

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

PO Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666, www.fiddlers.org



Who We Are

The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA) is a state and federal non-profit, all volunteer-operated public service organization dedicated to the preservation, teaching, and enjoyment of traditional music for the fiddle and other instruments. The SCVFA was founded in 1973 in San Jose, California.

The purpose of the organization is to carry on activities intended to revive, study and perpetuate “that traditional music which constitutes the cultural heritage of our forefathers”. We perform and teach a wide variety of styles including old-time, country music, bluegrass, western swing, Celtic, Scandinavian and other traditional styles. Our music is played on acoustic instruments such as fiddles, guitars, banjos, mandolins, string basses, accordions, and harmonicas. On the first Sunday of each month we hold a “jam” (see below) that’s open to all. Participants, who may play or just listen, often range in age from under 8 to over 80.

As of 2016 we have about 180 members in 125 households, mostly in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, ranging from San Francisco, Oakland and Livermore to the north, to Gilroy and Santa Cruz to the south.

What We Do

As our founder Bill Wein put it, “music self-played is happiness self-made.” Most of our activities involve performing music, and teaching and learning tunes and technique. Members and guests play in small groups at the monthly jam, outside and on our small stage. Members also perform, by arrangement, at various community events and at community venues such as senior centers and retirement facilities. Payments received for such performances help fund our activities – particularly our youth programs.

Membership Any individual interested in traditional music can join the SCVFA. Individual memberships are \$20 per year, which includes a subscription to our monthly newsletter, the *Fiddler's Rag*. Additional members living in the same household are \$2 each. The newsletter provides articles on music history, people, instruments, tunes, music events of interest to members, and information on the activities of the SCVFA itself. See our website, www.fiddlers.org, for information about joining, back issues of the newsletter, and much more.

Monthly Jam Since 1973 our jam has been held in San Jose on the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 5pm. Most months the jam is at Hoover Middle School, 1480 Naglee Ave. at Park Ave. in San Jose. But in summer we often hold a couple of the jams with free admission at the nearby Rose Garden Park (Naglee at Garden Dr.)

The jam offers attendees a chance to hear and play music together in informal groups that gather outside. When we meet at Hoover we also offer an “open mike”. Any attendee can sign up to perform for 15 or 20 minutes on stage, solo or as part of a group. Seating is provided for those who just wish to sit and listen. Two learning groups led by experienced musicians help beginning and intermediate players learn tunes, technique, and the ins and outs of playing together.

The admission fee for regular jams at Hoover is \$6 for members or \$8 for non-members, which goes toward paying our school rent and insurance. Children 17 and under are free. (Occasionally well-known fiddlers perform, and we charge extra for those concerts. See www.fiddlers.org for details and our event schedule.)

Youth Program One of our goals is to encourage young people to learn traditional tunes and musical styles. Besides welcoming young musicians to join us, we offer periodic *KidFiddle* workshops led by local fiddle instructors. These programs are primarily funded by fees for our performances in the community and by donations to the SCVFA. We are a registered 501(c)(3) organization so donations are generally tax-deductible.

Contact information You can email President Susan Goodis at President@fiddlers.org, or write to us: SCVFA, P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino CA 95015-2666.