

Notes from the

Schmitt House!



A Fiddleheads Violin School Publication

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Rhiannon Schmitt, Editor, Teacher, Ryan's Mom, etc...

Headline News: Ryan Says "Mama!"

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Well, maybe it's not earth-shaking news for you, but when Ryan looked up at me and said "Mama," I was thrilled!

He soon abandoned "Mama" for "Baba," "Gaack," and other new sounds...

... I know "Mama" will return.



"Baba gaaah.
Gaack bababa."

-Ryan Schmitt,
7½ months

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For those of you who can't get enough of our adorably beautiful son, go to his web page (in the works). Instead of www.etc... type these letters and numbers into your browser:
<http://139.142177.124/ryan/index.htm>

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Ryan's picture could be on a pop bottle! Just go to www.jonessoda.com/gallery and search for "violin."

A few of our entries are there, including the photo above, and waiting to get your top votes! Tell your friends about it!

Baba gaa.... er... I mean, **thanks!**



Hope Setter, Rory Cleveland and my son, Ryan Schmitt, "fiddle around" during a less-than-productive *Fiddleheads* rehearsal.

Fiddlers on Wheels!

Just when you thought I'd be getting sick of you, I am planning a few fun non-violin-playing events for my fiddle friends this summer: a **Bike Ride** from Park Hill to Canoe and a **Potluck Barbecue** at my home.

All Dates TBA. (Probably weekends.)



The Schmitts, Ryan, Mason and Rhiannon, can be seen biking around the trails in Canoe.

Summer Lessons

Tuesdays: July 24 & 31, August 7 & 14

Wednesdays: July 25, August 1, 8 & 15

Due to popular demand I am holding **Summer Lessons** during the **last week of July and the first 3 weeks in August**. I am tentatively offering lessons on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 6.

I hire **Rebekah** to watch Ryan while I teach and must consider how economically viable the summer semester is. I sincerely hope that my enrollment is high enough to cover my costs, thus ensuring my students have a chance to continue their studies in the summertime. Let me know if you'd like to partake in this. -Rhi

Strings Alive! My Dream Realized!

"You never achieve real success unless you like what you are doing."

-Dale Carnegie



"Not too *forte*," says Dick during an evaluation



Fiddlers of all ages and levels learn together during a workshop.



Tim Robinson "takes the audience to a pub in Ireland!"



Dick Owings and Rhiannon Schmitt play a Bartok duet in the evening concert.

The idea started out as a simple little recital for my students at the gallery... It soon became a small workshop, then a couple of workshops, then a festival! Anyone who knows me well knows that I start small and go until it's almost more than I can handle! Nevertheless, *Strings Alive! Festival for Violinists* last April was a fantastic success!

Fellow violin teacher **Dick Owings** came on board to evaluate my students and I evaluated his and other students. As well we conducted two workshops each. I thank Dick again because there was an *incredible* amount of planning involved beforehand and Dick helped me enormously with his suggestions and ideas.

I will certainly organize the festival next year with a few improvements and additions. If you are interested in volunteering please let me know. See you at *Strings Alive!* next year!

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Special thanks to **David Wourms** of www.ivorydove.com,

Kelly and Margaret Moores of Tim Hortons, the SAGA gallery volunteers, and especially my family **Mason and Ryan** for their generous support.



"The fastest sight-readers in the GALAXY!"

A Few Highlights & Factoids:

- ♫ There were 20 registered participants and several others who "crashed" a few workshops. We attracted people from as far as Armstrong!
- ♫ Old-time Fiddler **Neil Making** came by to check out the music and ended up *playing in the evening concert!*
- ♫ There was a sizable crowd of more than 50 people (family, friends, and music lovers) at the evening concert.
- ♫ Irish Fiddler **Michael Faust** hadn't touched his violin in almost a year, but he still participated and impressed everyone with his playing!
- ♫ I managed to teach 2 workshops, perform evaluations, and keep the festival going while *breastfeeding Ryan!*

Keep Playing this Summer

Growing up in California meant playing music during the summer when it was too HOT to go outside! Summer lessons are the norm and musicians improve the most over summer break.

I was shocked when I moved to Canada to find that structured life ceases to exist in the summer! Students returning to lessons in the Fall sometimes have a difficult time remembering a *G Major Scale*.

Now that I've been a pseudo-Canuck for 6 years I can *really* appreciate the summers, but still want my students to remember how to play come September! Here are a few ideas for keeping your summer musical.

1. **Play outside** on the deck, under a tree, or in a nice warm spot.
(Remember to avoid the sunlight as it could MELT your varnish.)
2. **Play for your friends** at a barbecue, party, or other event.
3. * Work up your "chops" and **play in a wedding**.



Emily Ready and Rhiannon in a lesson last Spring.

I want your Submissions! Is there a violin you're trying to sell? Have any good ideas for practicing? Praise? Criticism? Terrible violin jokes? Anything?

Send them to me at rhiannon@sunwave.net