



Announcing... Auditions for the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic!

Auditions: Sunday January 29th, 2:30-3:30, 109 Cultural Exchange in Saline

Audition Prep Workshop (optional, but highly encouraged) Sunday January 22nd at 3:00-4:00, 109 Cultural Exchange in Saline

How do SFP auditions work?

- 1) First, download the audition music for your instrument by going to www.salinefiddlers.com and clicking on the *Auditions* tab. Practice, practice, practice!
- 2) At the audition workshop on January 29th we will work on these tunes to prepare.
- 3) On the audition day, you will play together with the full group as well as on your own for the SFP staff. You will play the 3 audition tunes, and also have the option of including another tune or piece of your choosing to further highlight your skills.
- 4) You will receive an email notification of your audition result within 3 days of the audition. Once accepted, new members will attend regular Sunday rehearsals beginning on February 12th.

What do I need to know about the audition music?

There are three tunes: Blackberry Blossom, Buffalo Gals, and Pitnacree Ferryman. Buffalo Gals should be performed *from memory*. In addition to the provided audition tunes, candidates will also have the option to include another tune or piece of their choosing to further highlight their skills. Singing or playing a selection on a secondary instrument is also welcome. A note on recordings: Only the portions of the tunes with written music are required- sections with improvised solos are not.

What about joining as a Tech Team member?

The SFP 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 sound system setup, stage management, system operation, troubleshooting, mixing audio, and live sound engineering. 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 experience on a musical instrument or voice, a solid interest in 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 if you know any, and practice performing in front of others. Learning to be calm and comfortable while playing in front of others is important. It's helpful to find a private teacher who can work with you on fiddling and help with musical details. Our SFP directors all teach lessons on their instruments, as do many current SFP members. 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, responsibility, reliability, 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 *Sunday January 22nd* 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? Your individual results will be emailed to you at the address you provide. Results will also be posted by *Wednesday February 1st* on the SFP 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 full group audition session. The private individual auditions will be with SFP staff 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 and qualities to be successful in the demanding Fiddler environment. Typically SFP has taken around eight new members each year, but some years as many as sixteen or as few as two. To be eligible, candidates must be enrolled in a music ensemble while attending high school, and take regular private lessons on their instrument.

What kind of qualities does a Saline Fiddler have? In our 29 year history, the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic has cultivated a reputation for excellence both musically and as members of the community. As the face of SFP, Fiddlers represent themselves and our group with the utmost integrity. Fiddlers must possess a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, the ability to persevere through difficulties, personal integrity, respect for others, and a spirit of teamwork. We are looking for Fiddlers who are not only exceptional musicians, but also representatives of our organization and community. If you are the type of person who enjoys using their passion for music to bring people together and will work hard to make your group and community better, then we are looking for you!

What kind of time commitment does SFP require? The group rehearses nearly every Sunday from 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm. Occasionally there are extended rehearsals. In addition to rehearsal, there are typically 4-6 shows per month. For these shows the group can be away for three to seven hours at a time. A two-week traveling tour is scheduled in the summertime each year. A camp retreat is held twice per year, once in the winter, and once at the end of summer. Attendance at the two yearly camps, tour, and hometown events is *required* for all Fiddlers.

Individual practice time is another essential consideration for Fiddlers. We maintain a large repertoire of challenging music which requires regular individual practice time outside of rehearsal. New tunes are introduced at several points during the year (usually at camps) and must be learned individually before rehearsing with the larger group.

For SFP events, 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 issue, 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.

What kind of financial commitment does SFP require? The yearly membership fee is currently \$2,200, broken into quarterly 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 Executive Director, Todd Trese at toddtrese@salinefiddlers.com

At the first rehearsal and mandatory parent meeting (February 12th), new Fiddlers must complete membership forms and submit the first tuition payment. It will be \$550 and will cover instruction, major uniform pieces and summer camp.

Any questions regarding auditions can be addressed to Artistic Director:

Sarah Vaujin: sarahvaujin@salinefiddlers.com

We look forward to meeting you!

Important Dates Summary:

- *Audition workshop Sunday January 22nd 3:00-4:00, 109 Cultural Exchange in Saline*

- *Audition date: Sunday January 29th, 109 Cultural Exchange 2:30-3:30pm*
- *Results posted: Wed February 1st (on the SFP website and sent to your given email address)*
- *First new member rehearsal and parent orientation (mandatory): Sunday February 12th*
- *Summer Camp: Likely the first weekend in August, dates TBD*