



525 E Michigan Ave #105
Saline, MI 48176
866-257-5333
www.salinefiddlers.com

A 501(c)3 non-profit music education and performance organization

Announcing...

Auditions for the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic

Saturday March 25th, Media Center at Liberty School 1:00-4:00pm

Bob Phillips
Founding Director

Artistic Staff

Ashley Grebe
Artistic Director

Scott Kendall
Sarah Vaujin
Becca Wright
Assistant Directors

Sheila Graziano
Dance
Choreographer

Rebecca Eaddy
Vocal Coach

Dave Schall
Technical Manager

Board of Directors

Jim Cain
Co-Chair

Caroline Hart
Treasurer

David Westfall
Co-Chair

Jennifer Wright
Secretary

Business Staff

Susan Cummings
Business
Administrator

Rebecca Eaddy
Booking Manager

Will Walker
Financial Manager

David Westfall
Acting
Executive Director

Important Dates:

Last day to sign up for auditions: Sunday March 19th (www.salinefiddlers.com)
Audition date: Saturday March 25th, 1:00-4:00 pm Media Center at Liberty School
Results posted: Wednesday March 29 (outside orchestra rooms at SHS and SMS)
First new member rehearsal and parent orientation (mandatory): Sunday May 7th

How do SFP auditions work?

Part of the audition will take place with the full group of current SFP members and staff. This will include a warm up, full group play-through of audition tunes and excerpts, and candidates playing for the current group. The candidates will then have the chance to play individually for the artistic staff and several group member representatives. Candidates will have the option of being accompanied by the rhythm section and several current members in their individual auditions. There will then be a brief interview where candidates will speak with current members and staff in small groups about why they want to join SFP, what other activities they participate in, what their musical interests are, etc.

Candidates will prepare the provided excerpts for their instrument. There are three excerpts for each instrument. The third (Blackberry Blossom) should be memorized. In addition to the given excerpts, candidates will also have the option to include another tune of their choosing to further highlight their skills.

Afterwards, current SFP members and staff will privately discuss all auditions with the Artistic Director who makes final acceptance decisions. After acceptance, new members will attend rehearsals from May 7th. They will rehearse with artistic staff to learn and memorize the current SFP repertoire. Once ready, new members will schedule and perform a re-audition on selected tunes. Once the re-audition is passed, new members can join in on gigs and full group rehearsals.

How do I sign up to audition?

Please go to www.salinefiddlers.com and click "Auditions" in the menu. There you will find the sign up form as well as audition excerpts. Please fill and submit this form.

Please sign up by Sunday March 19th. If the deadline has passed and you need to sign up please contact Ashley Grebe at ashleygrebe@salinefiddlers.com.

What about joining as a Tech Team member?

The Saline fiddlers Philharmonic relies on a skilled team of student sound engineers to facilitate and operate their sound system at most concerts. Each member of the tech team is trained in show preparation, system setup, management, operation, troubleshooting, mixing audio, and live sound engineering. Fundamentals of live sound reinforcement, mixing, wireless systems operation, stage management, and mixing on professional digital console systems are all covered. As each member learns and achieves proficiency they are advanced up to being able to mix the shows live themselves. The team is overseen and trained by our technical director, Dave Schall, who has been a live sound engineer and recording engineer in the southeastern Michigan/University of Michigan community for twenty years. Some former tech team members have moved on to study sound engineering in college with marked success. It is a fast-paced, exciting environment to work in, and highly rewarding, as the tech team is the main link between the ensemble and the audience!

Students who are interested in joining the tech team should have good proficiency in a musical instrument or voice, a solid interest and understanding of basic physical sciences and computer technology, and should be physically fit enough to move and set up the equipment. They should also have excellent attention to detail and good problem solving skills. Each student engineer is trained at their own speed, while integrating into the group with tasks that fit their abilities. There are no small jobs on the tech team...every member is a critical part of the puzzle. In the group setting, sharing information and developing skills are integral to the advancement of the team as a whole, and there is always a strong level of camaraderie among the crew.

If you are interested in auditioning for the Tech Team, please fill out the audition sign up form on the website (for 'instrument' write 'tech'). Your audition will include an interview with staff where you can talk about your interest in sound engineering, your experience with it (if you have any, none required!), and your reasons for wanting to join SFP Tech Team.

Audition FAQ continued on next page...

Fiddle Ensemble, Inc



Voice: (866) 257-5333
P.O. Box 315
Saline, MI 48176
www.salinefiddlers.com

America's premier youth fiddling show band! A 501(c)3 non-profit music education and performance organization

How can I best prepare, and on what basis are candidates considered?

Practice, practice, PRACTICE! Practice with others who are auditioning. Practice and work with current members if you can. Then practice performing in front of others. Learning to be calm and comfortable while playing in front of others is important. Joining Fiddle Club is a good idea, and it's helpful to find a private teacher who can work with you on fiddling and help with musical details. Candidates are considered on the basis of musical abilities (playing in tune, with good tone, good form, rhythmic stability, musicality, memorization etc.), social maturity, stage presence, and their ability to make the necessary time commitment. Candidates will be asked to talk briefly about their interests and activities, goals, and other time commitments.

When and where will the results be posted?

Results will be posted by Wednesday March 29th outside the orchestra rooms at Saline Middle School and the Saline High School.

Who will be there at auditions, and can parents come and watch?

All the candidates, the current SFP members, the Artistic Director and staff will all be present for the group audition session. Parents are also invited to come and watch the group audition session. Private individual auditions will take place with artistic staff and several current SFP members.

How many positions are available in the Fiddlers, and who is eligible?

Auditions are not held with a set number of positions in mind, but instead with the intention of accepting all candidates who demonstrate the abilities that it takes to be successful in our demanding environment. Typically SFP has taken eight new members every year, but some years as many as sixteen or as few as two. To be eligible, candidates must be enrolled in a Saline Middle School music ensemble and must be enrolled in a Saline High School ensemble while attending SHS.

What kind of time and financial commitment does SFP require?

The group rehearses every Sunday from 2:15 pm – 4:30 pm. In addition to rehearsal, there are typically 4-6 gigs per month. For these gigs the group can be away from Saline for three to seven hours at a time. Major tours are scheduled yearly in the summer and last around two weeks. A camp retreat is held twice per year, once in the winter, and once at the end of summer. Every effort is made to avoid school and athletic conflicts, but members are expected to make Fiddlers a high priority in their schedules. Saline Fiddlers is a year-round activity, and participation is comparable to being in a varsity sport year-round. Many students participate in sports and the Saline Fiddlers without a problem, but this does require careful scheduling and planning ahead.

Parents are asked to volunteer in different capacities including carpooling to gigs, planning events, and assisting with business or logistical tasks. There is an official Operations Council that parents are invited to join. The yearly membership fee is currently \$2,000, broken into periodic payments. Financial constraints should not prevent any student or family from participating in the Saline Fiddlers. Financial aid is available. For information about financial aid please contact the Governing Board at board@salinefiddlers.com.

Any questions regarding auditions can be directed to the artistic director, Ashley Grebe: ashleygrebe@salinefiddlers.com

We look forward to meeting you and making music with you!

Sincerely,
The SFP Staff and Current Members



Voice: (866) 257-5333
P.O. Box 315
Saline, MI 48176
www.salinefiddlers.com

America's premier youth fiddling show band! A 501(c)3 non-profit music education and performance organization