

Fiddlers ReStrung



Fiddlers ReStrung Auditions 2010

The Saline Area Schools is proud to sponsor a renowned fiddling group for high school students, known as Fiddlers ReStrung. ReStrung offers the opportunity to be challenged musically, travel and perform all over the country, develop self-confidence and presentation skills, all in the comfort of a safe and warm environment of new friends and artistic leadership. The following information serves to illustrate how the program is organized, run and how it serves to offer rewarding opportunities to high school students and families of the Saline Area Schools.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

ReStrung operates under the authority of the Saline Area Schools and is subject to all school rules and regulations. **Community Education Director Brian Puffer and Cultural Arts Specialist Rebecca Groeb-Driskill** share school oversight of the ensemble and work closely with the ReStrung Board, made up primarily from parents in the group, on budgetary and directional decisions. Paid staff positions for ReStrung are considered employees of the Saline Area Schools and include the Artistic Director, Assistant Artistic Director, Music Interns, and Choreographer. The **Student Advisory Board** is made up of four elected members representing each graduating class. It is an opportunity for the students to voice their opinion and influence the direction of the ensemble, both musically and organizationally. They hold bi-weekly meetings with the Artistic Director and are invited to attend Parent Advisory Board meetings. In 1994, Bob Phillips created the original group, Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic. After his retirement in 2004, Saline Fiddlers became a private organization and Saline Area Schools established ReStrung as the school affiliated fiddling program for Saline High students.



ARTISTIC STAFF

Artistic Director—Josh Herter has a long history with Saline's fiddle groups. He was a longtime member of the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic and has served as the Assistant Director for ReStrung for a number of years. He is in his fourth year of directing Saline's Middle School Fiddle Club. When not leading the Fiddlers, he is completing his degree at Eastern Michigan University. **Assistant Artistic Director—Corinna Smith** is a 2009 MSU graduate in music education and former ReStrung member and artistic director, Corinna Smith is currently the owner and operator of the "Barefoot Fiddle Studio" in Saline and a member of the Irish-Americana band, "Freshwater." **Rhythm Coach—**

Doug Smith had been involved with Saline Fiddler groups since 1997. Playing both, the guitar and banjo, he has served as rhythm coach for ReStrung since 2004. Driven by his love of music, he donates countless hours and practices and performances in support of Saline fiddle music. **Dance Coach—Sheila Graziano** teaches a variety of step dance styles after rehearsals every Sunday. Her energy and enthusiasm for dance attracts students to her class and within weeks they are ready to perform incredibly complex routines.

MUSICAL REQUIREMENTS

ReStrung portrays a diverse arrangement of styles; ranging from traditional bluegrass and Celtic fiddle to a newer, progressive acoustic sound. Students work alongside the artistic leadership to arrange new repertoire and share in crafting their ensemble. This collaborative ownership encourages the students to be themselves and share their own ideas while challenging them to be open to new musical experiences. Focused on generating a genuine live performance, the ensemble relies on the musical/personal maturity, improvisational skills and spontaneity of its students. Participation and improvisation are two key elements of ReStrung. Often, portions of rehearsals are spent working on the arrangement of a new piece or improving a current arrangement and this work is undertaken by the students. Students in ReStrung are often high achievers, both academically and in extra curricular activities beyond music, including athletics and community service. **These students are required to be enrolled in Saline High School music classes for at least two trimesters each year that they are in the ensemble.**



YEAR IN THE LIFE OF

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

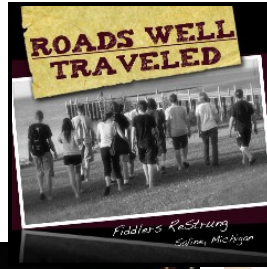
APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

MEMBER AUDITION - WINTER CAMP - SPRING HOMETOWN - STUDIO RECORDING - SU



TIME COMMITMENT

ReStrung appreciates that today's youth benefits greatly by having a diverse schedule, but emphasizes that membership does indeed carry a great deal of commitment. The ensemble relies on the entirety of its membership to make each performance a quality experience, but remains open and flexible to students' busy schedules with proper and timely communication. ReStrung holds **weekly rehearsals**, Sunday from 3:30 to 5:30pm. The practice sessions start at 3:00 with a full sound tech setup. The two hours of practice include activities such as reviewing existing music, sectional work, improvisation exercises, arrangement of new music – an exercise done by the students, and continual arrangement of established tunes, driven by collaboration between the students and the artistic team. Practice is followed by dance rehearsal for the students who dance during performances. There are **two mandatory camps** (two days in the winter and three days in the summer) for members of ReStrung. At both of these camps, students not only bond (a critical element for a musical group), but they work on new music in an environment free from other distractions. **Attendance at gigs is very important. ReStrung performs approximately 80 times a year.** Students are encouraged to attend each performance, but the group understands other commitments (such as other school events, sports, family events, and other events).

EDUCATIONAL MISSION

ReStrung is committed to fiddle education in Saline and beyond. Members are encouraged to assist with the 6th grade and middle school fiddle clubs & the group has lead numerous fiddling workshops in Michigan and during tour, often a memorable element of the tour. With the ReStrung's Summer Reading Program for Michigan Libraries, the members provide an educational experience for children and share how they learned to play their musical instruments. ReStrung also has the opportunity for educational workshops with guest artists who are in the area. These included Jeremy Kittel, April Verch, Peter Ostroushko, Darol Anger, and Christian Howes. These opportunities were paid for by the group to provide students with an amazing educational experience at the hands of some of the greatest folk and bluegrass performers around.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parent volunteers are essential to the success of ReStrung. They serve in all administrative capacities of the group including: sound tech crew, booking managers, gig management, publicity, fund-raising, driving coordinator, newsletter, trailer transportation, etc. By having all of these critical roles performed by parental volunteers, we keep our expenses low, return more money back to the students and enjoy a positive student/parent connection. Parents are asked to participate on a regular basis, including driving to gigs at least once or twice a month. Additionally, all parents receive jobs to assist with two annual hometown concerts.

FIDDLERS RESTRUNG

LY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER
MMER TOUR - SUMMER GIGS ACROSS MICHIGAN - SALINE FAIR - HOLIDAY HOMETOWN



PROFESIONALISM

The ReStrung are always asked to behave in a professional manner. For all audiences, whether they are performing for high visibility paid events such as fairs, private fundraisers, country music festivals, including the 2008 Downtown Hoedown in Detroit or at pro bono events such as schools, senior centers and others, they are expected to perform with tremendous professionalism and act as representatives of Saline Area Schools. ReStrung currently stands at 15 performers. While ReStrung has been as large as 22 performers, being a smaller group gives each student the opportunity to perform at their best in addition to enhancing a clean and crisp sound.

BUDGET AND FINANCES

The annual budget for ReStrung is approximately \$40,000. Budgetary decisions are made by the Board with consultation from Community Education. We are able to operate with modest tuition rates by relying on parent volunteers and receiving school support for expenses such as insurance and administrative costs.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

In 2008, the tuition rate changed for ReStrung students. The new rate of \$600 per year covers uniforms, winter and summer camps, and Community Education fees. Summer tour is extra, with costs that are subsidized by the group. Last year, the summer tour cost students approximately \$650.00 for the 12 day tour of Kentucky and Tennessee.

HOMETOWN GUEST ARTISTS

Starting in 2007, the December Hometown concert has been used to launch the Saline Fire Department's Toys For Tots drive. This is a community concert with members of the Saline High School choirs and bands. The Spring Hometown concerts feature national fiddle acts such as Barrage, Pear, Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, Laurie Lewis, Jeremy Kittel, April Verch, Grant Gordy and the Lonesome County Band. The 2010 Hometown Guest Artist is Darol Anger's Republic of Strings.

TRAVEL

ReStrung performs all over Southeastern and Central Michigan with parent volunteers driving and serving as chaperones. ReStrung takes an annual tour to bring their music to cities across the country and to reward the students for all their hard work during the previous year. ReStrung 2010 tour will circle the Great Lakes. Recent tours include: Prince Edward Island (2004), New York (2005), Kentucky & Tennessee (2006), Michigan's Upper Peninsula (2007), Minnesota & Wisconsin (2008), and Kentucky & Tennessee (2009).

Visit our website:
www.fiddlersrestrung.com

Check out our Twitter Feed
[Twitter.com/FReStrung](https://twitter.com/FReStrung)

If you are in 8th, 9th, or 10th Grade in Saline and you play violin, viola, cello, guitar, mandolin, bass, or percussion instruments, consider trying out for ReStrung.

As a member of ReStrung, you will be involved in a year-round musical group that provides opportunity for students to contribute to the arrangement of the songs, travel across the state and beyond at 80 performances a year. Most of all, it allows you to give back to the community through the gift of music.

Josh Herter, Artistic Director
Corinna Smith, Asst. Artistic Director

For booking information contact us via email
bookings@fiddlersrestrung.com

**Auditions
& Parent Meeting**
Sunday January 31, 2010, 3pm
Saline High School Orchestra Room

**Workshop
& Parents Q&A Session**
Sunday January 17, 2010, 5pm
**Saline High School Orchestra
Room**

Questions?
Contact Josh Herter at
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or info@fiddlersrestrung.com

Fiddlers ReStrung
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