



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 49, Number 5
Celebrating 48 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

May 2021
Next Events: see p.3



President's Note

Santa Clara County is currently in the orange tier which states that informal or social gatherings are limited to 50 people outdoors, while following certain requirements. [click here](#).

I am happy to announce that as a step towards our normal first-Sunday jamming, we will hold two independent jams on May 2nd:

- * First, the sort of Zoom jam we've been doing for some months, with a slow jam from 1 pm-2 pm, followed by up-tempo playing from 2 pm to 4 pm, and
- * Also, our first in-person jam since the pandemic started -- in the Rose Garden park, from 3pm to 5pm, structured as two independent events (bluegrass/country and "other") with the following restrictions:

- 2 hours maximum gathering time - **Jam time 3:00 - 5:00 PM**
- All must wear masks
- Maintain 6-foot distancing
- No wind instruments
- No shared food
- People who are singing are strongly encouraged to do so quietly (at or below the volume of a normal speaking voice).
- Don't Attend Gatherings If You Feel Sick,
- Everyone must sign in and provide contact information.
- *Anyone who develops COVID-19 within 48 hours after attending a gathering should notify me (president [at] fiddlers.org) and/or other attendees as soon as possible.*
- We will not display our SCVFA banner

Even though many of our members are fully vaccinated, all must still follow the above limitations

and masks are a must! Remember to bring chairs and jackets (expecting colder weather).

Thanks Sharon, Sam, Sara, Shoshi, and Me for leading the April slow jam. We did it without 'Strum Machine' this time, but with Sharon's expert rhythm and coaching. It feels so good to guide our newer musicians who are just beginning their musical journey.

Caleb Klaunder led an excellent Celebrity Series on March 21st. Caleb shared as many tips and exercises as possible in the 90-minute workshop. I'm pleased to say that each and every Celebrity Series workshop has been outstanding.

On Sunday April 25, April Verch led the Celebrity Series with Canadian fiddling. April showed how to take the tunes and build them from the basic melody into a personalized version of the tunes by implementing left hand ornamentation and bowing techniques. These "tools" can be useful to apply to other tunes as well.

Coming on May 16th is Sammy Lind, fiddler with 'Foghorn Stringband', nadineandsammy.com foghornstringband.com

Get your instruments tuned and ready for our first live jam in over a year!
Thanks for your continuing support of SCVFA and traditional music.

--Susan
president [at] fiddlers.org

In This Issue:	Page
President's Message.....	1
SCVFA Happenings	3
Photo of the Month	4
Article: "Reflections on Black Violin"	5
Hicks' Licks by Pete Hicks.....	6
Breaks: "Stay All Night"	7

The Fiddler's Rag is published monthly by the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association and is provided to members of the Association. The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA), founded in 1973 in San Jose, California, is a nonprofit, volunteer-operated organization dedicated to the preservation, teaching, and enjoyment of traditional music. The first membership in a household includes the Fiddler's Rag; additional members sharing the newsletter are steeply discounted. To join, sign up at the jam or see www.fiddlers.org/join.

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The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association is a non-profit member-supported organization.

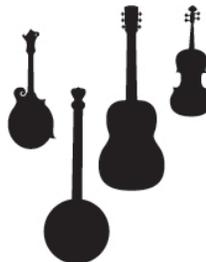
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

Many local corporations offer matched donations for non-profits. Check with your employer... they may offer this benefit.

You can easily add SCVFA as a 501(c)(3) organization; our EIN is 51-0196154

Donate as you are able and traditional music will reap the benefits.

SCVFA wants musicians to know that we are "not just for fiddlers". The image to the right side of the Fiddler's Rag name on page 1 includes a mandolin, a banjo, a guitar and a fiddle, to illustrate the diversity of instruments played at our jams and events.



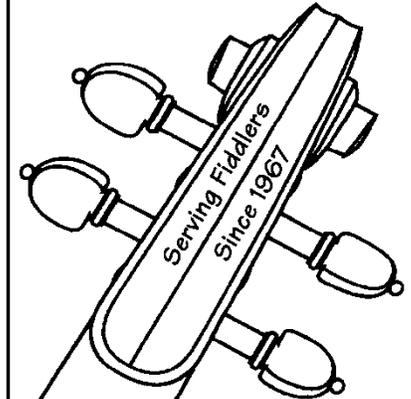
Quote of the Month

"You know, hip-hop and classical, in a lot of ways, are both party music for different eras."

- Kevin Sylvester (Black Violin)

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SCVFA Happenings

May SCVFA Jam

Join us for a LIVE JAM at the San Jose Rose Garden, May 2nd, 2021 3:00-5:00pm. Wear a mask! And keep 6 feet distancing.

In case you cannot attend in person, join the Zoom jam

1:00 - 2:00 - first hour is the ZOOM Slow Jam

2:00 - 4:00 - ZOOM up tempo jam

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86361048416?pwd=amJNal>

Meeting ID: 863 6104 8416 Passcode: Fiddle

Slow Jam Tunes:

<https://www.fiddlers.org/slow-jam-tunes/>

Sammy Lind Workshop & Jam Session



Born in Minnesota, Stephen “Sammy” Lind has established himself as one of the most critically acclaimed old time fiddle players in the country.

Co-founder of the Oregon based Foghorn Stringband, Stephen has traveled the world playing and teaching a vast repertoire of tunes from Appalachia and the Midwest.

His playing reflects tremendous respect and passion for all the fiddle players and old recordings he spent countless hours learning from.

- When: May 16th, 4:00pm to 5:30pm
- Register on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/152238584705) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/152238584705>

The TIP JAR – Support Independent Musicians:

Instead of paying us for this amazing event, we ask that you leave a generous tip. 100% of your tip will go directly to the musician. Thanks for supporting independent musicians.

The Tip Jar will be available during the workshop.

SCVFA April Board Meeting Highlights

Memberships (Pete): 123 households/184 members
Renewals will start coming due in August. People can renew, join or donate using PayPal on the website as well as by mail or in person.

Treasurer (Dinah): income was down due to lack of jams and payouts. Kamimoto Strings continues to support us by buying advertising.

The proposed budget for 2021-2022 was approved.

Potential alternative jam locations were considered, but Hoover remains the best option.

Plan to resume jams: current state guidelines (50 people max., masked and distanced) allow us to have a May jam at the Rose Garden. Tentative plan to resume jams at Hoover in the fall. Slow jams can still be on Zoom.

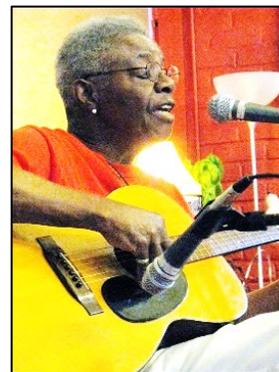
We will keep the current storage, mailbox and MeetUp accounts; will reconsider a paid Zoom account in June.

Job matrix: Board members will provide descriptions of SCVFA tasks.

Next board meeting via ZOOM: Tuesday, June 22nd, 2021 7:00pm.

Jessica Ollman – Recording Secretary

Tribute to Colleen 1930-2020



Allan French reports:

Colleen’s memorial service held on Zoom is now accessible on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIESAxxADoA>

One of the included slideshows has images of her at an SCVFA Rose Garden jam. Other images show her at festivals and other venues that many of us “locals” are acquainted with.

Photo of the Month



A small group gathered in Mitchell Park.
Beautiful day near the children's Playground and lots of folks listening.
Pictures taken by Ann Whitesell's Husband, Yang.

Clockwise from left: Sam Schillace (mandolin), George Bradshaw (guitar), Pete Showman (fiddle), Ann Whitesell (bass), Anne Raphael (mountain dulcimer), Bert Raphael (fiddle), Susan Goodis (mandolin and fiddle) and Jill, Bert and Anne Raphael's well-behaved dog.



Reflections on Black Violin

By Patrice Tanti

NPR Morning Edition caught my attention recently with the classically trained Violin-Viola duo Black Violin bridging classical and hip-hop. Kevin Sylvester (violinist) and Wilner Baptiste (violinist) are featured in this fascinating piece of musical reporting. Listen to it at:

<https://www.npr.org/2015/09/17/440603268/with-stereotypes-a-duo-raised-on-hip-hop-and-classical-has-it-both-ways>



One in a gazillion are the odds of these two gentlemen coming together to create mesmerizing beauty.

Their discography:

- *Black Violin* (2008)
- *Classically Trained* (2012)
- *Stereotypes* (2015)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYerKidQGcc>
- *Take the Stairs* (2019)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEDPI50O3sE>

In Freestyle, the two artists improvise:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WBpk2K79gc>

I glanced at comments while watching the video, and some of them captured my feelings better than I could express:

ABSOLUTE FIRE!!!! You guys are and always have been an inspiration. Thank for continuing your music during these trying times big bros!

It got that old soulful signature to it, very well done 👍👏

So deep, so inspired, I am re visiting my friend the violin

You guys should record this song and name it A Man's Island. I hear all types of Caribbean island music tunes in it. Great job guys, beautiful music

This last comment above is interesting as I personally hear a South African beat. I think the genius in their music is they appeal to anyone willing to listen. Sylvester says: *Black Violin's music is helping to introduce hip-hop to people who might not be into it otherwise: I remember this one woman comes up to me — she has to be like a 60, 65-year-old white woman — and she's just like, 'Man, I don't even really like hobbity-hop, but you guys are amazing!'*

Hicks' Licks

by Pete Hicks



Welcome to the wonderful world of western swing. Any level of player can become a swing player with little effort. Solo choruses can be played simply, or with wild abandon, as you wish. Twin and triple fiddle parts are usually relatively simple, and the guitar rhythm is a science unto itself.

Our music this month is Stay All Night, from Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. Example 1 is Bob's introduction. This has a very old time sound, and you need to follow the bowing carefully to get it right. We would like to thank the late Stacy Phillips, author of Western Swing Fiddle (Oak Publications) for his kind permission to use this transcription.

On the guitar, one can play simple chords, just G and D, or many chords that create a moving melody underscore to the lead. In the progression shown, you play each chord for one beat, thinking in cut time, except for the G chord (2 beats). The rhythm can be standard jazz sock rhythm, or bass-note chord.

Example 2 is a solo of mine, inspired by the playing of Cliff Bruner. I have used a couple of classic Bruner tricks, which are not too difficult to play, but a little tricky to read. Try to play this one with strong strokes on the upper third of the bow, with fairly heavy pressure on the bow with the first finger. We are trying to imitate a horn here, so give it the power. At the end of measure 6, an alternative chord would

be C# diminished. To fit with that you would play E natural instead of E flat. You can go either way, but the guitar and fiddle should agree.

Try to invent your own neat swingy solo for this tune. Steal a few ideas, add some of your own, and there you are. Have fun!

This column was first run in the April 2009 Fiddler's Rag.

Pete performs with *Bean Creek*, a smooth, solid traditional bluegrass band. With his rough-hewn fiddle strokes, honky-tonk voice and edgy mandolin he conjures up a great old time spirit.

MIDI link for this month's breaks:

www.fiddlers.org/tunes/StayAllNight-breaks.mid

The Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest and Folk Festival is usually held every year in May at the Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills, CA.



This year, due to Covid, the organizers are considering a virtual Topanga Banjo Fiddle Contest. They are asking people interested in participating to fill a 3-question online survey to let them know what you think.



Stay All Night

Bob Wills

Example 1 *Bob Wills's Introduction - from The Tiffany Transcriptions -- Volume 2*
(Thanks to Stacy Phillips for his kind permission to reproduce this transcription)

Musical notation for Example 1, showing two staves of music with chords and fingerings. The first staff contains measures 1-4, and the second staff contains measures 5-8. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D7, G, G7/B, C, C#7, G, D7, G. Fingerings 1-8 are indicated below the notes.

Example 2 *Fiddle Break - Pete Hicks (inspired by Cliff Bruner)*

Musical notation for Example 2, showing three staves of music with chords and fingerings. The first staff contains measures 1-4, the second staff contains measures 5-8, and the third staff contains measures 9-12. Chords are indicated above the notes: G6, G9/B, C9, C#dim, GM7, G#dim, Am7, D9, G, G9/B, C, Cm7, G, D7, G. Fingerings 1-8 are indicated below the notes.

Listen to this music at:
www.fiddlers.org/tunes/StayAllNight-breaks.mid

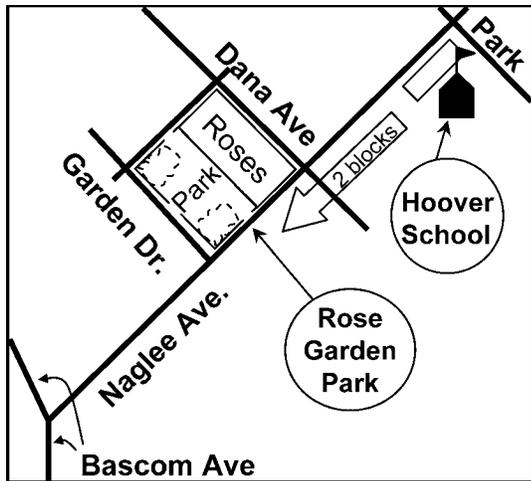
Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
P.O. Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666



**Next Jam: May 2nd at 3 pm
Rose Garden Park**

See Map on the left and other info on page 1 and 3

Directions to Rose Garden Park



Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: [newsletter \[at\] scvfa.org](mailto:newsletter@scvfa.org)

smile.amazon.com

SCVFA is now participating with Amazon Smile. Sign in at smile.amazon.com, designate SCVFA as your preferred non-profit, and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to SCVFA.



SCVFA To-Do List for May

- Shop at smile.amazon.com to benefit SCVFA.
- Attend the **SCVFA Jam** on May 2nd, 3:00pm at the Rose Garden.
- Attend the **Celebrity workshop** with Sammy Lind on May 16th.
- Leave a generous tip for the workshop musicians (Tip Jar) as you are able.
- Invite a friend to join SCVFA at: <https://www.fiddlers.org/join-the-scvfa/>
- Email selfies (or unselfies) to [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org), no later than May 23rd to be published in the June Rag.
- While at it, wear your SCVFA tee-shirt (see right column to get yours).
- Stay safe until vaccinated (and ever after!).

Show your pride
in SCVFA

To get your wearable or
bumper stickers, email
[president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president@fiddlers.org)

