



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 49, Number 10
Celebrating 48 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

October 2021
Next Jam October 3rd



President's Note

Remember Hoover School? Of course you do. Great News! SCVFA will once again hold our jams at the school starting in November. We will still be jamming at the Rose Garden Park in October.

Sadly, I must report that we had a break-in at the storage locker and all our sound equipment was stolen. We hope to have replacement equipment by

November 5th so the open mic may be available for those wishing to share their favorite tunes.

SCVFA needs one or more enthusiastic & passionate members to serve as trustees on the board. If the nominating committee asks you, I hope you say Yes. If you are interested and they don't come up to you, send me an email. We are also looking for a volunteer who has experience with WordPress to help manage our website. It feels so good to be part of the organization that is keeping traditional music alive.

SCVFA has a number of public performances following the recent September 25 Mini-Mabon Festival during which our musicians broadcasted on Facebook Live:

- October 17th from 2-5 pm is "Stroll the Alameda" in San Jose.
- October 27th - Sunny View Retirement Community.
- December 11th for the Vista Center.
- Additionally, we are on the roster to perform for the California Farmer's Market Association. Dates and times TBD.

SCVFA is always happy to provide music for parties, gatherings, or any type of event. Spread the word to friends, co-workers, and other organizations that you are part of. Performers donate their time so the compensation to SCVFA can cover expenses and keep jam fees as low as possible. To request a performance or to join the list of "playout" musicians, email [performances \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:performances[at]fiddlers.org). It's fun! You can play as many or few events as you would like. All levels of musicians are welcome.

The October 3rd jam will be the final jam of 2021 in the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden Park. Come early for

the slow jam starting at 1:00. You can also attend the slow jam virtually by joining the broadcast on Facebook LIVE from our SCVFA Facebook page. I hope to have the video in the proper orientation (instead of sideways) this month. Print the sheet music or bring a tablet with the tunes available offline from the SCVFA website and this document.

- Remember to bring chairs and a jacket.
- Everyone wears masks as per CDC recommendations
- DO NOT ATTEND If You Feel Sick
- Consider carefully if others in your household are at risk (e.g. unvaccinated children)
- *Notify me if you develop COVID-19 after attending ([president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org))*

We all love to jam together and love to have an audience and dancers too. Invite other musicians, your family and your friends to the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden Park Jam for a wonderful music filled day. Thanks for your continuing support of SCVFA and traditional music.

--Susan

SCVFA Mission Statement

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA) preserves "fiddle" music and other traditional genres that feature the fiddle and other acoustic instruments. SCVFA takes pride in 'passing it on' to musicians and listeners of all ages, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds.

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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.

Officers and Chairs

President-Trustee	Susan Goodis	News Editor	Patrice Tanti
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Recording Secretary .	Jessica Ollmann	Performances Contact	Susan Goodis
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Trustees

Seat 1: Bev Tracey	Seat 3: Sam Schillace	Seat 5: Peter Forrest
Seat 2: Doug Judd	Seat 4: Open	Seat 6: Bill Boiko

To Contact the SCVFA:

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

Email to Susan Goodis: [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org)

Newsletter Submissions & Comments: [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter[at]fiddlers.org)

Address changes: [membership \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:membership[at]fiddlers.org)

Website: www.fiddlers.org

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

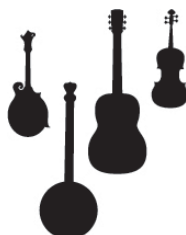
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

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 (during Sep 5 Slow Jam)



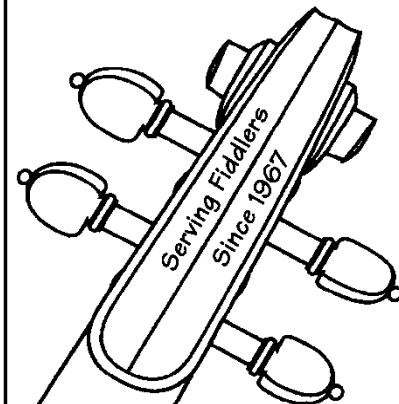
Bob Gausman · 16:33
Playing along on hammered dulcimer, fun!

Like · Reply · 2w



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SCVFA Happenings

October SCVFA Jam

Join us for a LIVE JAM at the San Jose Rose Garden,
October 3rd, 2021 1:00-5:00pm. Slow Jam 1:00-2:00pm

Check for updates at www.fiddlers.org



Upcoming Events

ZOOM link via Americeltic

Wednesday nights from 7-9 pm

<https://link.americeltic.net/zoom>

Church Jam - all old-time music

Outdoors Every Monday Night 7:00-9:00pm

Unitarian Universalist Church - Palo Alto

505 E Charleston Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Contact Clark Akatiffi for more info:

banjoclarka@yahoo.com

Andronico's San Francisco Jam

Every Tuesday via ZOOM 7:00-8:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86287058150?pwd=aVpnREQ2THVoS24xcEhZYUp1OUUs5dz09>

Meeting ID: 862 8705 8150

Passcode: 312389

25th Celtic Colours International Festival at Home

Streaming live October 8-16

<https://celtic-colours.com/>

Stroll the Alameda

Sunday October 17th 2-5 pm

Look for SCVFA performers and cheer them on!

www.shpna.org/2021-stroll-the-alameda

El Cerrito Free Folk Festival

Oct 10, 2021 12:00pm – 7:00pm

<https://elcerritofreefolkfestival.org/>

Hangtown Music Festival, El Dorado County

Fairgrounds, Placerville

October 21-24, 2021

www.hangtownfestival.com

SCVFA Board Meeting Highlights

Board meeting held via ZOOM on Sep 22nd, 2021

- Our equipment storage locker was burglarized on Sep 10 and much of our sound equipment and other SCVFA items were stolen. An insurance claim is in progress. The board is considering other locker locations and larger size. A committee was formed to purchase the new sound equipment.
- We will have a grand reopening jam at Hoover in November. Motion was approved for a one-time \$5 admission donation.
- A \$20 “sponsor” category will also be offered. Incentive (sticker, tune, etc.) is in the works.
- Same as last year, there will be no Holiday Potluck at the December jam.
- The Tune Exchange will restart in November.
- Membership is up slightly at 127 households and 189 members.
- Multiple play outs are coming up - farmers markets and more. We would aim for about three performances a month on average. Volunteers of any level can participate.
- The Nominating committee for the February election is in place to find replacements for Dave Thomas (seat 4) and Sam Schillace (seat 3). SCVFA needs enthusiastic & passionate members to serve as trustees on the board. If you are interested send Susan an email.
- The board is looking for a volunteer who has experience with WordPress to help manage our website.

Next board meeting Nov 18th

Jessica Ollmann – Recording Secretary

Rose Garden September Photos by Colleen Huston

More photos at www.facebook.com/Fiddlers.org/





A Sense of Direction

By Patrice Tanti

All SCVFA members are welcome to attend the SCVFA board meetings. It is easier than ever now that board meetings are conducted remotely. Try calling in next time (Nov 18th). Email Susan at [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org) to get the call-in information. You won't regret the experience and you might find a new calling for any open seat!

A quick word about the board's etiquette: non-board members may participate in discussions but may not make motions or vote. A motion is a proposal and the main way the Board can take action. So, the only thing to remember is whenever a motion is put forth, just listen as the process unfolds. That's it! In case you wondered about the six-step motion approval process:

1. Step 1: Motion made by any voting member of the board other than the chair (president or vice-president).
2. Step 2: Motion is seconded by any voting member of the board.
3. Step 3: Board chair calls for discussion, questions and comments on the motion.
4. Step 4: Recording Secretary ensures that the motion, possibly modified during the discussion, has been recorded properly in the minutes, along with the names of the board members making and seconding the motion.
5. Step 5: Board chair asks the secretary to read aloud the motion, then calls for a vote. Chair asks, "all in favor" and board members voting affirmatively raise their hand and say "aye". Chair asks, "All opposed" and board members voting no raise their hands and say "nay". Chair asks for any abstentions and all those abstaining raise their hands. Votes are recorded by the secretary.
6. Step 6: Board Chair states the outcome: "Motion passes" or "Motion fails".

In the August 2009 Fiddler's Rag, Chip Curry interviewed Dave Magram, long-time SCVFA member and Jam participant, banjo and pedal steel player. During the interview Chip asked Dave what he thought about the SCVFA direction. Dave said, "I believe that the SCVFA offers a great opportunity for players of all levels to get together and learn from each other." He went on to suggest bringing in some Western Swing non-acoustic bands but

let's just ponder on the "all levels together" statement. Now, 12 years later, the Slow Jam is alive and well, broadcasted live on Facebook! Clearly, one great appeal of the SCVFA is the blend of levels and abilities. Perhaps we should add "and levels" into the mission statement: "...SCVFA takes pride in 'passing it on' to musicians and listeners of all ages, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds." But we all know it's implied.

This past year, from August 2020 to June 2021, SCVFA members had access to an array of incredible performers with the monthly Celebrity Workshop and Jam sessions. Thanks to Susan Goodis's coordination efforts, we had the privilege to host in order of monthly appearances: Suzy Thompson, Harry Liedstrand, John Reishman, Spencer and Rains, Megan Lynch Chowning, Marla Fibish, Paul Rangell and Emily Abbink, Caleb Klauder, April Verch, Sammy Lind, and Cookie Segelstein.

SVCREATES, the San Jose arts organization, states on its website www.svcreates.org: "*We believe that arts and creativity connects us to our heritage, to humanity, and to each other, fuel innovation and 21st century skills, help shape our identity, deepen attachment to place, foster cross-cultural understanding and appreciation, and bring beauty, joy, and learning to our lives*". SCVFA is a third-year SVCREATES grant recipient. So, keep emitting your fiddle waves into the space around you, at home, on ZOOM, at the Rose Garden, at Hoover or anywhere else. Just like the butterfly effect, we're all better off keeping that musical instrument out of its case.

Each of us can also do a little more to keep SCVFA moving in the right direction. Read the SCVFA Board Meeting highlights on page 3. Pick one topic to contribute to and do it. A few ideas:

- Perform at one or more of our frequent performances
- Help manage the website (experience with WordPress)
- Help with the monthly Jam
- Help at the membership desk at jams, events and festivals
- Write an article for the Fiddlers Rag newsletter
- Research content for the website
- Co-host online events (learn a new skill?!)
- Learn how to set up a sound system when you help with the First Sunday Jam "Open Mic"
- Help set up chairs and tables before you start jamming at the First Sunday Jam
- Help take down and store those chairs and tables after the last tune of the day
- Consider participating as an SCVFA Trustee or Officer. This requires that you have an active SCVFA membership and you are over 18 years of age. Contact us for more details! We'd love to hear from you.

Hicks' Licks: Vocal Backup

by Pete Hicks



This month we are looking at backing up the vocals with the fiddle in a bluegrass band or jam. When done well, the backup parts add spice and style to the song. When done poorly, the fiddler usually gets that “look” from the singer. Here are a few ideas to help you out.

The main idea is that the fiddle supports the vocals and adds embellishment but does not interfere or clash with the singing. The fiddle usually avoids the singer’s note, especially if the singer is doing an embellishment. It fills the little spaces between the vocal phrases and breaths. You can think of this as a conversation between the singer and the fiddle.

The style of the fiddling is dependent upon the style of the singer. Listen to different versions of “Little Maggie” for example. The fiddles are distinctly different in style in the Stanley Brothers, Bill Monroe, and Jimmy Martin versions.

The tools at our disposal are double stops, long notes, 16th and 8th note runs, and rhythmic figures.

The double stops provide chord tones that can move under (or over) the singer as in example 1 of the music (page 7). Example 2 shows some ideas in the key of A. Note the little chromatic move from the I chord to the I7 chord in measure 1 of examples 1 and 2. This kind of move anticipates the coming IV chord change.

Long notes and simple underscores are useful to fill out the sound without being obtrusive (see example 3). 16th and 8th note runs are often used between vocal lines or under melodies with long stretched notes (example 4). Note: in our music, 16ths appear as 8ths as we are using cut time. This is for ease of reading.

Rhythmic patterns can be used to impart a certain drive under the singing. The pattern you use depends upon the

effect you are trying to achieve. “Chucka chucka” train-sounding rhythms can also be used to great effect. Try example 4 with different bowings: single shuffle, Georgia bow and saw strokes. Each bowing imparts a different feel to the rhythm. You can also do a single shuffle or Georgia bow with any double stop as a simple rhythmic backup.

A classic formula is to use double stops under the vocal line and runs in the spaces. If the singer is sounding bluesy, play more blues notes in the backup. If the singer is mellow or raw, the fiddle should reflect that sound. Try to echo the singer’s phrasing in your fiddle licks.

A nice trick is repeating the singer’s vocal phrase after it is sung. Another nice effect is the train whistle on the fiddle right when the singer hears that lonesome whistle blow.

When in doubt as to how to do the backup, ask the singer or band what they want. Many singers prefer strong backup fiddle that is quite busy. Others prefer a more subtle and subdued backup style.

The last and most important factors in backup fiddle are good timing and intonation. If you are rushing or out of tune, it will throw the singer off and get you in a lot of trouble. It helps to play with a metronome or with CD’s in your practice sessions. I often clip my tuner onto my violin when I am working on intonation.

Good backup fiddling is the icing on the cake of a bluegrass band or jam.



This column was first run in the August 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.

Fiddle Backup for Vocals

Pete Hicks

Typeset by Pete Showman

Example 1

Double-stop vocal backup (I – I7 – IV – V – I sequence, in C)

Example 2

Backup on the same chord sequence, but in the key of A

Example 3

Single note backup over the same chord sequence, in C

Example 4

Another backup over the same chord sequence, in C

Listen: www.scvfa.org/Tunes/Hicks/VocalBackup_0908-Ex1.mid

also Ex2

Ex3

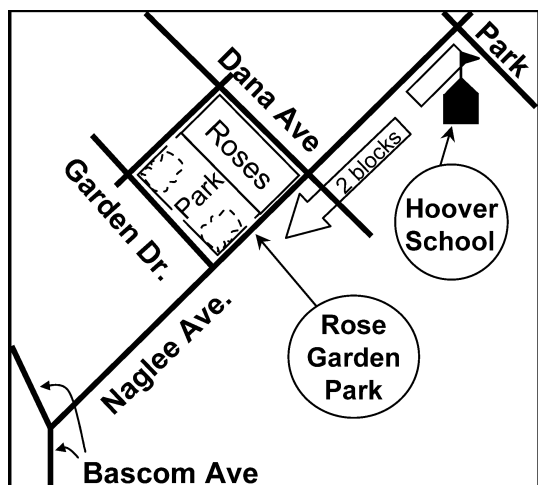
Ex4

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



Next Jam:
October 3rd at 1 pm
Rose Garden Park

Directions to Rose Garden Park



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

Support Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association.

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Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

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SCVFA To-Do List for October

- Have experience with WordPress and want to help manage our website?
Email [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org).
- Shop at smile.amazon.com to benefit SCVFA.
- Attend the **SCVFA Jam** on October 3rd, 1:00pm at the Rose Garden Park.
- 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[at]fiddlers.org), no later than October 24th to be published in the October Rag.
- While at it, wear your SCVFA tee-shirt (see right column to get yours).
- If you are not a member yet and would like to support traditional acoustic music, join today at <https://www.fiddlers.org/join-the-scvfa/>

**Show your pride
in SCVFA**

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



Join Today!