



Junior Hoedowner

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Miya and Kiarra Saito-Beckman

Miya and Kiarra Saito-Beckman's proud father (District 3), when asked, graciously wrote the following about his two daughters:

"I first heard of Weiser, Idaho when an old housemate of mine traveled there to see Mark O'Connor win his first National Fiddle Contest. At the time it didn't occur to me that Weiser would become an annual destination point, but in June for the past seven years our family has piled a handful of instruments into the Toyota, said goodbye to our school-year routines, weighed anchor and set sail for a week of fun, great music, camping, sleep deprivation and visiting relatives there. And there's also the fiddle contest.

"Traveling to Weiser marks the time when our daughters, Miya and Kiarra, set their music stands in the corner, say farewell to the music of Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky and Bruch and Shostakovich and prepare for a summer of fiddling and a looser musical and social atmosphere. The journey, contest and the fun at Weiser sets the tone for the summer, and for a unique and special time in their lives. It's an enjoyable contrast to some of their other musical experiences during each year.

"In a way, Miya and Kiarra cut their fiddle teeth at Weiser. For years, many of hours of practice, lessons and a series of contests, including the Oregon state con-

test, culminated in the National Fiddle Contest. The process leading up to Weiser is how they came to love the Texas-style contest tunes they've learned to play. Having a great time playing contest tunes led to a natural learning and appreciation of many other fiddle styles. And these days, fiddle tunes that were shaped in Ireland, Scotland, the hills of Cape Breton, the mountains of Appalachia, gypsy caravans across Europe and from many other places weave in and out of the rooms of our house. In a way, they all lead back to the contest tunes that the girls started learning when they were very young.

"So, for all fiddlers, musicians and anyone else that enjoys music who hasn't made the trip, I'd encourage at least one journey to Weiser for some fun and inspiration. The competition at the National Fiddle Contest arguably represents the pinnacle in contest playing and seeing the great playing is always a lot of fun. But Weiser is about so much more than a competition. 24-hour-a-day music abounds outside the contest in a wide range of flavors and styles. For many, the journey there is about old or young friends getting together with old or young friends and having a good time and playing music. It's definitely an interesting destination on any young fiddler's map. Make the trip!" Lew Holt, from whom the above information comes, adds "it would

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take another page just to list (Miya and Kiarra's) accomplishments with violin and fiddle."

Tune of the Month: Clearwater Stomp

This an old-time tune which you can see performed by Gilbert Kieseker on Youtube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSM9T_UqhPg&feature=related. Kieseker is a Washington State fiddler born in 1916, who began to play for himself in 1924, at the age of eight.

He is a member of the Washington State Old Time Fiddlers.

Clearwater Stomp (G)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, A, D, G, A, D, B7, E7, A, D7, G, A, D, G.