

*Notes from the*

# *Schmitt House*

*A Fiddleheads Violin School Publication*

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## IT'S A BOY!!!

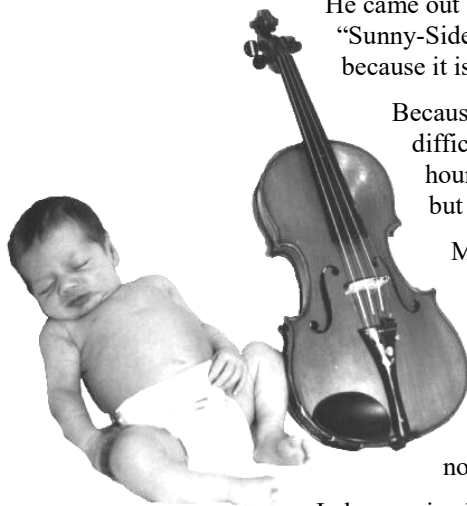
*The Schmitt family enthusiastically announces the arrival of*

### **Ryan Michael Schmitt**

He came into our lives in October. At birth he weighed a healthy 7 pounds, 9 ounces and had a full head of beautiful chocolate- brown hair.

He came out facing up (called "OP" or "Sunny-Side-Up") which is seen as special because it is so rare.

Because of this the labour was difficult (back labour) and long (32 hours from the water breaking), but I found ways to cope.



My husband and best friend, **Mason**, provided tremendous support the whole time. His smiling face was my focal point during contractions. By the end of it all his face was sore from 32 hours of non-stop smiling!

I also received tremendous support from my mother, **Vickie**, who attended the birth from start to finish. She also helped us around the house a week before and after the birth. To top it all off, she took it upon herself to enroll in a doula (birth-support, like a midwife) course to be of more assistance for the birth, which has led her to a new career direction!

Mason's mother, **Dawn**, was there for the delivery (of both the baby, and later that night, *the pizza*!) Having both of our moms there crying from joy together was wonderful!

Another way I coped with the pain was by playing my violin! (*Am I a dedicated violinist, or what!*)

*Continued Next Page...*

### Publisher's Notes

***Notes From the Schmitt House** was created for the simple reason that I enjoy publishing it!*

*Over time it has become an important tool in sharing information with my violin students, advertising the school to potential students, and helping me share what's happening in my life so that I can be closer with my students. Enjoy!*

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**Photos edited** by Rhiannon & Mason Schmitt

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**Programs used to create *Notes From the Schmitt House*:** Microsoft Publisher, IrfanView, and Adobe Photoshop

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### *It's a Boy! Continued...*

I found that playing slower pieces kept me calm and gave me something to concentrate on when the pain hit, which was minimized to half!

Listening to music was helpful for me as well. *Beethoven's Violin Concerto*, *Schubert's "Trout" Quintet*, and *Caroline MacKay's "Mothers and Angels"* filled the maternity ward. I thank these musicians, especially **Caroline** (another of Ryan's 4 grandmas) for creating music that is worthy of welcoming a new human to this earth!

Welcome he certainly is! The support and greetings from family and friends has been fabulous! Waiting as patiently as they could for 9 months were Ryan's grandparents:

- My mother, **Vickie** (Seattle, WA)
- My father, **Fred**, & his wife, **Sharon** (Nelson)
- Mason's mother, **Dawn**, & her husband, **Russ** (Salmon Arm)
- Mason's father, **Daniel** (Haifa, Israel) & his fiancé, **Caroline** (Westbank, BC)
- Ryan is Great-Grandson to my father's parents and Mason's grandparents.
- He is nephew to my brother, **Mike**, and Mason's brothers, **Wes** and **Hardie**.

He is adored and loved by all who know him. Feel free to call and welcome Ryan to the world!

*Rhiannon is congratulated by her supportive and loving mom Vickie just after Ryan is born.*



*5-minute-old Ryan proves to be in perfect health.*

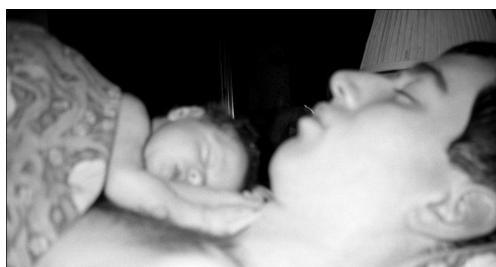
*By the way: the conehead went away the next day!*

*Rhiannon and Ryan share a special moment their first day as mom and babe*



*All in the family: Grandpa Russ and Grandmas Dawn and Vickie visit Ryan and his thrilled parents to celebrate Ryan's first day of life!*

*Ryan cuddles with and fascinates his parents*

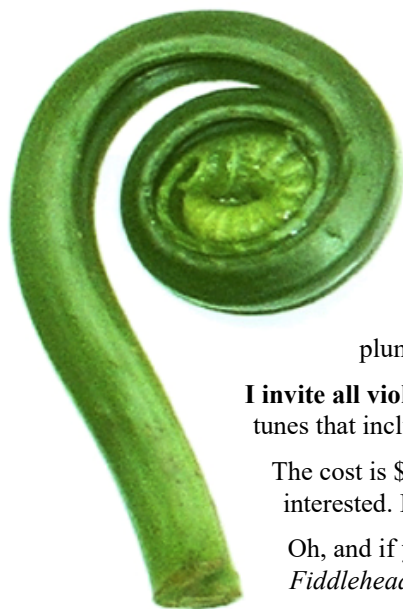


*Putting it into perspective...*

*Mason and Ryan enjoy a morning snuggle*



# Fiddleheads to Entertain Christmas Shoppers



*Just when you thought my maternity leave was an excuse not to practice...*

The **Salmon Arm Fiddleheads Ensemble** has been booked to perform Christmas carols at **Piccadilly Place Mall Thursday December 21st (7pm) and Saturday the 23rd (2pm).**

Both performances will last about 30 minutes.

Dress for both concerts is Festive/semi-formal. Wear your Santa hat or Reindeer antlers, if you have them. I'm not sure if I'll be able to fit my post-partum bum in my fancy red dress... Maybe I'll go as a plump Mrs. Claus!

**I invite all violinists to join us**, no matter what playing level you're at. I have written arrangements for the Christmas tunes that include a beginner harmony as well as an intermediate, or "true," harmony. Call me for the music.

The cost is \$2 per packet. We rehearse **Thursday nights at 6pm** at my home. Please let me know if you are interested. I guarantee you will enjoy the experience!

Oh, and if you thought getting this gig was difficult: I didn't phone the mall... *they phoned me* and requested *Fiddleheads* play!!! We're getting famous already!

## The Repertoire

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> | 10. <i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i> |
| 2. <i>Away in a Manger</i>             | 11. <i>Jingle Bells</i>                  |
| 3. <i>Coventry Carol</i>               | 12. <i>Jolly Old Saint Nicolas</i>       |
| 4. <i>Deck the Hall</i>                | 13. <i>Joy to the World</i>              |
| 5. <i>The First Noël</i>               | 14. <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>       |
| 6. <i>Glad Christmas Bells</i>         | 15. <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>    |
| 7. <i>God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen</i> | 16. <i>Silent Night</i>                  |
| 8. <i>Good King Wenceslas</i>          | 17. <i>We Three Kings</i>                |
| 9. <i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i> | 18. <i>We Wish You a Merry Christmas</i> |
| 19. <i>What Child is This</i>          |  |

**What:** Two Live, 30-minute concerts before a gracious and accepting audience

**Where:** *Piccadilly Place Mall*, Salmon Arm

**When:** Dec. 21 @ 7pm & Dec. 23 @ 2pm

**Who:** Violinists of any skill levels are welcome to play

**Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6pm** at my studio/home

**Why:** This is an excellent opportunity to play with other musicians, gain experience performing before an audience, and to give our community the gift of music!

## Back in the Saddle Again



As I sit here, awkwardly typing with one hand, breastfeeding Ryan with the other, I am reminded that my full teaching schedule and fast-paced life will never be the same!

As you all know, I am a die-hard achiever and I spend all my free time working. When I found out I was pregnant I decided to be *Superwoman*: both nurturing mom and professional musician.

Even after Ryan was born I was trying to keep up with everything and not getting enough rest. This resulted in a visit to emergency with a fever and mastitis infec-

tion only a week after the birth.

Ryan's birth has been a catalyst for change in my life. I am learning to take it easy and relax.

In fact, I am enjoying my time off resting. I have to, considering my sleep is constantly interrupted and I need time to heal. If I get sick, Ryan does too.

I am also starting to make priorities and avoid cramming my life full of obligations and promises I cannot keep. This time with Ryan is sacred and certainly my number one

priority.

It is for these reasons that I am canceling the tentative December lessons and resuming lessons in January after Winter holidays.

Salmon Arm students will begin the week of January 12-14. I will have my next teaching trip date for Nelson students by the first week in January.

I am thankful to everyone for supporting me in this important and look forward to teaching everyone in 2001!





## Thank You!!!

### Cookies!

Thanks to **Rory & Joan Cleveland** for the delicious cookies at a *Fiddleheads Ensemble* rehearsal in October! Your gift helped me during a time of great need: a pregger's craving for healthy sweets!

### Gifts for Ryan!

Two Baby Thumbs Up to **Anne Champion, Rory & Joan Cleveland, Megan Heggenstaler, Alana & Sharon Kuroyama, Maria MacCrae, Barb McKinnon & Tim Robinson, Anne Nakagawa, Emily Ready & Cindy Malinowsky, Margaret Rourke, Zöe Verlaan,** and **Carrie Weber** for gifts for the baby. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated!



### Baby Shower

A special *Sloppy Baby Kiss* for the **Cleveland family** (especially **Joan**) for hosting a baby shower for my Salmon Arm students in her home November 5th. The food was delicious, as always, and the company was delightful!

## Obituaries

**Couch:** *Brown Plaid Couch* was born circa 1970, in the midst of the hide-a-bed boom. Couch was successful early in life and served many rear ends with its versatile uses such as a place to sleep and watch TV. Couch was quickly accepted as a close friend to the Schmitt family.

Years of hard work and service had their toll on Couch and contributed to his failing health and deteriorating physical appearance. His bed mechanism eventually wore out and his mattress was surgically removed. In 1999 Couch was adopted, through marriage, by a cruel woman of fashion and cast out into the storage shed to perish.

After many failed attempts to find a foster home for the rejected furniture, Couch was laid to rest October 5, 2000 at the Salmon Arm Refuse Station. Its survivors include a smelly old chair and a toaster. Anyone interested?

Note: A 3-legged cousin of Couch's heard of this untimely demise and in a moment of emotional distress, leapt from a third story window. Luckily, he survived with minimal injuries. Photos of the flight can be viewed at:

<http://www.klorg.com/gallery/couch.html>



# He he he!

### Paranoid Disclaimer:

Disclaimer does not cover hurricane, lightning, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption, earthquake, flood, and other Acts of God, war, misuse, neglect, unauthorized repair, damage from improper installation, broken antenna or marred cabinet, incorrect line voltage, missing or altered serial numbers, sonic boom vibrations, electromagnetic radiation from nuclear blasts, customer adjustments that are not covered in the file list, and incidents owing to airplane crash, ship sinking, motor vehicle accidents, leaky roof, broken glass, falling rocks, mud slides, forest fire, unwanted children, flying projectiles, or dropping the item.

These pages do not reflect the thoughts or opinions of either myself, my company, my friends, or my cat; don't quote me on that; don't quote me on anything. This supersedes all previous notices unless indicated otherwise.

### Violin Jokes

Q: Why is a violinist's fingers like lightning?

A: They never strike the same place twice!

Q: Why is viola called "bratsche" in Germany?

A: Because that's the sound it makes when you sit down on it.

Q: How do you make a cello sound beautiful?

A: Sell it and buy a violin.

Q: What do a viola and a lawsuit have in common?

A: Everyone is happy when the case is closed.

Q: Why do you always bury a viola player three feet under?

A: Because deep down they are all very nice people.

Visit my site for more jokes: [www.violinmusic.net](http://www.violinmusic.net)

## Music Games for Kids

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/games/music.html>

*I particularly liked the violin game.*

## Space Needed in Nelson

I need a space in Nelson to teach lessons starting this January. I would need the space every 2 weekends from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. The ideal space would be in downtown with a private entrance.

My budget is limited, so a trade for lessons would be best. Give me a call at 833-5626 with any leads. Thanks!

