

Junior Hoedowner

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Russelle Adams Writes About Gabriel and Isaaiah Adams (concluded)

Gabriel and Isaaiah have been playing twin fiddle since their first contest -- the state fiddle contest in 2007, when Isaaiah was 5 and Gabriel, 7. They played some tunes out of the Ludiker Twin Fiddle book. Twin came easier to the kids, because of their two years of playing Suzuki tunes together, until playing note for note and bow for bow, was like breathing for them.

The children work well together, they learn their parts independently of their partner, but put the harmonies together as soon as they are able to play with a metronome. We have an "Encouragement System" that is mandatory in our home when the kids are working together. It anchors professional courtesy between the siblings, builds good teaching habits, and usually involves the gradual consumption of a favored snack during their time working together.

Both of my children bring different strengths to the music, and they have each benefited greatly from this. Gabriel has a mathematician's sense of reading the music, and is adept at puzzling things out intellectually. Isaaiah may not read the music as carefully, but plays it like she hears it. So they both realize how lucky they are to have the different perspectives. This year the kids won first place in the state twin fiddle contest, playing Spaghetti Rag, for which the harmony part was written by Eileen and her teacher.

We are looking forward to playing at The National Fiddle Contest, in Weiser Idaho. We are stocking up on the frisbees, watermelon...and squirt guns. This year their tunes feel really settled in...so there is no scramble to correct any tunes very much.

There is a private blog I started documenting the kids musical pursuits and other interests for their friends and family in their village to keep up to date and what the kids are up to. If there are people in the Old Time community who would like to be invited to this blog. They can send me an email at russelle.adams@gmail.com introducing themselves. There are so many people in this community that children value, it would be nice to share the blog with them.

Gabriel and Isaaiah also enjoy chess, and have a few chess trophies between them and many great experiences. Isaaiah loves playing dolls, and working with beads. Gabriel is interested in cooking and photography. Both kids are excited about a new board game that they love called MonsterPocalypse in which B-movie monsters battle it out in a modern city destroying most of the buildings. (Hmm I wonder what the kid appeal is...)

They actually play "MonPoc" in mini tournaments in which they can win more pieces to the game. Gabriel and Isaaiah also love their 3 step brothers who visit every summer and together all

of the children enjoy a wide range of kid wildness. The brothers are coming to love fiddle music as well and they even accompany the kids from time to time on guitar.

Its summer time, and even though we home school, the kids are celebrating summer! Hope you have a happy summer.

(Editor's Note: Ruselle is, of course, Gabriel and Isaaiah's mom. The text above is taken from a letter to Lew Holt. For the first half of the letter, see the July Jr. Hoedowner.)

Tune of the Month. Champion's Hornpipe, courtesy of Eileen Walter. Note the key signature: B flat (two flats: B and E).

Champion's Hornpipe

The image shows a handwritten musical score for a piece titled "Champion's Hornpipe". The score is written on four staves of music. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats: B and E), and the time signature is 4/4. The notation is in treble clef. The first staff starts with a 'v' mark above the first measure. The music consists of a single melodic line with various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.