



# Junior Hoedownner

Volume 3, Issue 6

June 2009

**West Linn Tidings on Tabitha Gholi**  
(Used by permission.)

Finding the Fiddle

West Linn sophomore is a hit at Old Time Fiddlers Association competition

BY NICOLE DECOSTA The West Linn Tidings, Apr 16, 2009

In fourth grade, Tabitha Gholi saw a TV commercial that changed her life. She doesn't remember what movie was being advertised or what song was being played, but she remembers a girl playing a violin. "I thought it was really cool," said Gholi, now a sophomore at West Linn High School. "I thought, 'maybe I'll look cool playing that thing.' And then (the girl in the commercial) smashed it."

Though she's not allowed to smash her violin, she was a smash hit at the recent Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association (OOTFA) competition in March. Gholi took home the title of Oregon State Junior Fiddle Champion and won yearlong recognition in the National Fiddlers Hall of Fame, she said.

Gholi began lessons on the violin at Willamette Primary School and enrolled in the school's strings program. She later participated in orchestra while at Rosemont Ridge Middle School and now is the only fiddler in the WLHS orchestra.

"I feel very individual," she said. But she's also your typical teenager. Barefoot and with green nail polish, Gholi practices in her living room while her friend, Stephanie Lane, also a WLHS sophomore, looks on - eating a Subway sandwich. "I'd never heard the fiddle until I met Tabby. I heard her play for her French class during lunch and I thought, 'gosh I wish I could do that,'" Lane said. "It's really cool. I can't play an instrument to save my life." But Gholi - who also enjoys track and snowboarding when not playing music - has been playing for years, joining the OOTFA in fifth grade. She plays in a vibrant Texas fiddle style. "It's more country," she said, as opposed to classical fiddling. The words violin and fiddle are interchangeable, she said, because the term fiddle refers to any bowed string musical instrument - including a violin. "It's the same instrument," Gholi said. "It sounds more confusing than it is."

Her teacher, Eileen Walter, works with Gholi each week to perfect her unique "swingy style" and prepare her for competitions.

At the OOTFA competition in Salem, Gholi performed with three guitarists while the judges listened in a separate room. "They listen while you play, but they can't see us play so nothing will impair their judging," Gholi said. "They are just focused on the sound."

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from  
page 1)

Andrew Webster, a WLHS guitar teacher and Gholi's junior high orchestra teacher, has watched Gholi develop her talent since fourth grade and cheered her on at the OOTFA competition as she played a hoedown, a waltz and a tune of choice. "She was judged on rhythm, time, difficulty and arrangement of tune, . . .," Webster said.

She said that along her musical journey many people have told her to keep practicing to get better. "It's true," she said. "There's nowhere to go but up." In June, Gholi will perform in the National Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho. So, what will she do to prepare? "Practice. Practice. Practice," she said, which means an hour of playing each day, one lesson each week and long jam sessions at her teacher's house. "It's fun," Gholi said.

**Tune of the Month.** This month's tune is "Rainbow Schottische." This dance tune can be found on YouTube. It was composed in the mid-1800's by Henry Kleber, who was sensitive to criticism. On one occasion he attacked a newspaper critic with a cowhide whip!

### Rainbow Schottische

The image displays a musical score for the piece "Rainbow Schottische". The score is written on a single treble clef staff in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of a single melodic line with various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The notation includes a variety of note values and rests, with some notes beamed together. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Rhythm: Schottische

Book: Ford ~ Traditional Music in America (1940)

Transcription: AK/Fiddler's Companion