



*Summer 2011  
Volume 1, Number 2*

Saline  
Area  
Schools  
**Fiddlers  
RESTRUNG**

# **FIDDLE BEAT**

## ***Fiddlers ReStrung's Colony Coast Tour Summer 2011 (June 26th to July 6th, 2011)***

Fiddlers ReStrung "got on the bus" with all their gear, musical instruments and personal effects to take their high-energy entertainment on their annual summer tour Sunday, June 26. This year's tour was booked as the "Colony Coast Tour" and took the group to the historic roots of the U.S. republic in Philadelphia, New York City, Connecticut and Boston. Before returning home on July 6, the group made a stop in Pittsburgh for a tour of Carnegie Mellon University and a noon performance on campus there.



Highlights of this year's tour included a rehearsal audit with the Boston Pops Orchestra on July 3 as the symphony prepared for its annual July Fourth concert in the city called "The Cradle of Liberty." Fiddlers ReStrung members also attended a workshop with renowned Irish fiddler, Sheila Falls, while in Boston that day. The tour included performances in a variety of venues in Philadelphia, Madison, CT, Pittsburgh and West Mifflin, PA. According to Marielle Driskell, a senior member of the FRS group,

this year's tour was a unforgettable one because it created stronger friendships, expanded the knowledge of history, and gave memories that will last a lifetime.

# Changes at FRS



Change is the only constant in today's fast-moving world and FRS is not immune to the changes. The Artistic Director of FRS group, Allison Cregg accepted a position with Seattle Symphony Orchestra and has decided to call the big State of Washington her home.

FRS was fortunate to have its past Artistic Directors Josh Herter and Cori Smith available and interested in taking the helm of FRS. Both Josh and Cori are very familiar with the group and they are incredible leaders! They have already started working with the group.

Welcome Josh and Cori!

## Fiddlers' Favorite Fotos

We asked our group members to name their favorite photo and tell us why they like it. What we heard was entertaining and heart-warming! Here are a few gems, enjoy!



Jennie: I think this one is my favorite. It shows how far the sophomores have come in one year in FRS, going from being scared just to go on stage to playing a duet and smiling. :) It was something I remember well from that gig.



Becca: This is one of our favorite pictures from Celtic Fest because everyone is having a good time and it shows through brilliantly.

Sarah: We're all bending down and getting into the "dancing" part of Dawn Dance. We just look like we're having fun!



Natalie: I love this picture because the Celtic Festival is the only gig that will have all five 2011 viola section members playing on stage. In this picture we're playing The Moose Escapeth which showcases our section (the best section of course). Welcome to the Viola Mafia, Kera! And we will miss Kenzie very much when she moves to Connecticut!

# Our first year with FRS



**Natalie Zimmerman:** The best part of my first year in FRS was making new friends and becoming closer to the friends I have who are also in the group. At first it was a bit overwhelming with all of the music to learn, but the older members were great teachers and welcomed us into the group. I remember re-auditioning so I could play gigs and being super nervous about it. Then some of the senior members gave me some advice and encouragement and I passed my re-audition with flying colors! I really started to feel like part of the group after that. Some of my favorite memories are of Summer and Winter Camps. Everyone was having a ton of fun together; at Winter

Camp 2011 we stayed up until 1AM singing and dancing! Now that we've returned from tour, I'm enjoying playing summer gigs while getting to know our four amazing new members and supporting them through their first year in Fiddlers Re-Strung!

**Mehul Kulkarni:** My first year in FRS has been a blast! When I first joined this group I wasn't sure what to expect, but I soon learned that the group is a close knit family. From goofing off during car rides to putting on energetic shows, we always find a way to have fun and make great music.



**Cameron Hibbard:** My first year in FRS was really enjoyable and stressful at the same time. To begin with, I really wasn't aware of how daunting the task of learning all of the music would be. There is A TON. Secondly, going into Fiddlers, I wasn't aware of how nice everyone in FRS really is! They were all very welcoming into the group. Now that I have 95% of the music down, and acquiring more solos, it really is becoming enjoyable. I can't wait for the years to come.



**Jennie Baker:** Of all of the gigs we perform in FRS, undoubtedly the most special and memorable one for any member is the very first gig they perform. My first gig was the best experience I could have had as a new member in the group. It was for a senior living community, though the performance was held in a church for more space. One thing I remember specifically- the way the other members welcomed me, like an equal. Of course I was scared to death to perform on-stage! The audience was populated by grandparents and no one cared if I messed something up, as long as I tried my best. Throughout the performance, I remember Sarah, who I shared a mic with as we are the same height, smiling at me. After the gig, several of the members congratulated me on my performance. I had the most wonderful fist gig experience, and my time in FRS has only gotten better. Being a member of this group has helped to build my self-confidence ! Joining FRS has been one of the best decisions I've ever made.



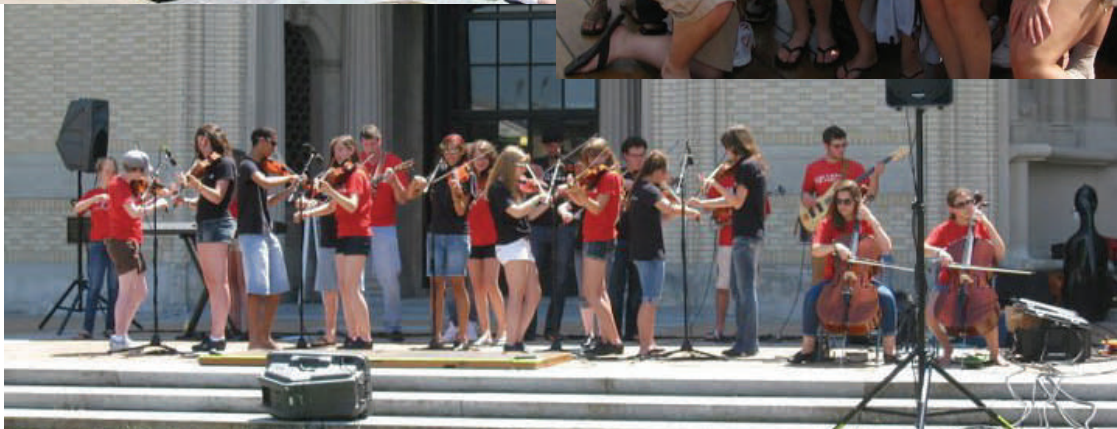
## Fiddlers ReStrung Performs to Celebrate Ronald McDonald House Wing at C. S Mott Children's Hospital

There is possibly no family crisis more devastating than facing the challenge of coping with the care and treatment of a critically ill child. When the new C. S. Mott Children's Hospital opens in November, it will include 12 private Ronald McDonald House rooms for the families of the hospital's most critically ill children.

To celebrate the partnership between C.S. Mott and the Ronald McDonald House of Ann Arbor, the two organizations hosted a Festival of Hope on Main Street in Ann Arbor on June 23. Ronald McDonald was on hand for photo opportunities, and Fiddlers ReStrung provided musical entertainment. Originally scheduled to perform outdoors on the closed-to-traffic Main Street stage, the event was hastily moved indoors to Conor O'Neill's Celtic Room to escape the inclement weather.

The audience contributed to the ambiance of the occasion, with at least one young fan offering to join the group as a bongo player. "She loves drums," her mother explained.

### *Photos from the Colony Coast Tour*



Bank of Ann Arbor Presents  
"Sweet 15" Cash Award to  
Friends of Fiddlers ReStrung

Bank of Ann Arbor held the Sweet 15 Local Charity Drive to celebrate its 15-year anniversary. The drive was a Facebook application created to donate up to \$75,000 to 15 local non-profit organizations. Walt Byers, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking at Bank of Ann Arbor presented a check for \$3,500 to Friends of Fiddlers ReStrung in recognition of their coming in seventh place in the Drive.

Bank of Ann Arbor is a locally owned and operated bank with assets over \$1.4 billion, serving people and businesses in the Ann Arbor area with offices across the community. The web site is [www.boaa.com](http://www.boaa.com).

**Upcoming Events for  
Fiddlers ReStrung**

**Weber-Blaess One Room School  
House: August 26, 2011**

**Jackson Family Night Series  
Aug 31, 2011**

**Saline Community Fair  
September 2, 2011**

**Winter Hometown Concert  
to benefit Toys for Tots  
2:00 pm Sunday, December 4, 2011  
Ellen Ewing Performance Center,  
Saline High School, Saline, MI  
More information available at  
[www.fiddlersrestrung.com](http://www.fiddlersrestrung.com)**

***Fiddlers ReStrung***

Saline Community Education  
7265 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd  
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.,

7265 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd., Saline, MI 48176

