

Saline Fiddlers PHILHARMONIC

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

America's Premier Youth Fiddling Showband!

www.salinefiddlers.com

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 three hour weekly rehearsals are carefully designed to stretch every musician, from the new Fiddlers 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.

Unique Opportunities

On May 25, 2019 the Fiddlers will open for 15-time Grammy award winner and bluegrass legend **Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder** at the historic Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. In May 2018, the Fiddlers performed on the balcony of the world famous, Zingerman's Deli in Ann Arbor, overlooking the patio for a "Fiddlers on the Roof" gig.

Talented Artistic Team

The students in the Fiddlers benefit from outstanding leadership. Artistic Director **Ashley Grebe** has been performing, instructing and working with youth fiddling programs for 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 choreography and clogging instruction of **Sheila Graziano** and **Adam Wheeler**. We can't forget the technical end of staging a successful performance; our student sound techs are led and instructed by Technical Directors **Dave Schall** and **Thomas Murphy**.

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 Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic themselves.

On the Road with the Fiddlers!

Excellence Leads to Fun

The Fiddlers enjoy a two week tour every summer, visiting new places, performing for new audiences and discovering new parts of their community, state, nation and the world. In the Fiddlers' 25 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 over the ocean to Europe!

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

The "Get Your Kicks" Tour 2017 took the group along Historic Route 66—from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA. The "Lake Effect" Tour 2018 took the Fiddlers around the state of Michigan. Planning for a 2019 Canadian Tour is currently underway.

Group 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, the British Isles and along Route 66.

With attractions like the Santa Monica Pier, Hollywood, Alcatraz, Chinatown, cable cars, the Golden Gate Bridge, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, 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, Maine lobster, Montreal, and Tübingen, Heidelberg, Neuschwanstein Castle, Lindau, the Alps, the Alamo, Edinburgh Castle, Chicago's Magnificent Mile and the Wisconsin Dells!



Are You Ready to Fiddle?

Audition 2019

More information, along with audition music and audition sign-up is available online.

www.salinefiddlers.com

Auditions will be **Sunday, March 10**, with a workshop on **Sunday, February 24** at Liberty School. Sign up to receive details and updates.

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

The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic is often hired by fairs, festivals, concert series and events as a major act. A high level of professionalism is expected of students on the stage and during rehearsals.

Questions?

Ashley Grebe, Artistic Director

Our 25 Year 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, 25 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.

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 Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic a high priority in their schedules for the group to function successfully.

The Fiddlers encourages students to be well-rounded and is proud that the many scholars, athletes and other youth leaders in the group successfully manages their time, activities and commitments.



Excellent Music 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. She discovered her love for teaching while in high school. She followed her heart and earned her Music Education degree from Eastern Michigan University in 2018.



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 has earned her nursing degree from Eastern Michigan University and is employed at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

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.



Money Matters The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic is a non-profit corporation supported by performance fees, donations, grants, fundraising, CD sales and student tuition. Student tuition makes up about 40% of the annual budget. Tuition is \$2,200 a year and 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 parents 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 sfp_board@salinefiddlers.com.