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**FIDDLERS
RESTRUNG**

Fiddle Beat

Saline Area Schools
Saline Community Education
Vol 5. No.3 ~ Spring 2009



MICHIGAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACCEPT FIDDLERS RESTRUNG'S SPECIAL OFFER PROGRAM



Fiddlers ReStrung will perform at the Saline District Library on Tuesday, June 16th at 10:30 a.m. in support of its summer reading program. The young musicians will perform a 50 minute lively educational program featuring fiddle music capturing our

American folk culture. Performers will reach out to children in the audience with stories about their own musical background and the musical selections they perform.

Several libraries throughout Michigan are also taking advantage of this special offer program created earlier this year. In the spirit of community service and giving back to Michigan during these trying economic times, Fiddlers ReStrung created the program to provide low cost concerts exclusively for Michigan public libraries.

The 2009 theme for the Children's Program in Michigan is "Be Creative At Your Library". One of the program elements suggested by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for this year is titled "I've Got Rhythm: Music and Rhythm."

Fiddlers ReStrung's goal in providing these concerts for public libraries is to give back to the communities in the state of Michigan and provide a low cost program that will support the summer reading programs. For libraries in Michigan, the standard fee has been lowered significantly to help libraries offer a quality educational and entertaining program, especially when budgets are flat or shrinking.

Scheduled Library Performances

Albion—Albion District Library
August 5th, 2:00 pm

Belleville—Fred C. Fischer Library
July 21st, 11:00 am

Birmingham—Baldwin Public Library
August 6th, 7:00 pm

Hartland—Cromaine Library
August 11th, 3:00 pm

Homer—Homer Public Library
July 14th, 2:00 pm

Howell—Howell Carnegie District Library
May 16th, 1:00 pm

Morenci—Stair Public Library,
July 15th, 1:00 pm

Port Huron—St. Clair County Library
July 23rd, 11:00 am

Saline—Saline District Library
June 16th, 10:30 am

**For More Information about the Library Program
Please E-mail coreyseeman@gmail.com**

SPRING HOMETOWN CONCERT WITH *PEAR* A TRUE DELIGHT



Denis Dufresne, PEAR

Fiddlers Re-Strung's Spring Hometown Concert featuring guest artist *PEAR*, was quite simply, a delightful evening of music entertainment. The scope of genres, ranging from traditional fiddle tunes and Southern waltzes to current pop/

country hits surely pleased even the most discerning musical palate.

Saline Area School's 6th grade fiddle club opened the show led by Catherine Noble, an alumnus of ReStrung. The tune "Buffalo Gals" featured several young fiddlers performing the traditional dance. The Middle School fiddle club, led by ReStrung Director, Josh Herter, followed with their own dance set, "Arkansas Traveler". The next generation of cloggers included Jennifer B., Joël B., Madeline N., Anand S., Alyssa S., Rebecca W., Deena Z. and Natalie Z.; all of whom learned the choreography from senior ReStrung clogger Asheema S.

Fiddlers ReStrung began their performance with one of the most recognizable fiddlers' tunes, "Old Joe Clark", infused with their own style and charm. Turning to more contemporary music, the group next played a Nickel Creek arrangement, "The Lighthouse's Tale". Tommy H. and Christina R. provided vocals for this wistful song about lost love. Backup musicians included Mickey S. (guitar), Sean C. (bass), Jeremy S. (cello) and Josh Herter (violin).



"The Marley Soft Shoe" dance as performed by Asheema S., Jeremy S., Anjali S.

Drawing on Saline's Celtic ties, the ensemble followed up with a traditional Scottish jig, "The Athole Highlander". A new dance debuted with this song performed by sisters Anjali and Asheema S. and Jeremy S. The dance, known as "The Marley Soft Shoe", bridges cultures and generations by infusing identifiable bits of English and Irish dances and American tap. The dance set has



Lynae Dufresne, PEAR

roots with a family of English/Irish immigrants who performed during the Vaudeville era. The famous Marley dances were in jeopardy of being lost in American history forever until the last member of the family, Anna Marley, taught them to English folksinger and dancer Tony Barrand. He in turn taught them to ReStrung's very own choreographer, Sheila Graziano with the promise that the series of dances would live on into the next generation.

A key element of ReStrung's uniqueness is its commitment to encourage, strengthen and broaden each member's musical creativity. February's winter camp retreat provided an opportunity for the ensemble to work collectively arranging new music. Taking inspiration from the song "Disconnect" by ReStrung friend and professional musician, Jeremy Kittel and "Waiting For the Dawn" by Hanneke Cassel (who originally blended the two songs), the group crafted their own arrangement of "Disconnect".

To commemorate their final Hometown Concert, the four ReStrung seniors worked with their Director on a senior song arrangement. In less than three weeks time, they had polished their performance of another popular Nickel Creek song, "This Side". Seniors Asheema S. and Tommy H. sang, while Jake H. (percussion), Stephen F. (violin) and Tommy (mandolin) provided musical support. Accompanying the small group ensemble were bassist Sean C. and guitarist Mickey S. It would be unthinkable to close out any ReStrung show without "The Orange Blossom Special". It is endearingly special for several reasons. It has been the cornerstone of Saline Area School's fiddler shows since its inception. It's also the song that will get you up on your feet clapping heartily. Alumni are traditionally invited

(Continued on page 3)



Junior guitarist Mickey S.

on stage to join in on the fun and reunite with their fellow ReStrung musicians.

Denis and Lynae Dufresne, the husband-and-wife duo that lead the band PEAR opened the second half of the show with backup musicians and vocalists Travis Switzer (bass guitar) and Darren Savard (guitar). Much of the band's selections are their own brand of original music blending pop, country, roots band and progressive sounds. It's plain to see why their music ap-

peals to so many people. The band is just as much at ease performing a song with rock/country overtones ("Lonesome Road) to bluegrass ("Sweet 'N Gritty") to pop ("A Chance to Change the World"). Country band Nickel Creek was the inspiration for the song "Never Lookin' Back". It is this same tune that launched PEAR into the forefront of the Canadian music scene. The ballad "This Ain't A Love Song" showcases Lynae's vocal talent, a song full of raw emotion and long-ing. She totally charmed the audience with her version of "The Tennessee Waltz", performed in 4/4 time, rather than the traditional 3/4 time. Denis' performance left no doubt that is equally a master of the fiddle, mandolin and guitar. To everyone's amusement, Denis invited the audience to stand up and dance during one of their closing songs, explaining "this is where east meets west with a little jazz". PEAR's talent, showmanship and enthusiasm were truly captivating.

The very next day, PEAR was back at the high school



Singing "Old Joe Clark"

to conduct an educational music workshop. The morning workshop was open to the public and free to all Saline Area School fiddle club members, many of who were in attendance. The afternoon workshop was private



PEAR's leader, Denis Dufresne, (red baseball cap) conducted a workshop for ReStrung musicians the day following the concert.



for ReStrung members. As a gesture of musician goodwill, PEAR presented Fiddlers ReStrung with an original music arrangement. A new friendship was forged that weekend linking the two ensembles. Denis' impressions of Fiddlers ReStrung, Saline High School and the Saline community were upbeat, "It was amazing to walk into a beautiful high school auditorium and know that we were going to play for a crowd that loved music. (Fiddlers ReStrung) rolled out the red carpet for us. The whole weekend just ruled. What a great community of people and musicians. We had a blast doing the workshops on Saturday, teaching the kids new music and giving new ideas to the ones they already had in their set. They were kind and eager to learn. Wow! What a concept!"

WINTER CAMP AT KALAHARI

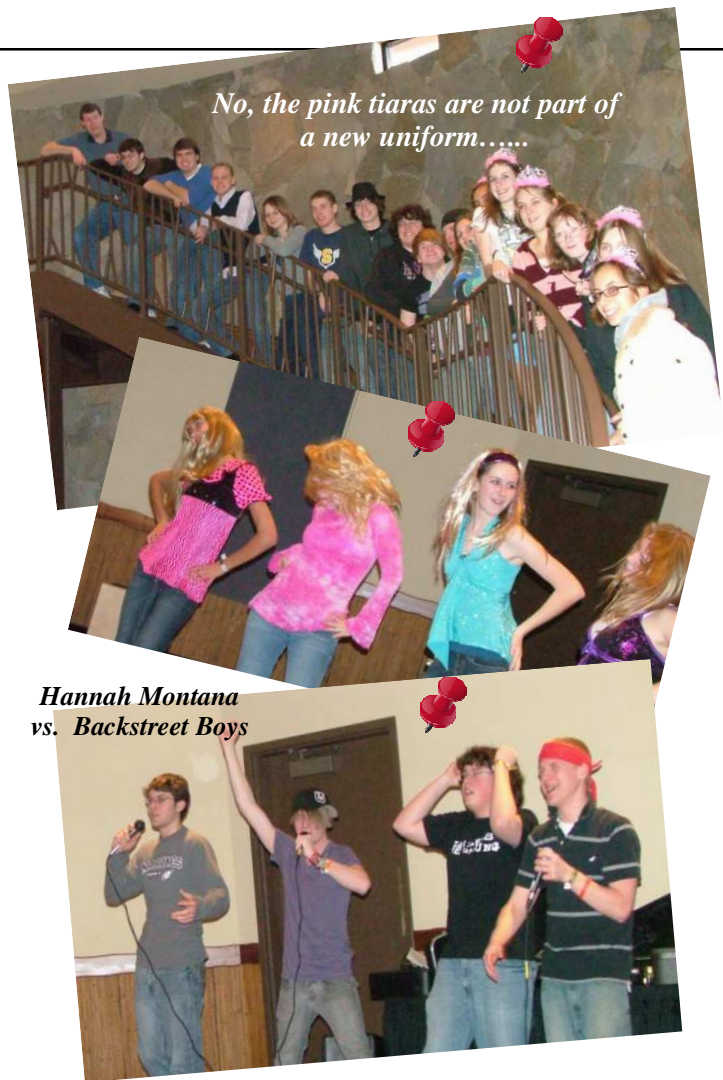
ReStrung musicians attend two mandatory camps each year—summer and winter. The main purpose for each is the same: learn new music, refine or rearrange current music, improv, team building exercises, and there's always time to goof off and just have fun. This year's winter camp was held at Kalahari Resorts in Ohio. What better way to beat some winter blahs than to spend a couple of days at an indoor water park with good friends and music! Sophomore violinist Sabine B. recalls her experience at camp.



SABINE - VIOLIN

This past February, Fiddlers ReStrung packed their bags and headed off to the Kalahari Water Resort in Sandusky Ohio. We left right after school and, after two hours of driving, arrived at the water park! For the next three days, we had fun swimming in

the water park, playing in the arcade, and (of course!) practicing new tunes! As always, the best part of winter camp was karaoke night. Groups lip-synched to their favorite artists like Hannah Montana, Journey, and the Spice Girls. The highlight of the night was by far Josh and Tommy's performance of the Elephant Love Medley from Moulin Rouge. All in all, FRS winter camp was a great experience; full of fun, friends and music.



RUMMAGE SALE SUCCESS!

A huge thank you to all the wonderful people who came to our Rummage and Bake Sale on April 25th! Patrons were greeted with a warm welcome by fiddler parents, listened to fiddle music while they browsed and eventually found a "treasure" to take home. Organization is key to rummage sale success. The clothing aisle was not



only sorted by gender, but by size as well.. There were aisles of house wares, toys, books, holiday novelties, baby items and sporting goods. No one could argue with the prices because there weren't any! Whether buying one item or a bagful, each shopper was asked to make a fair donation offer. The fundraiser was held to offset the costs associated with the group's upcoming summer tour in June.

ABC'S & DO-RE-MI'S...

Over the past few months, ReStrung musicians have performed at elementary school assemblies and celebrations. Though it's nothing new to them, it's a perfect opportunity to learn what captures a child's musical interest. It's a warm-up for what the fiddlers will be doing this summer when they perform at various libraries in support of their summer reading programs.



Clearly, he's a fan of step-dancing!

Sacrificing extra sleep on a non-school day, ReStrung fiddlers were on the road before dawn traveling to Rogers Early Elementary school in Allen Park. The children there were delighted with the upbeat fiddle music, singing and clogging. One staff member particularly enjoyed the clogging, having taken some step-dancing lessons previously. In Garden City, children at Burger School for Students with Autism welcomed back the fiddlers for the 6th year in a row. It is a friendship with deep roots. The pure joy that the music spreads cannot be contained. The children are up clapping, spinning, dancing and jump-

ing...and it's happily encouraged by the musicians. Music that makes you that happy should be expressed.

Closer to home, a few members of ReStrung took some time during their busy school day to entertain 4th graders at Harvest Elementary school just across the road from their own school. Teacher Sally Gall comments, "We all enjoyed the fiddlers. They were the highlight of our Lumberjack Day! They are an energetic, enthusiastic, talented group of students. You can certainly tell that they love what they do." The small group ensemble performed in each of the 4th grade classrooms as the children enjoyed their "lumberjack breakfast" celebration. "You can tell they practice a lot. They must be very dedicated," said one 4th grader. In between songs, members of the group talked about their instruments, how long they've been playing it, the different kinds of music, and what it's like to be a member of ReStrung. The musicians reminded the students that they will have the opportunity to choose an instrument



Performing at Harvest Elementary in Saline

next year as part of their 5th grade curriculum. Then it was time for questions and answers. Several students in each classroom easily identified the cello when asked. However, they were stumped when asked the difference between a violin and fiddle. As a way of explanation, the fiddler posing the question played a few bars of chamber music and then a few bars of fiddle music. Though each string instrument has its own unique qualities, it was the arrival of the bass in each classroom that brought the most "oohs and aahs". One fourth grader summed up the afternoon's performance neatly saying, "Unbelievable! I've never heard anything like it!"

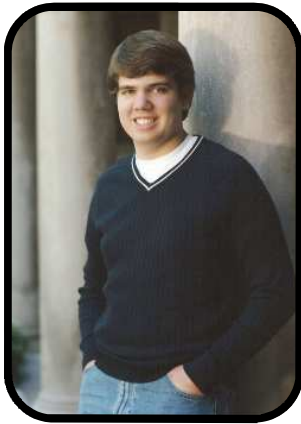
Ann Arbor's historic Michigan Theater was the setting for a recent fundraiser gig in connection with the Ann Arbor Book Festival. Attendees were charmed by the fiddlers' performance and many were quite impressed to learn that the musicians were all high school students. The fundraiser included the first annual "Leader in the Literary Arts" award which was presented to John Hilton, editor of the Ann Arbor Observer.

Saline Area Schools hosted a Community Rally on May 3rd at Liberty School. The free event showcased community groups, community organizations and SAS student groups, all of which benefit from the CARES millage. As one of those beneficiaries, Fiddlers ReStrung members were on hand to provide some live music entertainment. Perfect spring weather, free food, inflatable slides and bouncers made it a very enjoyable for all in attendance.



SAS Community Rally

Salute To Seniors



Stephen F. ~ Fiddle ~ 3 Years in FRS

Other Instruments: Violin — *The difference between the violin and fiddle? Attitude!*

Other Activities: National Honor Society, Link Crew, Tennis, FRS Student Advisory Board, 6th Grade Fiddle Club Assistant, Middle School Fiddle Club Assistant

Best Summer Tour Memory: *They were all good, but the top three in no order are:*

(1) "FRS" beach sand sign; (2) Making up stage names while on the tour bus; (3) We were in a coffee shop in the U.P. when another customer came over and showed Kevin and I how to play backgammon.

What FRS Has Done For Me: *Fiddlers ReStrung has allowed me to become a role model for others and I've been able to meet so many new people. It's been lots of fun hanging out with the group. It's my favorite activity. Love Music!*

Future Plans: *University of Michigan — Engineering*



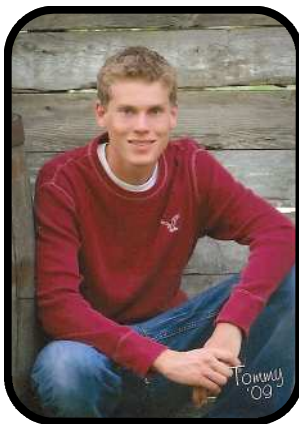
Jacob H. ~ Percussion ~ 4 Years in FRS

Other Activities: *Water Polo, 6th Grade Fiddle Club Assistant*

Best Summer Tour Memory: *I can't really answer this question. It's just been so much fun, I can't pick one memory.*

What FRS Has Done For Me: *It has been so much fun, I don't know where to start. The friendships are #1 though. Fiddlers ReStrung has given me the best memories of high school and strong friendships with all the other members.*

Future Plans: *Undecided*



Tommy H. ~ Mandolin ~ 4 Years in FRS

Other Instruments: *Bass and Guitar*

Other Activities: *National Honor Society, Varsity Cross Country, Track, Indoor Track*

Best Summer Tour Memory: *My favorite part of tour has been doing workshops with other schools. It's awesome to meet all the musicians and learn new songs with them. It's also very inspiring to work with such a variety of kids; it really opens your eyes to the community that music creates.*

What FRS Has Done For Me: *Fiddlers ReStrung has been like a second family to me. The people that I have met are some of the greatest friends that I have ever had. Their shared love for music has opened up a variety of once in a lifetime opportunities that have impacted my life in ways that words cannot describe. It has been a great four years full of friendships and music that I am going to*

miss incredibly.

Future Plans: *I plan to go into either Political Science or International Relations at either American University or the University of Arizona. I'm not sure what I'll do after college, but it will definitely be something political.*

Salute To Seniors



Asheema S. ~ Fiddle ~ 4 Years in FRS ~ 4 Years Clogging

Other Instruments: Piano

Other Activities: Cross Country, National Honor Society, Link Crew, Interact, 4-H, piano lessons, Track, Student Council, FCCLA, Fiddle Club Assistant, Indian dance

Best Summer Tour Memory: One of my best summer tour memories was seeing Whoopi Goldberg and seeing a musical on Broadway in New York.

What FRS Has Done For Me: Fiddlers ReStrung has made me appreciate a wider variety of music. I used to only listen to certain types, but now I can appreciate almost anything. FRS has also made me less afraid of being in front of people and made me like playing my violin more.

Future Plans: University of Michigan — Biomedical or Biochemical Engineering.

Career Goal — Psychiatrist



Do you Facebook?

Do you Twitter?

Do you even know what we're talking about?! If you do, you can follow Fiddlers ReStrung on either one of these popular websites.

Connect with the group, find out what we're up to and where we'll be performing.

You can also subscribe to our RSS feed to receive updates to our schedules and all our latest news.



Upcoming Calendar of Events

Summer Tour — June 27- July 8

(details forthcoming—please check our website)

M A Y

- 8 Private Event—Summerville at Brighton
- 16 Howell Carnegie District Library, Howell, 1:00 pm

J U N E

- 6 Private Event—Graduation Party
- 7 Private Event—Graduation Party
- 11 Private Event—OSHER Institute for Life-Long Learning, Ann Arbor
- 16 Saline District Library, Saline, 10:30 am
- 18 Manchester Gazebo Concerts, Manchester, 7:30 pm
- 19 Private Event—Knights of Columbus Luncheon, Lincoln Park, 12:00 pm
- 19 Hamburg Family Fun Fest, 10405 Merrill Rd., Whitmore Lake, 5 & 7 pm
- 20 Private Event—Graduation Party
- 24 Private Event, Exploration Days 4-H, East Lansing
- 26 National Thresher Association Festival, Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon, OH 6:30 pm

J U L Y

- 11 Saline Celtic Festival, Mill Pond Park, Saline, Noon
- 14 Homer Public Library, Homer, MI 2:00 pm
- 15 Stair Public Library, Morenci, MI 1:00 pm
- 17 Private Event—Sanctuary at Woodland Senior Center, Brighton, MI
- 21 Fred C. Fischer Library, Belleville, MI 11:00 am
- 22 White Lake Concerts in the Park, White Lake, MI 7pm
- 23 St. Clair County Library, Port Huron, MI 11:00 am
- 27 Tuscola County Fair, Caro, MI 2:00 pm
- 29 Lenawee County Fair, Adrian, MI , Time TBD

Josh Herter, Artistic Director

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

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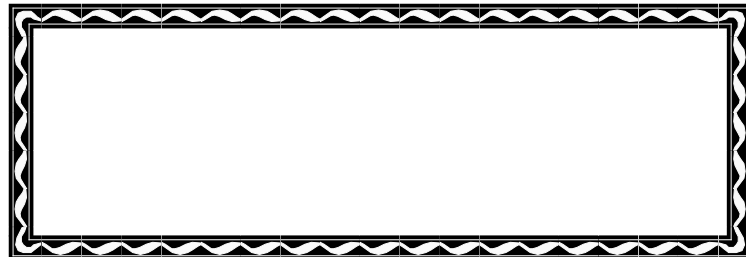
Saline Community Education
200 N. Ann Arbor St.
Saline, MI 48176

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

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www.fiddlersrestrung.com