

Fiddling for All Strings

Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic
Bob Phillips-Artistic Director
Ben Culver-Assistant Director

Opening-The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic-Blackberry Blossom, Traditional

Why is Fiddling an Important Addition to Your Curriculum?

1. Folk fiddling is a rich resource of traditional music that provides a wellspring of highly motivational teaching repertoire and a stimulating alternative educational/social environment for multi-age, mixed-ability, and heterogeneous instrumental group instruction. That's a fancy way of saying kids love it, everybody can participate, and the music is really cool.
2. Students are interested in and motivated by music making that is accessible, and in which the challenge level can be manipulated and controlled. Students who are already motivated become more motivated by the appealing aesthetic of the music, and the successful "work-to-reward ratio" of traditional music which is very cross-cultural.
3. Music making must be connected to real experience which is valued by the students, especially in terms of social interaction.
4. Students are more thoroughly engaged by active creation than in flawless replication.
5. There exists an inexhaustible supply of fiddle tunes representing hundreds of years of diverse musical traditions.
6. The form and traditional performance practice of playing fiddle tunes invites, but does not necessarily require, repetition, improvisation, stylistically specific ornamentation, speed variation, bowing variation, ear-training, and other pedagogical elements critical to string teaching.
7. Because of their principal function as entertainment and dance music, fiddle tunes lie, by-and-large, "under the fingers," are in open-string keys, may be easily transposed, have strong rhythms, and are thus readily accessible and interesting to a wide range of abilities.
8. The fiddle tune repertoire invites students to engage in cooperative, cross-cultural, national heritage, interdisciplinary, exploratory, self-directed, and other learning experiences. Leadership is encouraged and nurtured.
9. Instruction through fiddle tunes invites the participation of guitarist, banjo player, pianists, singers, and performers of other instruments not usually associated with the string program and can result in the formation of a unique showcase performing group. Traditional music making is participatory, and invites a sense of community. Fiddlers (and probably all students!) respond best to teachers who are pleasant, sharing, non-coercive, humorous, and encouraging.
10. Fiddling is a great way to address the national standards.
 - A. Performing on instruments, alone and with others a varied repertoire of music.
 - B. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
 - C. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines

How Do You Build an Arrangement?

Eighth of January, Traditional and New Joe Clark, Traditional, arr. Ben Culver

1. Learning a Tune by Ear
2. Creating Harmony and Seconding Parts

3. Creating Bass Lines
4. Creating Solos
5. Creating Arrangements

The Eighth of January



What Are Some of the Different Styles?

1. Old Timey - *Sally Goodin, Traditional, Big Brown Trout, Randy Sabien*
2. Georgia Shuffle - *Turkey in the Straw, Traditional*
3. Bluegrass - *Used to Be, Uncle Pen, Big Mon, all by Bill Monroe*
4. Cajun - *You Low Down Dirty Dog, Jay Ungar*
5. Old Time Waltz - *Midnite on the Water, Traditional and A/ison's Waltz, Bob Phillips*
6. Jigs - *Jig Time, Dean Marshall*
7. Rags - *Dragin' the Bow, Traditional*
8. Western Swing - *Faded Love, Bob Wills*
9. Swing - *Sweet Georgia Brown, Ben Bernie, Kenneth Casey Sr., Maceo Pinkard*
10. Scottish - *Strathspey/Reels - Farewell Set: Farewell March by Marshall, Charlie Hardie Reel by Skinner, Frank Gilruth Reel by Milne, McArthur Road Reel by Richardson, Arr. Gordie Sampson*
11. Double Shuffle - *Bile Them Cabbage, Traditional*
12. Cross Shuffle - *Orange Blossom Special, E. Rouse*

There are tremendous resources available for finding tunes. Here is a short list of possibilities.

BOOKS

Fiddlers Philharmonic
 Fiddlers Philharmonic
 Encore
 Jazz Philharmonic
 The Fiddlers Fakebook
 by Brody
 Mel Bay's fiddle books
 (particularly the ones by
 Stacey Phillips and Bonnie
 Rideout)
 The Old Time Fiddlers
 Repertory
 (ed. Christensen)
 Fiddle Tunes from
 Marshall Crozman

MUSIC VIDEOS

Homespun Videos
 especially:
 Contest fiddling, Mark
 O'Connor
 Learning to Play Irish
 Fiddle, Kevin Burke

Bluegrass Fiddle Classics,
 Kenny Kosek

**ARTISTS TO LISTEN
 TO**

Bluegrass
 Mark O'Connor
 Richard Green
 Byron Berline
 Bill Monroe
 Laurie Lewis
 Sam Bush
 Jerry Douglas
 Bela Fleck
 Edgar Meyer
 Stuart Duncan
 Alison Krauss
 Kenny Baker
 Chubby Wise
 Bobby Hicks
 Aubrie Hayney
Celtic
 Bonnie Rideout
 Alasdair Fraser

Natalie McMaster
 Kevin Burke
 The Chieftains
Old-time and Folk
 Peter Ostroushko
 Dean Magraw
 Matt Glaser
 Fiddle Fever
 Jay Ungar
 Molly Mason
 Doc Watson
 John Hartford

SHOWS

Barrage
 Riverdance
 Lord of the Dance

MUSIC STORES

Shar Products
 Elderly Instruments

**MAGAZINES (ALSO
 HAVE WEBSITES)**

Fiddlers Magazine

Mandolin Magazine
 Bluegrass Unlimited
 Dirty Linen

WEBSITES AND LINKS

www.angelfire.com/ak2/bluegrassmusic1/links.html
www.elderly.com
www.geocities.com/Area51/Realm/5747/thelinks.html
www.mandolincafe.com/links.html
www.markoconnor.com/
www.randysabien.com
www.a2ark.org
www.salinefiddlers.com
www.suncoastarts.com/coastfiddlers.html

**SOUND
 REINFORCEMENT:**

www.sweetwater.com
www.markertek.com