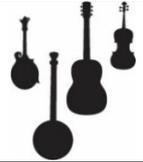




Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 50, Number 5
Celebrating 49 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

May 2022
Next Jam May 1st



President's Note

Covid levels are at a low and for those who are ready to venture out, the festivals abound. I am in Lodi for the CBA Spring Campout. There are so many more

festivals to come. Get ready for Parkfield Mother's Day Bluegrass Festival, Julian Family Fiddle Camp, Berkeley Dulcimer Gathering, Redwood Music Camp, Grass Valley Father's Day Campout, Clifftop Appalachian String Band Festival, Good Old-Fashioned Bluegrass and the Golden Old-time Campout. Music is everywhere waiting for you to be immersed.

Big news... On May 1st, the SCVFA sponsored bluegrass jam circle returns, led by Pete Hicks. You may have been reading his monthly column, "Hicks' Licks", you may have heard him play or played with him in the past. Tell your friends that bluegrass will be an even bigger event at our next jams. Oldtimey musicians, this is your chance to work on your bluegrass licks in a safe place. I'm sure Pete will play for the open mic so everyone can enjoy his music.

Our first mini-concert with four featured member-bands was a big success. The open mic and concerts kept the stage full and music filled the hall all afternoon. Plus, we had a nice audience to listen and dance to our music. Keep telling everyone you know about the new concerts at our jam. Music is our way of communicating and equally shares the energy between performer and audience. Check out the [website](#) for each month's featured bands.

SCVFA receives funding from SVCREATES which enables us to provide extras like the Celebrity Series and professionally led bluegrass jam circles. Trustee Caleb Gum and I attended an Arts Town Hall and community conference hosted by SVCREATES. There was good collaboration with other Arts organizations, wonderful ideas, and great energy as our take-aways. Additionally, a member of another Arts organization donated a fiddle to SCVFA. This may be the start of an "instrument petting zoo".

The third Sunday jam in Santa Cruz was very successful. Jamming continued well past 4:00. Several people may come to our next first Sunday jam. Others wanted to know when we would come back to Santa Cruz. Next month's third Sunday jam is on May 15th at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto. Enter the park from 600 E Meadow Drive. Many members have been meeting there regularly to jam mid-week. It is so joyful to watch the children and adults become entranced with the music and dance with abandon.

Sunny View Retirement Community has invited us back for the end of April and we will be performing for another Mountain View neighborhood group in May. More farmers markets are on the schedule. Performing has become one of the best parts of the organization. Join in the fun by becoming a performer. Tell your coworkers, friends and family members that SCVFA would like to add the vibe to their next event. Email [performances \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:performances[at]fiddlers.org) to request a performance.

Thank you for being part of SCVFA, a community of people who love to make music together. Remember admission is by donation. Your continuing support of SCVFA is keeping traditional music alive.

-- Susan

HAPPINESS IS



...getting lost
in music.

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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-the-scvfa/.

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Seat 2: Doug Judd	Seat 4: Caleb Gum	Seat 6: Bill Boiko

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 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.

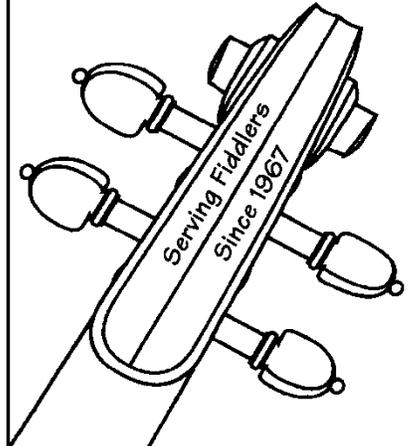


Quote of the Month

“A very good jam and more people interested in our group”
 Susan Goodis about the April third Sunday jam
 in Ocean Park, Santa Cruz CA

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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA music jam at Hoover

May 1st, 2022 1:00-5:00pm.

Check for updates at www.fiddlers.org

The **slow jam starts at 1:30**: learning by ear is encouraged since old time music is an aural tradition. Developing your ear does take time, but it is a worthwhile skill. If you need a little help, tunes are available on our [SCVFA website](http://www.fiddlers.org).

Pete Hicks will be leading the bluegrass jam! Pete has a lot of experience doing this and we are grateful for his great Hicks' Licks articles (see page 6 of this edition and past ones as well). Tell your friends, spread the word.

"AFTERS" will be at [Las Cazuelas](http://www.lascazuelas.com) on May 1st. The fun doesn't stop when the jam is over. Join us to relax, chat, laugh, and get to know one another while enjoying Mexican food. This is outdoor dining at its best. Bring a jacket! Located a few short miles away: 55 Race St, San Jose

Third Sunday Jam will be May 15 at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto (details on page 1). Share your local park name for a jam near your home.



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.

Mark your calendar for the next SCVFA Board Meeting

Meeting date: May 24 via ZOOM (contact Susan Goodis at [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president@fiddlers.org)).

Jessica Ollman – Recording Secretary



Parkfield Bluegrass Festival May 5-8

<https://parkfieldbluegrass.org/>



Berkeley Dulcimer Gathering May 13-15

<https://berkeleydulcimergathering.com/>



47th annual Bluegrass festival –

in Grass Valley, June 16 through 19.

https://californiabluegrass.org/fathers_day_festival/dfd-home/



Redwood Music Teen Camp: June 13-18

A week-long overnight camp at Monte Toyon Conference Center, Aptos

<https://www.communitymusicschool.org/redwood-music-teen-camp4>

Julian Family Fiddle Camp
Annual Spring Concert Series

Friday, May 6th

- ~ Bruce Molsky
- ~ John Herrmann
- ~ Caleb Klauder
- ~ Reeb Willms
- ~ Surprise Guests

www.familyfiddlecamp.com

Saturday, May 7th

- ~ John Reischman
- ~ Tyler Grant
- ~ Patrick Sauber
- ~ Carolyn Kendrick
- ~ Surprise Guests

Camp Whispering Winds
17606 Harrison Park Road / Julian, CA 92036
Seating at 6:30 PM - Concert starts at 7:00 PM

SCVFA Wordle:

<https://mywordle.strivemath.com/?word=oyzow>



April Jam and other venues Photos

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



Caleb Gum and Trina Clickner played a set on April 3rd. Their band name: The Gum Trees. (Photo above left by Dorian Martinka. Photos above right and below by Susan Goodis).



Hoot n Holler performing on stage. Left to right: Todd Townsend, Mary Munro Kennedy, Dave Wilson and Autumn Rose.



One of many Mitchell Park jams



Third Sunday Jam in Ocean View Park in Santa Cruz, CA



California Bluegrass Association Spring Campout 2022 From left: Dorian Martinka, Patti Bossert, Sharon McCorkell, and Kelly O'Neill.

April Jam Photos by Colleen Huston
 More photos at www.facebook.com/Fiddlers.org/



Against The Grain performing on stage. Left to right: Susan Goodis, Patti Bossert, Sharon McCorkell and Ann Whitesell.



Lee Clarke (right) leading on the dance floor with first-time attendee Reyvin (left).



Vicki Parrish of the Standing Stones



Dave Wilson



Bert Raphael

Hicks' Licks

By Pete Hicks

*Put your little foot, put your little foot, put your little foot right here
Put your little foot, put your little foot, put your little foot right here
Take a step to the right, take a step to the left
Take a step to the rear but forever stay near*

*Put your arm around, put your arm around, put your arm around my waist
Hold your arm around, hold your arm around, hold your arm around my waist
While the moon's shining bright and the music's just right
And you're holding me tight, we will dance through the night*

*Put your little foot, put your little foot, put your little foot with mine
With your little foot, with your little foot, with your little foot keep time
Charming tender melody, in my heart a memory
There you'll always be, varsovianna's part of me*

This month we are going back to first position to play a very old dance tune called La Varsovianna or Put Your Little Foot.

La Varsovianna or La Varsouvienne is an expression meaning, "the lady from Warsaw". It is actually the name of a dance in 3/4 time, similar to a Mazurka, which originated in Poland in the 1850's. It found its way to Paris and became a very popular ballroom dance.

There were many different Varsoviannas, but one of them has come to us as Put Your Little Foot. Originally the piece was an eight-part composition by Francisco Alonso, but I have only heard it as a two- or three-part tune.

The music and dance found its way around the world through colonialism over the years. Spanish missionaries in the mid-1800's brought musical instruments over and taught the Native Americans to play them. La Varsovianna probably came to America at that time.

When I played in southwestern honky tonks, it was called "Put Your Little Foot", and it was played as a two-part waltz (Parts A and B of the music). In Old California, it was played as a three-part waltz. La Varsovianna is part of the Alta California Dancers' regular repertoire. It has also evolved into a popular children's song. In Ireland, it is called Shoe the Donkey.

La Varsovianna is still popular in Latin America, North America, Europe, and Australia. This is an excellent beginner's tune, since it is very easy to play. It has a simple but elegant melody. I play the quarter notes a bit staccato.

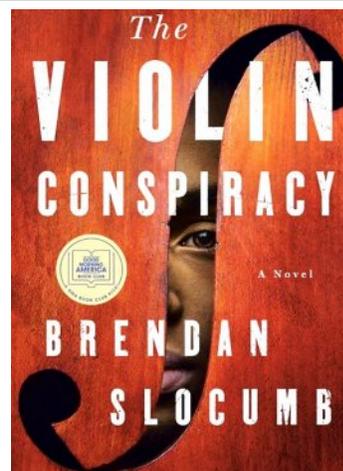


This time I have transcribed the tune in music notation and tablature. The tablature pretends that the fiddle has frets. For example, the 3 in the first measure is a C note, played with the 2nd finger, the 5 is a D, played with the 3rd finger, and the 0 is an open E. The 6 (Eb or D#) in measures 2 and 3 can be played with the 3rd or 4th finger. The tab also works for the mandolin.

Happy fiddling.

This column was first run in the Feb 2010 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.



Picture opening your fiddle case for a practice session and your favorite violin, and precious family heirloom is gone! Looking for a good read this summer? Look no further: Brendan Slocumb's first novel is a page-turner with praises by [The New York Times](#), Good Morning America Book Club, [The Book Report Network](#) and others.

Pattern: AABBC

Put Your Little Foot

(a.k.a. La Varsovianna, La Varsouvienne, ...)

Trad. dance tune from
Francisco Alonso, 1850s
Arr.: Pete Hicks

♩ = ~120

Melody

Fiddle/
Mando
Tab.

A **C** *A and C parts slightly staccato* **G**

B **C** **G** **C**

C **G** **C** **C**

C **C** *Slightly staccato* **F** **G** **C**

C **F** **G**

Listen:

www.fiddlers.org/Tunes/Hicks/PutYourLittleFoot.mid

Typeset by Pete Showman 1/16/2010

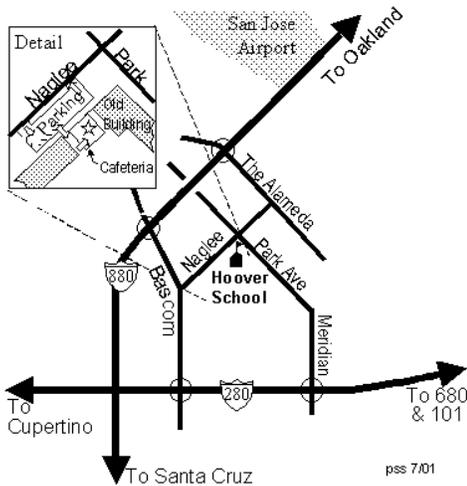


SCVFA
 P.O.Box 2666
 Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

**Next Jam: Sunday May 1st,
 1-5 pm at Hoover Middle School**

SCVFA Jam on the first Sunday of each month.
 Location: Hoover Middle School, 1635 Park Ave.,
 San Jose. The school is at the corner of Naglee and Park.
 Cafeteria parking is on the Naglee side.

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



SCVFA To-Do List for May

- Have experience with WordPress or want to learn it, to help manage our website? Email [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president@fiddlers.org).
- Shop at smile.amazon.com to benefit SCFVA.
- Attend the **SCVFA Jam** on May 1st, 1:00pm at Hoover Middle School.
- Invite a friend to join SCVFA at: www.fiddlers.org/join-the-scvfa/
- Email selfies (or unselfies) to [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org), no later than May 20th to be published in the June Rag.
- While you're at it, wear your SCVFA tee-shirt.
- 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/>

Join Today!



[A year ago, a massive floating fiddle sailed through Venice's canals as a message of remembrance for the victims of Covid.](#)

Photo by Livio De Marchi