



Saline Area Schools

# Fiddlers ReStrung

Fall 2009

Volume 6, Number 1

# FIDDLE BEAT

## *Fiddlers ReStrung's Holiday Hometown in Support of Toys for Tots Sunday December 6th at 2pm Saline High School (Saline, Michigan)*

For the past two years, Fiddlers ReStrung has provided a great kickoff to the Saline Fire Department's Toys for Tot's campaign drive. After collecting 150 toys in 2007 and over 1000 in 2008, the expectations are again high for this year's Fiddlers ReStrung's Holiday Hometown Concert in Support of Toys for Tots. In a year when the local economy has suffered terribly, the ability to make a difference with a toy makes this concert all the more powerful. And during a year where many of the Fiddlers ReStrung performances were dedicated to community service, this concert provides a most fitting way to ring in the holiday season.



The concert features a collage of local community talent. Opening performances include the Saline Area School's 6th Grade Fiddle Club, directed by Fiddlers ReStrung Assistant Artistic Director Cori Smith, as well as the School's 7th and 8th Grade Fiddle Club, led by Fiddlers ReStrung Artistic Director Josh Herter. Also performing on stage will be select members of the Saline High School Choir and Saline High School Band, all of whom have graciously offered to donate their time and talent to this special event. (continued on page 2)

**For Tickets, call (734) 944-2283  
or visit Saline Community Education  
Adults \$10 Students & Seniors \$5**

## ***Fiddlers ReStrung's Holiday Hometown in Support of Toys for Tots***

The Saline Fire Dept. has hosted a toy collection to benefit children identified through Saline Social Services for many years. It was eight years ago that Saline firefighter and U.S. Marine Corps Reservist Kurt Schneider initiated the fire department's alliance with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots program. Shortly thereafter, Fire Chief Craig Hoeft invited the Fiddlers ReStrung to perform at the fire station on the first day of the toy collection campaign. This concert has grown from that initial collaboration and is becoming an annual tradition in Saline.

"Because of the relationship between two great organizations the less fortunate families of Saline will have an opportunity for a better Christmas," Hoeft said about this event.

***This year's Holiday Hometown Concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 2:00 pm in the Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center of Saline High School, 1300 Campus Parkway, Saline. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for Seniors and Students. Reserved tickets are limited. To purchase an advance ticket, call (734) 944-2283. After Nov. 10th, tickets can also be purchased in-person at Saline Community Education Office, 200 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline. The concert takes place on the Sunday after Saline's traditional annual holiday parade along Michigan Avenue.***

The Toys for Tots initiative began in 1947 when the wife of Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, handcrafted a Raggedy Ann doll and asked her husband to deliver the doll to an organization that would give it to a needy child at Christmas. Finding that no such agency existed, Major Hendricks took it upon himself, along with a group of Marine Reservists, to form one. In the first year alone, they collected and distributed over 5,000 toys to needy children. The following year, Toys for Tots became a nationwide campaign. A Marine Reservist on weekends, Major Hendricks was in civilian life the Director of Public Relations for Warner Brothers Studio. As such, he was able to convince a vast array of celebrities to support the

program. Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots logo in 1948, which is still used today. The primary goal has remained the same since its inception: deliver a shiny, new toy at Christmas to America's needy children as a message of hope.

In the spirit of the Toys for Tots campaign, Fiddlers ReStrung encourages everyone attending the concert to bring a new, unwrapped toy to contribute to the drive. Marines from Selfridge Air Force Base will be on hand to accept your donation. Donations can also be dropped off at the fire station any day after the concert date up until December 19th.





## Summer Tour 2009

Fiddlers ReStrung's Summer Tour took them Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina and Pennsylvania on a tour of the middle country! Special thanks to Fiddlers ReStrung veteran Karen Frank and Joyce Noble for building an exciting agenda for the members.

The highlight of the tour was participating in Gatlinburg, Tennessee's First in the Nation Independence Day Parade, which takes place at 12:01am on July 4th in this beautiful city in the Great Smoky Mountains. With over 100,000 people in attendance, this is the biggest event that the group played at all year! Fiddlers ReStrung not only played in the parade (left), but also played prior to the fireworks that event!



Right: Fiddlers ReStrung playing at Duquense Univeristy for the Strings without Boundaries summer camp, which featured the great fiddler Richard Green.



Below: Group shot from the road.





## *Fiddlers ReStrung Summer Reading Program*

Saline, Michigan: On October 21, 2009, the Fiddlers ReStrung were recognized by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for their Summer Reading Program for Michigan Libraries. The program, which ran for the first time in 2009, featured an engaging interactive and educational performance format, where ReStrung performers shared stories about their own musical background and the musical selections they perform with the audience. In each concert during this series, the audience was not only invited to ask questions about the songs, the instruments and the group, but some lucky children in the audience were invited up to join ReStrung during the show-ending number, the Orange Blossom Special, each with a percussion instrument.



of the folks involved in this community group, the Saline Area School's Fiddlers ReStrung, and they were telling me about how they were doing their part, to help in this economy to bring positive activities to the community."

Fiddlers ReStrung Artistic Director Josh Herter and five members of the group accepted the citation and then played a fiddle favorite "Big Brown Trout" for the Commissioners and citizens who attended the meeting. Enthusiastic cheers followed the performance, reminiscent of library audiences and staff at the concerts held over the summer across Michigan.  
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In bestowing this citation on Fiddlers ReStrung, County Commissioner Kristin Judge said, "Over the summer, Commissioner Sizemore and I were talking about all the negative news that we had coming to the Board, and we thought it might be fun to find some positive things happening in our community." She added, "And at that same I was speaking to some



## *Recognized by Washtenaw County Board*

### The Fiddlers ReStrung Summer Library Program

The goal in providing these concerts for public libraries is to give back to the communities in the state of Michigan and provide enriching musical performances to support summer reading programs. For Michigan libraries, Fiddlers ReStrung lowered its performance fee considerably, recognizing the challenging budgetary constraints faced by many of these institutions. While ReStrung's funds are primarily made from concert performances earned throughout the year, the decision to reduce fees for organizations in greater need shows the stellar character of the group. Through this program, the students in Fiddlers ReStrung learned about civic engagement in a way that could never be taught in the classroom. They also learned how the gift of music can make a tremendous contribution to communities across Michigan during these trying economic times.

The Participating Libraries included: Howell Carnegie District Library; Saline District Library; Homer District Library; Stair Public Library (Morenci); Fred C. Fischer Library (Belleville); White Lake Township Library; St. Clair County Library (Port Huron); Albion Public Library; Baldwin Public Library (Birmingham) & Crounse Library (Hartland). Among the accolades received by ReStrung over the summer were these from Library staff:



"[ReStrung] drew our biggest crowd of the season and numerous people have commented upon how much they enjoyed the performance. [ReStrung] did a wonderful job with the wide age-range and abilities of our audience. I think your enthusiasm and talent probably inspired a number of young musicians-to-be, and their parents had a good time, too."  
- Paula Schaffner, Head of Youth Services of the Saline District Library



"Our library hosted the Saline High School Fiddlers ReStrung group this week and everybody just loved them! They play toe-tapping, hand-clapping, get-up-and-dance music. They are such an energetic, charismatic and talented group of kids and such an inspiration. They are great entertainment for all ages...we booked them for our summer reading program and invited community members to attend also."  
- Colleen Leddy, Director of the Stair Public Library (Morenci, Michigan)  
(continued on page 6)



“Our Patrons were impressed not only with the musical expertise, but with the enthusiasm and character of the young people.”

- Denise Harris, Librarian at the White Lake Township Library



The Summer Reading Program concert series was one element in Fiddlers ReStrung’s year-long dedication to Community Service and the needs of Michigan communities during these trying times. In addition to the Summer Reading Program, Fiddlers ReStrung performed at numerous retirement homes, senior centers, and fundraisers for Autism and Cancer Research. The highlight of the year is ReStrung’s third annual Holiday Hometown Concert in Support of Toys for Tots, at the Saline High School on Sunday December 6, 2009. This event, co-sponsored by the Saline Fire Department and the U.S. Marines Reserves, kicks off this community’s toy drive for this wonderful cause.

Based on the success of this program, Fiddlers ReStrung anticipates continuing the series during the summer of 2010. Additionally, the group’s summer tour, which performing in northern Michigan and western Ontario, will allow them to visit libraries that are further away from Saline.



**PROCLAMATION presented to the Saline Area Schools  
Fiddlers ReStrung**

**WHEREAS, the Fiddlers ReStrung are a 17 piece string ensemble composed entirely of students from Saline High School; and**

**WHEREAS, these musicians are also top scholars and athletes who work alongside their leadership to produce diverse music that includes American Bluegrass, Celtic Fiddle, Popular Folk, Appalachian Step-dancing, and Progressive Acoustic; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fiddlers ReStrung provide educational performances at public libraries by giving a generous discount to show their support for literacy programs during these tough economic times; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fiddlers ReStrung performed these educational programs at eleven different libraries across southeastern Michigan this spring and summer and due to the overwhelming response, will continue to offer these educational performances at Michigan libraries in the fall and 2010.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Kristin Judge, County Commissioner for District 7, hereby commend Fiddlers ReStrung for its commitment to support local Michigan libraries’ summer programs, and extend my best wishes to its future endeavors.**



# My Favorite Gig Was...

*We asked the members of Fiddlers ReStrung which of the gigs we had this summer was their favorite.*



*Allison and Anand— 4-H Performance at the packed Wharton Center at MSU (above)*



*Trevor— Milan Concert in the Park (above)*

*Christina Hartland Music Hall (part of the Library Tour) (below)*



*Mariel, Joël, and Anjaili— Saline Community Fair (right)*



*Sarah, Becca and Daniel— Saturday Night Live in New Buffalo (with a nice picnic to boot) (above)*



# Upcoming Calendar of Events

December 6, 2009  
Holiday Hometown In Support of Toys for Tots (Saline)  
December 11, 2009  
Highland (MI) Senior Center  
January 21, 2010  
Lenawee Conservation District (Adrian, MI)  
January 2010  
Auditions for New Members (information to follow)  
February 11-13, 2010  
Fiddlers ReStrung Winter Camp  
February 28, 2010  
Artist Showcase Performance (Canton, MI)  
April 16, 2010  
Private Event (Ypsilanti, MI)  
April 24, 2010  
Spring Hometown Concert (Saline, MI) - *details soon!*  
May 7, 2010  
Burger East School for Autism (Garden City, MI)  
Hamilton Elementary School (Westland, MI)  
May 22, 2010  
The Airstream RV Assoc. (Wauseon, OH)

June 23, 2010  
Garden City (MI) Library  
June 26, 2010  
Thresher Festival (Wauseon, OH)  
July 2010  
Summer Tour  
Hartland (MI) Public Library  
October 8, 2010  
4-H National Convention (East Lansing , MI)

For up to date information, visit our website:  
[www.fiddlersrestrung.com](http://www.fiddlersrestrung.com)

Or via Twitter  
[Twitter.com/FReStrung](https://twitter.com/FReStrung)

**Josh Herter, Artistic Director**  
**Cori Smith, Asst. Artistic Director**  
For booking information contact us via email  
[bookings@fiddlersrestrung.com](mailto:bookings@fiddlersrestrung.com)

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## **Fiddlers ReStrung**

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

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 Ed., 200 N. Ann Arbor  
St., Saline, MI 48176

