

JUNIOR HOEDOWNER

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Alex Hargreaves OOTFA and Corvallis can be very proud that Alex Hargreaves from Corvallis won the Grand Champion Division at Weiser this year. The annual event, held in Weiser, Idaho is in its 54th year and is the most prestigious fiddle competition in the nation. Alex, at 13, won our state champion division and repeated for the next two years -- as well as winning the Junior Division at Weiser last year. Our congratulations go to Alex and the Hargreaves family.

Kiara Siato-Beckman June 20th, Kiara Siato-Beckman became the 2007 National Oldtime Fiddle Champion for the Small Fry Division at Weiser. She competed in 3 rounds (3 separate performances, a total of 9 pieces) to become the National Champion. She competed with other kids her age from all over the country, 40 contestants in all. The first cut was from 40 to 15 then from 15 to 5. Kiara won and will have her picture in the National Fiddle Champions Hall of Fame. Kiara has been the State Champion for two years and also won the Western Open in California last year. She is also a classical violin player, competing recently in the competitive portion of the Bach festival, where she came in second to her sister at the District Level.

Tatiana Hargreaves and Miya Siato-Beckman We are equally proud of Tatiana Hargreaves placing second and Miya Siato-Beckman who placed fourth out of 71 contestants this year at the Nationals in the Junior-Junior Division at Weiser.

Eileen Walter writes: "Hi, Yes, it was very exciting to see Alex come out ahead of all those fantastic fiddlers! Oregon was well represented in several other divisions also. Kiara Saito-Beckman won the Small Fry Division and Matthew McCravey was fifth in that division (pretty impressive since he's been playing fiddle less for less than 2 years). Tatiana Hargreaves was second in the Jr-Jr Division and Dan Emert was second in the Adult Division. It was exciting for me to see my students play so well -- all three of my small fry students who were there made the first cut and played a second round (Isaiah Baltzell, Gabriel Baltzell, and Matthew McCravey) - I was very proud of them. "

A note from **Russelle Adams**, mother of **Gabriel Baltzell**, 8, and his sister **Isaiah Baltzell**, 6: "We had a great time at Weiser, Idaho, the kids placed 6th and 7th in the nation in their age level division for Old Time fiddle. They ended up playing their second round first, having only learned 2 weeks before...they played it very well and I was very proud to see them do so well on that stage. We were surprised to have made it to the second round! We had a great time camping, it was very hot, but we had solar energy to run the fans and the lights, and the kids made a lot of violin and fiddle friends. Amazing that just about all of their fiddle friends were also Suzuki students. "

Kodria Haddock (age 14) and her fiddle group **Mulligan Stew** would like to announce the release of their CD, The Mountain Road. If anyone would like to order a CD, they are \$15 and \$2 for shipping. Please make the check out to Mulligan Stew, and send it to Kodria Haddock, P.O. Box G, Pilot Rock, OR 97868. If you have questions feel free to call, 541-443-2920.

On a fine sunny morning, June 23rd, a group of our kids put on a show for the Silver Creek Assisted living Center in Woodburn. The occasion was a western style barbecue and get together. Our young fiddlers were - Stevie, Ronnie and Shawnee Dohman from Woodburn. (Helping them out were adults - Jean and Jim Pearson, Don Wood, Dee Mahleck and Paul Bourgeois who emceed.) The audience enjoyed an hour and a half of good old fashioned music. Stevie (13), Ronnie (13) and Shawnee (14) played tunes like - Old Man - Old Woman, Red Wing, Tavern in the Town, Wabash Cannon Ball, Tannenbaum and Old Susanna. They were very grateful to OOTFA for the fun and the opportunity to do their stuff in front of a live audience. They got a very warm reception. They were flattered when asked to play longer and invited to come back again. (Thanks Paul for the information)

Beverly Conrad from Pennsylvania gave us permission to use her "Teaching Tips" from the National Old Time Fiddler Association's news letter. (www.fiddlerwoman.com) (<http://www.fiddlecontest.com/>)

Keeping it Graceful - For those of us who can read music it is pretty much a given that when learning a new tune from sheet music, we should play the notes written on the paper. In classical violin you pretty much are required to do this, especially if the piece is part of an arrangement and you'll be playing with other musicians. For violin, even the direction of the bow is marked here and there so that all the bows pretty much stay together, flowing nicely in one direction or the other. . . . Once you have found the sheet music to a tune you want to learn, here are some tips on how to keep the grace notes graceful and the tune nicely danceable.

The notes on the page are on paper -- not carved in stone. Depending on the arrangement of the written music there may be just simple notes written down so that you can get the gist of how a melody goes, or there may be a bunch of notes written - all the little grace notes, cuts, crochets (roll of five notes used a lot in Irish music) slurs, slides and other "pretties." The dancers and those bobbing their heads and tapping their toes along to your playing of the tune move to the overall beat -- not the little things. The extras, like these grace notes, are added for emotional and artistic effect. They should flow as a natural extension of the art and come off as such. No amount of pretty ornamentations impresses listeners and dancers as good. If you add "pretties" at the expense of solid timing, it will trip up the dancer. (Continued next month) Thanks Beverly - check out her website at www.fiddlerwoman.com.

August's Fiddle Tune

The tune for this month is "Texarkana Waltz." Texarkana is a town located in (you guessed it!) both Texas and Arkansas. The trick in playing this tune (or any waltz) is to maintain a solid, danceable beat at a danceable tempo, something that is not all that easy to do. If no one is out there on the dance floor dancing, you'll know your rendition needs more work.

Texarkana Waltz

[Composer]

Violin

0 1 2 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 0 1 3
A A A A A A A D D D D D D D A A A

2 1 0 3 1 2 2 - 2 3 2 - 0 1 2 3 2 1
A A A D D D D - D D D - A A A A A

0 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 0 1 3 2 1 0 3 2 1
A D D D D D D A A A A A A D D D

0 - 0 1 0 - 1 2 3 1 3 2 - 1 2 1 0 - 1
D - D D D - D D D A A A A - A A A A A

0 - 2 1 - 3 1 3 1 2 2 - 2 3 2 - 0 1 2
A - D D D A A A A A - A A A - A A A

3 2 1 0 3 2 1 2 3 - 0 1 3 2 1 0
A A A A D D D D D A A A A A A

3 2 1 0 2 0 3 -
D D D D D A A -