

Fiddle Beat

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to you by

**FIDDLERS
RESTRUNG**

Saline Area Schools
Saline Community Education
Vol 5. No.2 ~ Winter 2009



SPRING HOMETOWN CONCERT TO FEATURE GUEST ARTIST *PEAR*

Fiddlers ReStrung will present their Spring Hometown Concert featuring guest artist, *Pear*, on Friday, March 6, 2009 at Saline High School. Leading this band on the Canadian country music scene is Denis & Lynae Dufresne, former members of the acclaimed fiddle show, *Barrage*.

Hailing from Calgary, Alberta, this accomplished husband and wife duo formed *Pear* in 2005. Their chemistry swiftly caused a stir at major Canadian country festivals. As one reviewer writes, "The freshest batch of faces at this year's Big Valley (Jamboree) belongs to a high-energy combo called *Pear*. ... They have personality and a collectively keen ear for arrangements. ... They're not just another well-rehearsed cover band." The band was awarded a showcase at Canada's Country Music Awards and subsequently offered an opportunity to be part of a television show featuring the "Top 5" new acts to make an impact on country music in Canada. They are currently the house band at the prestigious Calgary Folk Club and have most recently been featured on a Gold Record in Canada as part of a Juno Awards (Canadian Grammy) compilation. The 5-musician band has toured all over the world; including Europe, Scandinavia, France, Germany, and China as well as throughout North America. Their music appeals to pop, country, roots band, alternative and progressive music lovers alike. Their energy is infectious: "By the time the segment hit full throttle, blazing twin fiddles had the crowd's attention." As lead vocalist, Lynae offers a refreshingly "sweet yet gritty" quality that is their signature



sound. She is also a gifted fiddler and guitarist. Denis lends his versatile musicianship as the band's musical backbone, playing mandolin, fiddle, and guitar in addition to backup vocals. He has been nominated as

"Fiddler Player of the Year" several times at the Canadian Country Music Awards. The band

just cut a new album in Nashville this past spring with a release date yet to be determined. The album also features Grammy-winning acoustic guitarist Bryan Sutton. To listen to their music, visit www.myspace.com/pearband. Don't miss your chance to see this astonishing, up-and-coming band perform live!

The first half of the show will feature Saline's finest youth fiddlers. Opening the show will be Saline Area School's 6th Grade Fiddle Club led by ReStrung alumnus Catherine Noble. Also performing will be the Middle School Fiddle Club, led by Fiddlers ReStrung Artistic Director Josh Herter. Some of these 8th graders have just become the newest members of ReStrung, having just passed auditions.

The concert will begin at 7:00 pm in the Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center of Saline High School. Reserve seating is limited. To purchase a reserve ticket, call (734) 944-2283. Tickets will be available for purchase in-person after February 10th at the Saline Community Education Office, 200 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Tickets for the event are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. For more information regarding this event, visit www.fiddlersrestrung.com or contact Rebecca Groeb-Driskill, Cultural Arts Specialist, Saline Area Schools at (734) 429-8000 ext. 2338.

**Friday, March 6th ~ 7 pm ~ Saline High School
Reserve your seat by calling (734) 944-2283**

FIDDLERS, FIREFIGHTERS AND MARINES MAKE THE SEASON SHINE BRIGHT FOR TOTS



The pure, simple act of giving is its own reward. When the gift is for a needy child, the giving is even greater. Fiddlers ReStrung hosted its 2nd annual Holiday Hometown Concert in support of Toys for Tots on December 7th, 2008. The event was a collaboration effort with the Saline Area Fire Department and the United States Marines Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the firefighters received over 1,100 toy donations in total this year, the largest amount ever, according to Fire Chief Craig Hoeft. Several elementary schools also participated in the effort by placing a collection box in their main office. Event planners wish to thank the principals and families of Saline Area Schools' Houghton, Harvest, Pleasant Ridge, Woodland Meadows and Heritage for donating to this worthy cause. The toys brought joy to many local children on Christmas Day. Thrilled with the campaign's growing success, Mr. Hoeft stated, "I believe without the partnership with Fiddlers ReStrung, we would not be able to reach out and touch as many families in need. Just the name Fiddlers ReStrung makes you think hard work, dedication and community."

Before the curtain rose, Hoeft introduced marines from Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens, Michigan. Sgt. Mickey Lovey, Sgt. Christopher Smith, Cpl. Ray Cletus and Cpl. John Wall performed a Color Guard ceremony. ReStrung Music Interns Eli Bender

(cello) and Kelly Pond (violin) played "The Star Spangled Banner" once the marines took their place on stage.

Members from the Saline High School Chamber Choir opened the concert with a stunning a capella presentation of "Ding Dong Merrily on High". They later performed "Carol of the Bells". Donating their time and talent to the event were singers John R., Alan G., Nathaniel P., Steven J., Mary J., Sandra P., Katie B., Katie P., Joanna W. and Brittany S.



The 6th grade fiddle club, led by Catherine Noble (a ReStrung alumnus) performed three traditional fiddle tunes; "Cripple Creek", "Old Joe Clark" and "Mari's Wedding". "My students just started learning fiddle tunes since September and have done a really great job. I'm so proud of them. It was an honor to be involved with this special community collage concert," said Ms. Noble.

Saline High School Band members also donated their time and talent in addition to providing some very cool jazz. The quartet performed a true jazz standard; "Blue Bossa" as well as the legendary Duke Ellington's "Take the A Train". The quartet included saxophonist Billy W., pianist Nathan F., drummer Joe H. and bassist Chris L.

The Middle School fiddle club, led by ReStrung Director Josh Herter finished out the first half of the show, performing "Morrison's Jig", "Arkansas Traveler" and an amusing tune lamenting the gender differences called "Sourwood Mountain". Praising the group's performance, Mr. Herter said, "This year's Middle School Fiddle

(Continued from page 2)



Club is perhaps the best fiddle club ensemble I've had. They're so musically cohesive on stage. It was definitely the tightest performance by Middle Schoolers I have ever directed."

Fiddlers ReStrung opened the second half of the afternoon's entertainment with a slow, haunting air entitled "Fragments, Part I", written by former FRS Director Cori Smith. The song's mystique was dramatically enhanced as soft blue lights shadowed violinists Stephen F. and Trevor M. and cellist

Adriane R. "Fragments, Part II" will debut at ReStrung's next Hometown Concert in March with guest artist and former Barrage members, PEAR. Another new song in the ensemble's repertoire is a Civil War era song entitled "Green Grows the Laurel". The tune has jokingly become known among the group as the "gender-relations-conflict-song" owing to the line "... men are deceitful wherever they go." Percussionist Jake

H. kicked off the second portion of "Ross's Reelz" with a bongo solo punctuated with Caribbean flair. Sophomore violinist Christina



R. was featured as a solo vocalist in the song "Somewhere Nice Forever", written by Mac MacNally and performed by Ricky Skaggs. The melancholy song recounts the story of one person's battle with cancer. Accompanists included Sabine B. on violin, Anjali S. on tin whistle, Mickey S. on guitar, and Jeremy S. on cello. The newest group of fiddler cloggers had a chance to show off



what they've learned from weekly lessons with dance instructor Sheila Graziano. A classic in fiddler repertoire, "Big John McNeil" featured cloggers Sabine B., Christina R., Adriane R., Asheema S., Jeremy S. and Mickey S. The newest fiddler faces premiering on stage for their first Hometown Concert included Marielle D. on keyboard, Allison W. on violin, and Grace W., also



Taking on a tune previously performed by graduated seniors, bassist Sean C., violinist Asheema S.,

and cellist Jeremy S. stepped up to perform the playful tune "Minnie & Alex's Reel. Collectively, the ensemble's favorite song is "Tall Buildings." This tune, originally arranged by John Hartford, was born from an FRS volunteer project while the ensemble was on summer tour this year. As Mr. Herter recalls, "Everyone

showed up to help in the creative process, working on the project while crammed into a small hotel room. It was lots of fun and a great experience for all."

The highly successful concert was made possible by many hours generously donated by students, parent volunteers, Fire Chief Craig Hoeft and the Saline Area Fire Department, Marines from Selfridge Air National Guard, High School Cultural Arts Specialist Rebecca Groeb-Driskill and Theatre Staff, as well as the support of Brian Puffer, Director, Saline Community Education and Scot Graden, Superintendent, Saline Area Schools.



FRS GIVES BACK TO MICHIGAN LIBRARIES WITH SPECIAL OFFER

In the spirit of community service and giving back to Michigan during these trying economic times, Fiddlers ReStrung has created an exciting new program to provide low cost concerts to Michigan public libraries to support their summer reading programs.

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." In creating this program specifically for public libraries, Fiddlers ReStrung 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.

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, we are lowering our standard fees to help libraries offer a quality educational and entertaining program, especially when budgets are flat or shrinking. Performances for Michigan public libraries are \$200 (additional travel fees may apply if 30+ miles outside of Saline),



**To schedule performances,
please email us at
bookings@fiddlersrestrung.com
or coreyseeman@gmail.com**

FALL FUN AND WINTER WEATHER

Magnificent fall colors, sunshine and the last hint of summer's warmth were all backdrops of fall gigs for Fiddlers ReStrung's. In early October, the ensemble performed at Fowlerville's Relay for Life, a cancer awareness fundraiser, which registered 23 teams. During their 24-hour walk, participants had time to remember, reflect and celebrate life.

The following day, the ensemble played at another fundraiser closer to home. The Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk was held on St. Joseph's Hospital campus in Ann Arbor. Radio personality Lucy Ann



Some people just can't help dancing along with FRS cloggers....



A sword fight (er, bow fight) usually breaks out during Sabine's "Pirates" solo...

Lance was on hand as participants registered for the walk and enjoyed some great fiddle music. Fiddler cloggers even inspired some walkers to dance a little jig as they walked past the performers. During one song, a particularly enthusiastic fiddler broke his bow while re-enacting a sword fight for "Pirates of the Caribbean." Everyone had a good laugh as he finished out his set with half a bow. The fiddler's father only laughed once he discovered his son had switched his expensive bow during the performance for a cheaper one used for just that purpose.

As an affiliate of Saline Area Schools, Fiddlers ReStrung was proud to perform at the "Fifth Year Fling!", a



*Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center
Photo Credit: Maher El-Awar*

free celebration concert for Saline High School's Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center. "This event is our way of thanking the Saline community for their generous support of our theater and will also demonstrate

how many diverse school and community organizations have utilized this space since its opening," said Cultural Arts Specialist and Theater Manager, Rebecca Groeb-Driskill. Named after a devoted and beloved former superintendent, the Center rivals upscale professional theaters in its acoustic excellence. Featuring state-of-the-art sound equipment, the theater is a perfection of function and beauty. The afternoon's celebration included many forms of entertainment including fiddle and jazz music, tap and ballet dancing, musical theater, choral music and baton twirling; all performed by exceptionally talented students and adults from school and community groups. Backstage tours were given following the performance and students of the SHS Culinary Arts program provided a selection of delicious desserts at a reception in the Commons area.

At a return engagement, FRS performed at the "Save A Heart" Fundraiser sponsored by the University of Michigan. Held on campus at the Michigan League, this event raises funds to benefit patients and their families of UM's Congenital Heart Center at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Event organizer Deborah Lewis notes, "Our Save A Heart Foundation has had Fiddlers ReStrung perform for the last two years at our annual fundraiser. They are an amazing group of kids, all incredibly talented and devoted to their craft. Our guests look forward to each of their sets and by having them at our event, we improve our attendance each year. It has been my privilege to work with the organization."

As fall turns into the colder days of winter, the musicians schedule community service performances at retirement communities and health care facilities. It is an

opportunity to entertain people who might not otherwise be able to see them. The group closed out 2008 with return performances at Whitehall Healthcare Center and Brookhaven Manor, both of Ann Arbor, and the Fowler-ville Senior Center.

Very early one bitterly cold morning in January, when many schools in Southeastern Michigan were closed due to plummeting temperatures, Fiddlers ReStrung was on the road to Dearborn Heights Montessori Center. The staff and students gave them a very warm reception upon their arrival. Robb Rhone, Assistant to the Administration at DHMC had only high praise for the ensemble. "Fiddlers ReStrung is by far the most popular assembly we've had here at DHMC! The talent and showmanship of the performers is truly impressive. Our school anxiously awaits your third visit!"

One recent gig provided an amusing anecdote that pleased all fiddler parents. At the Monroe Conservation District Annual Pancake Dinner in Ida, ReStrung members were invited to eat prior to their performance. Arriving early allowed them plenty of time for tech set-up, eating, and then homework. Seated at a long table against a far wall, the musicians were focused intently on their studies. So focused, in fact,

that when the event coordinator decided to move up the entertainment schedule due to worsening weather conditions, his introduction of FRS caught them momentarily off-guard. Two hundred people turned to the back of the room expecting, no doubt, to see musicians with instruments in hand. Instead, they saw 15 dedicated high school students, busy working on their homework! Everyone smiled and applauded as ReStrung members quickly scrambled to put away their books and tune their instruments. They were on stage within minutes, making it a notable evening for all involved.



FRS performs at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center



FRS musicians get some homework done prior to a performance.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 6 *Private Event*—Glacier Hills Retirement Community, Ann Arbor
- 12 *Private Event*—Ohio Veterans Home, Sandusky, OH
- 13 Kalahari Resorts, 7000 Kalahari Drive., Sandusky, OH, Evening performance in the lobby
- 17 *Private Event*—Rogers Early Elementary School, Allen Park, MI

MARCH

- 6 **HOMETOWN CONCERT**, 7 pm
Featuring Guest Artist
Saline High School
Call 734-944-2283 for tickets.



APRIL

- 24 *Private Event*—Burger School for Autism, Garden City, MI

JUNE

- 6 *Private Event*
- 11 *Private Event*—OSHER Institute for Life-Long Learning
- 19 *Private Event*—Knight's of Columbus, Lincoln Park, MI
- 19 Hamburg Family Fun Fest, 10405 Merrill Rd., Whitmore Lake, MI, 5pm & 7pm performances
- 20 *Private Event*
- 20 Belleville Strawberry Festival, Time TBD
- 24 Exploration Days 4-H, East Lansing, MI, 8pm
- 26 National Thresher Association Festival, Ohio, 6:30pm

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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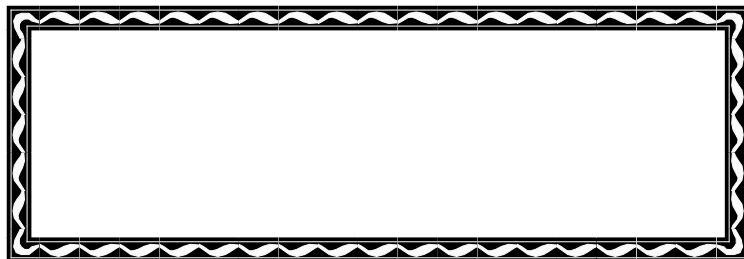
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Saline, MI 48176

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.,
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www.fiddlersrestrung.com