



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

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www.salinefiddlers.com

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*Vocal Coach*

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## Announcing...

# Auditions for the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic!

Sunday March 11th, 2:00- 4:30, Liberty School

Audition workshop (optional, but highly encouraged) Saturday February 24th 3:00-4:30, Liberty School

### How do SFP auditions work?

First, sign up for auditions at [SalineFiddlers.com](http://SalineFiddlers.com) (see the auditions tab). See the audition music for your instrument. There are three tunes: Blackberry Blossom (should be performed by memory), Jefferson, and Catharsis. Recordings of these tunes are also provided on the audition page. Please use these to help you prepare (only the portions of the tunes with written music are required- sections with improvised solos etc are not). In addition to the given excerpts, candidates will also have the option to include another tune of their choosing to further highlight their skills.

Part of the audition will take place with the full group of current SFP members and staff. 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 in their individual auditions. There will then be a brief interview where candidates will speak with current members and staff in small groups.

Afterwards, current SFP members and staff will privately discuss all auditions with the Artistic Director who makes final decisions. After acceptance, new members will attend Sunday rehearsals from March 18th (no rehearsal on March 25 due to spring break). 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.

### How do I sign up to audition?

Please go to [www.salinefiddlers.com](http://www.salinefiddlers.com) and click the "Auditions" link. There you will find the "Audition Sign Up Form". Please fill and submit this form. After you sign up you will receive a confirmation email along with recordings of the excerpts. Please sign up by *Sunday March 4th*. If the deadline has passed and you need to sign up please contact Ashley Grebe at [ashleygrebe@salinefiddlers.com](mailto: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 shows. 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. 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 in 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. No specific sound engineering



experience is required. 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.

**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 commitment. Candidates will be asked to talk briefly about their interests and activities, goals, and other time commitments. We will have an audition workshop on *Saturday February 24th* to help you prepare for your audition. Candidates are not required to attend but it is encouraged. You will be able to work with current members and staff and ask questions. This also gives us a chance to get to know you better before the auditions.

**When and where will the results be posted?**

Results will be posted *by Tuesday March 13th*, outside the orchestra rooms at Saline Middle School and the Saline High School. They will also be on the website.

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

All the candidates, the current SFP members, and the artistic staff will all be present for the group audition session. Parents are also invited to come and watch the group audition session. The private individual auditions will be with SFP staff and members only.

**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. Candidates from outside the Saline schools may be considered on an individual basis, please email [ashleygrebe@salinefiddlers.com](mailto:ashleygrebe@salinefiddlers.com).

**What kind of time and financial commitment does SFP require?**

The group rehearses nearly 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 \$2,200, 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](mailto:board@salinefiddlers.com).

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

***Important Dates:***

*Audition workshop Saturday February 24th 3:00-4:30, Liberty School*

*Last day to sign up for auditions: Sunday March 4th ([www.salinefiddlers.com](http://www.salinefiddlers.com))*

*Audition date: Sunday March 11th, Liberty School 2:00-4:30pm*

*Results posted: Tuesday March 13th (outside orchestra rooms at SHS and SMS and on website)*

*First new member rehearsal and parent orientation (mandatory): Sunday March 18th*