit!*



*Loved the school bus drivers' decorated "float"!
Very clever!*

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 24 *Private Event—Burger School for Students with Autism*
- 31 *Featured Guests at MSU Philharmonic Orchestra, Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Landing, visit www.music.msu.edu for more information*

FEBRUARY

- 1 *Private Event—Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky, OH*
- 3 *Fiddlers ReStrung Auditions, Saline High School, Orchestra Room 7:00 pm*
- 9 *WinterBlast, CompuWare Atrium, Detroit, 6:30 pm*
- 13 *Wyandotte Irish Festival, 6:00 pm*
- 14 *Wyandotte Irish Festival, 6:00 pm*

MARCH

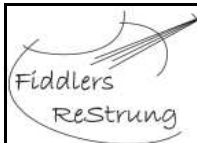
- 1 *HOMETOWN CONCERT—7:00 pm
Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple Rd.
Featuring Guest Artist Grant Gordy Quartet*
- 15 *Private Event—St. Joseph's Church, Wyandotte*

Cori Smith, Artistic Director

For booking information contact:
Danette Morrison at 734-429-8000 ext 4576
Or e-mail us at bookings@fiddlersrestrung.com

Your **tax-deductible donation** in support of the activities of these talented musicians would be greatly appreciated.

Please make your check payable to:
“Saline Area Schools-Fiddlers ReStrung
Mail to: Fiddlers ReStrung
Saline Community Educ., 200 N. Ann Arbor St.,
Saline, MI 48176



Fiddlers ReStrung
Saline Community Education
200 N. Ann Arbor St.
Saline, MI 48176

This newsletter is sponsored in part by a generous donation from



*Bruce Temby, Owner, The UPS Store
525 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI*

