

# Saline Fiddlers PHILHARMONIC

"I can't believe they're all high school students!"

## America's Premier Youth Fiddling Showband!

*The Fiddlers capture audiences with their amazing musical style and showmanship. But how do the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic achieve this success?*

### Dedication and Commitment

The Fiddlers take the challenge to push themselves as musicians. The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic organization starts with the goal of excellence. The catchy music and two hour weekly rehearsals are carefully designed to stretch every musician, from the newest Fiddler to the seniors. The music requires constant growth from the Fiddlers, and new music is added regularly so rehearsals stay fun and stimulating.

### Fantastic Teamwork

The students bring a wide range of talents and personalities to this group. Fusing themselves into a dynamic performing group requires the contributions, ideas and energy of each student. Fiddlers are expected to grow in their maturity and in their ability to serve others and the group. The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic is a school of teamwork and leadership.

### Talented Artistic Team

The students in the Fiddlers benefit from outstanding leadership. Artistic Director **Ashley Grebe** has been performing, instructing and working youth fiddling programs as long as she can remember. She is assisted by her talented Assistant Directors, **Scott Kendall**, **Sarah Vaujin** and **Becca Wright**. The Fiddlers also benefit from the vocal coaching of **Rebecca Eaddy** and the choreography and clogging instruction of **Sheila Graziano**. We can't forget the technical end of staging a successful performance. Our student sound techs are led and instructed by Technical Director **Dave Schall**.

### Exciting Music

The Fiddlers and audiences agree that there is something special about the music of the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic. Energetic, funny, touching, rollicking, complex, beautiful, driving, sweet, cool. They play everything. Their music ranges across traditional fiddling styles, swing, jazz and even contemporary hits. Students are encouraged to tackle improvising and solo work as well. The music comes from the minds of Fiddler-savvy composers and arrangers, and sometimes from the work of the Fiddlers themselves.

Greenville, SC, July 4, 2016



### Highlights

**Performances** with The Elders, Daryl Worley, Mountain Heart, The Infamous Stringdusters, Jeff Daniels, Mark O'Connor, Grammy winners Alison Brown & Reba McEntire.

**Performances** at The Ark, Hill Auditorium, Boston City Hall, the White House, Pier 39, the Rudolstadt World Music Festival in Rudolstadt, Germany, the Texas State Capitol Building and on a mountain top in Wales, England.

**Tours** to the Carolinas, California, the Gulf Coast, the East Coast, Germany, Texas, Wisconsin and this year along Route 66!

With attractions like: the Santa Monica Pier, Hollywood, Alcatraz, Chinatown, cable cars, the Golden Gate Bridge, Yosemite, Las Vegas, Death Valley, Sun Records in Memphis, the St. Louis Arch, New Orleans, the French Quarter, Phantom of the Opera on Broadway, Yankees Baseball, Times Square, Grand Central Station, Duck Boat Tours, the Boston Pops, Edinburgh Castle, the Tower of London, Montreal, Tübingen, Heidelberg, Neuschwanstein castle, Lindau, the Alps, the Alamo, Chicago's Magnificent Mile and the Wisconsin Dells.

## Are you Ready to Fiddle?

**Audition music is now available and audition sign up is no open at [www.salinefiddlers.com](http://www.salinefiddlers.com)**

There are openings for **violin, viola, cello, drums, mandolin, banjo, bass, guitar and student sound technicians**. Many of the Fiddlers are available to coach students by helping them prepare and learn the audition music.

The Fiddlers is often hired by fairs, festivals, concert series and other events, either private or open to the public, as a major act. A high level of professionalism is expected of students on the stage and during rehearsals.

*Questions?*

*Ashley Grebe, Artistic Director  
[ashleygrebe@salinefiddlers.com](mailto:ashleygrebe@salinefiddlers.com)*

## On the Road with the Fiddlers! Excellence Leads to Fun

The Fiddlers enjoy a two week tour every summer; visiting new places, playing for new audiences and discovering new parts of their community, state, nation and the world. In the Fiddlers' 22 year history, they have visited many places. They have kept it close to home and traveled by tour bus; they have boarded airplanes and flown to the far reaches of the US and even over the ocean to Europe!

Some special tours have taken them to Germany, the British Isles, Canada, the U.S. Northeast, California, Texas, and the Pacific Northwest. In 2006, a special benefit tour was arranged to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. A series of free performances was scheduled across the Mississippi Gulf Coast to provide much needed diversion for the volunteers and residents. The Fiddlers also delivered donations they had collected and participated in relief efforts.

Tour planning for 2017 is currently underway to take the Fiddlers along Main Street U.S.A! Also known as Historic Route 66—from Chicago all the way to Santa Monica, CA.

## Our History

The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic was founded in 1994 by former Saline School Orchestra teacher, Bob Phillips. Bob believed that creating this new program would enhance the students' music education and their interest in musical performance. It would allow them to continue their classical music studies as part of their school curriculum but also give them the opportunity to use their own time to discover a different style of music that has its roots in Saline's rural heritage as well as our country's history.

For ten years, the group grew and prospered. Then in 2004, the decision was made to split the group into two separate entities; one group (Fiddlers Restrung) chose to retain their affiliation with the Saline School District and other group (Saline Fiddlers) chose to become an independent non-profit organization. Both groups were very successful in their different visions, yet the mission of both groups remained the same.

In 2014, the two groups mutually decided to reestablish one group again and celebrated the merger by returning to the name Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, retaining the independent, non-profit status of the Saline Fiddlers. Now, 22 years later, the group has grown and matured, yet remained faithful to its founding mission and solidified Saline's reputation as the national "hot spot" for youth fiddling.

## Our Mission

**Contribute** to the preservation of American culture through the mastery and performance of fiddle music;  
**Spread and Reawaken** an appreciation of this music;  
**Serve** as a model of alternative music education;  
**Further** the social development and musical education of high school students.

Learn more about the  
**Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic**  
by visiting our website at  
[www.salinefiddlers.com](http://www.salinefiddlers.com)

## Commitment

The commitment required by the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic is similar to year-round participation in a varsity sport. Attendance is required for rehearsals, performances, summer camps and winter retreats. Fiddlers and families must make the Fiddlers a high priority in their schedules for the group to function successfully. The Fiddlers encourages students to be well-rounded and is proud of all the athletes, scholars and many other youth leaders in the group.

# Excellent Artistic Staff

### Ashley Grebe – Artistic Director:

Ashley holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in Music Education. She earned her undergrad degree from DePaul University School of Music in Chicago, IL. In addition to performing in an Irish rock band, she spent several years as the Director of Orchestras in Glencoe, IL. She then moved to Israel, learned Hebrew and completed her graduate degree at the Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv, Israel. She has taught hundreds of beginner, intermediate and advanced strings students, forming many fiddle clubs and strings orchestras. She moved back to the US in 2015 and is the music teacher at Daycroft Montessori School in Ann Arbor. Ashley joined the Fiddlers as Artistic Director in the winter of 2016. She works with all Fiddlers to help them excel at music and in life.

### Scott Kendall - Assistant Director:

Scott began his musical journey in the Saline fiddle program in 1998 when he was in 5th grade. Scott has a degree in bass performance from Minnesota State University Moorhead and since moving back to Saline, he performs and tours with many different groups. He can play any style of music but always falls back to his love of fiddle music.

### Sarah Vaujin - Assistant Director:

Sarah has been involved with fiddling in Saline since her early high school years. She started playing the violin when she was five years old and has had a passion for music ever since. Because of her high school experiences, she discovered her love for teaching and is currently pursuing a Music Education degree from Eastern Michigan University.



*Performing on stage at The Ark  
in downtown Ann Arbor*

### Becca Wright – Assistant Director:

Becca was a cellist with the Fiddlers during her high school career in Saline and has a passion for teaching young cellists. She enjoys the freedom and creativity fiddling provides and the youth leadership opportunities found in the group. Becca is currently pursuing her nursing degree from Eastern Michigan University.

### Sheila Graziano – Dance Coach/Choreographer:

Sheila has been teaching and performing various styles of percussive dance since the early 1980s. Once introduced to Appalachian clogging, the journey began to explore other styles of dance. Sheila began working with the Fiddlers in the mid-1990s, expanding their show offerings and highlighting the relationship between music and dance.

### Rebecca Eaddy – Vocal Coach:

Rebecca is a performing vocalist and holds degrees in voice performance from both the University of Michigan and Bowling Green State University. In addition to working with the Fiddlers on their vocal pieces and assisting in the musical arrangements, she is currently the coordinator for YArts Detroit, the humanities branch of the Boll Family YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit.

### Dave Schall – Technical Director:

Dave holds degrees in music performance from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Michigan but found his niche as a sound engineer. He owns and operates Dave Schall Acoustic in Ann Arbor, producing and engineering recordings and shows across the United States. Dave joined the Fiddlers in 2013 and loves to tour with the group. He especially enjoys working with and teaching the next generation of great sound engineers.



**money matters** The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic is a non-profit organization supported by performance fees, donations, fundraising, CD sales and student tuition. Student tuition makes up just over a third of the annual budget of \$120,000. Student tuition is \$2,000 a year. This pays for most expenses, with the exception of a few minor items and spending money on trips. For this tuition, students receive tours and trips, summer camps and winter retreats, and over 150 hours a year of music and performance coaching by highly qualified staff. The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic is an extremely cost efficient program. The valuable efforts of our dedicated parent volunteers also help keep our costs manageable.

Need-based financial assistance is available so that any musically qualified student can take part in this extraordinary opportunity. Questions about this should be directed to the Governing Board at [board@salinefiddlers.com](mailto:board@salinefiddlers.com).