

THE TEXAS FIDDLER

P.T.C. 04

Membership Application

- New Renew
 Change of Address
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Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Card delivered.

Phone Number _____

Birthday _____

- _____ Fiddler ... \$25/year
- _____ Accompanist ... \$25/year
- _____ Out of State Fiddler ... \$25/year
- _____ Associate ... \$15/year

Total enclosed \$ _____
 (Make checks payable to TOTFA)

- YES**...We are a multi-membership TOTFA family, and we agree to accept a single issue of *The Texas Fiddler* each month in place of multiple issues.

Card given? (circle) **YES** or **NO**

Mail application and check to:
Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association
 PO Box 653
 Hempstead, TX 77445

NOTE to TOTFA Members: Check your expiration date above. If it expires this month, you should fill out the application and mail this with your payment for continued TOTFA membership.

Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association
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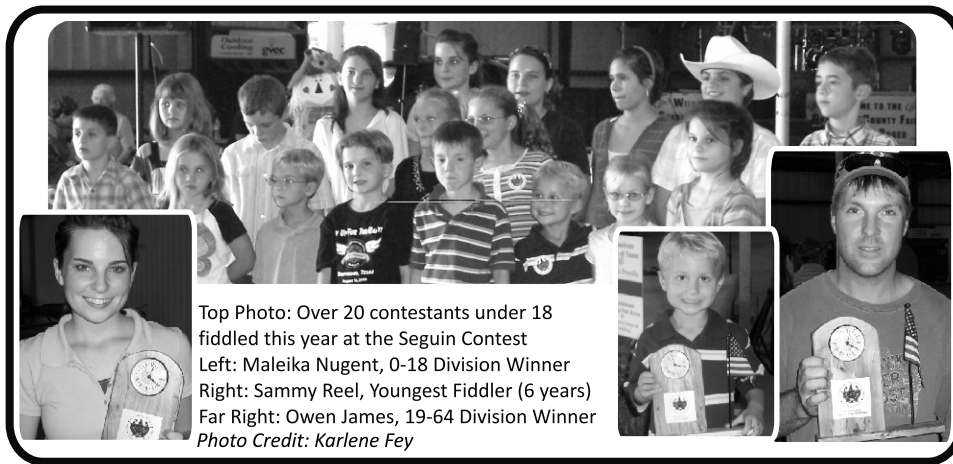
THE TEXAS FIDDLER

P.T.C. 04

Volume 37, Number 10

November 2008

OCTOBER CONTESTS SUCCESSFUL MONTH OF FIDDLING, UPCOMING NACOGDOCHES TOTFA CONVENTION IN DECEMBER AND MIA OROSCO



Top Photo: Over 20 contestants under 18 fiddled this year at the Seguin Contest
 Left: Maleika Nugent, 0-18 Division Winner
 Right: Sammy Reel, Youngest Fiddler (6 years)
 Far Right: Owen James, 19-64 Division Winner
 Photo Credit: Karlene Fey

The 35th Annual Convention of the Texas Old-Time Fiddler's Association will be held in Nacogdoches, Texas on the dates of December 5-7, 2008 in the Bonita Ballroom of the Fredonia Hotel which is located in the downtown area. Age groups, start times, and prize money will be announced in the next newsletter. Judges for this year's convention will be Carl Hopkins of Porter, Texas, Ricky Turpin of New Braunfels, Texas, and Megan Lynch of Nashville, Tennessee. This year we will also be having a benefit/fund raiser in conjunction with our convention so please remember to bring items we can auction off during the weekend. The tentative schedule includes having the Senior, Junior, and Out of State competitions on Saturday, December 6. We will have our annual convention meeting on Sunday, December 7, followed by TOTFA's State Championship Contest. We have a block of rooms set aside at the Fredonia Hotel as well as the LaQuinta Inn located south of town. For reservations at the Fredonia Hotel, call (936) 564-1234, or for the LaQuinta Inn, call

(936)560-5453. Ask for the TOTFA fiddler rate at either location. We look forward to having a large turnout and a great weekend of fiddling so make plans now to join us! **TOTFA is still in need of donations for the convention.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Convention Info	Page 1
Upcoming Events	Page 3
Fiddle Feature	Page 3-6
Done Gone	Page 6-7

NEWS

Cherryholmes Bluegrass Christmas

Join Cherryholmes, America's new first family of bluegrass, for a Christmas special in Nacogdoches Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in W.M. Turner Auditorium.

Known for its hard-driving virtuosity and explosive vocal harmonies, the group performs regularly on the Grand Ole Opry, and their 2007 release, Cherryholmes II, opened up at #1 on the Billboard Charts. Learn more about the group by visiting cherryholmes.musiccitynetworks.com

The concert is a presentation of the Stephen F. Austin State University College of Fine Arts as part of its 2008-2009 University Series. Tickets range from \$35 to \$17.50, with discounts available for seniors, students and youth. For tickets or more information, please visit www.sfasu.edu/finearts/series/series_university.asp#performances or call (888) 240-ARTS.



Visit www.texasoldtimefiddlers.org for more information. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please send comments to Mark Seale or any of the directors.



The Texas Fiddler

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DONE GONE

Bowie Contest Results

0-15

1. Jake Duncan
2. Maleika Nugent
3. Faith Nugent
4. Karissa Nugent
5. Ben McPherson
6. Cheyenne Craig
7. Katie Crawford
8. Noelle Nugent
9. Jessica Sell
10. Zachary McCaig
11. Myka Myers
12. Mckenna Myers

16-35

1. Bubba Hopkins
2. Cody Marriott
3. Jason Andrews
4. Aaron Carter
5. Clayton Bankston

30-60

1. Marty Elmore
2. Bob Thomas
3. Lydia Stuart
4. Delbert McCaig

61+

1. Jesse Mears
2. Gene Brown
3. Walt Hardin
4. T.C. Mitchell

Grand Champions

1. Bubba Hopkins
2. Cody Marriott
3. Marty Elmore
4. Jake Duncan

Accompanists

1. Ray Franklin
2. Royce Franklin
3. Paul Wallace
4. Ryan Elmore
5. Caleb Wallace

Twin Fiddle

1. Austin Smith/Coleman Smith
2. Marty Elmore/Jess Meador
3. Brooke Wallace/Sally Wallace

MISC AWARDS

Oldest Fiddler: T.C. Mitchell (90)

Youngest Fiddler: Annie Reinke (6)

Traveled Farthest Distance: Bubba Hopkins (322)

Seguin Contest Results

The contest last weekend in Seguin was great! It was the 30th anniversary of the contest and with over 20 youngsters in the 0-18 division, the future of fiddling in Texas is secure. Special thanks to Heidi she was a real blessing of help and insight for us.

0-18

1. Maleika Nugent
2. Mia Orasco
3. Karissa Nugent
4. Faith Nugent

Accompanist

1. Ray Franklin
2. Mary Michael Rogers

19-64

1. Owen James
2. Heidi Labensart
3. Eddie Davis
4. Jack Rogers

65 +

1. Tom Lindasay
2. Bob Davis
3. Sonny Presswood
4. Bobby Rogers
5. Ernie Gambs

Grand Champion

Mia Orasco

"So I got to thinking about it later, and thought, 'I need to call this guy and find out what I'm getting involved in here.' I called him and said, 'Olaf, have you had a chance to look at that fiddle yet?' He said, 'Look at it? I'm playing it, son.' Nonie, an estate planning specialist with Texas Farm Bureau, ended up paying \$350 for the restoration, which was a bargain in his eyes.

"People pay \$3,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 for fiddles, and I'm not even talking about fine violins," he said. Mia abandoned the German violin she had been using and has been playing the repaired instrument ever since. "It's just great. It makes it all the better that it got passed down," she said. "So far, I've tried numerous other violins. My classical teacher has prodded me to get a better instrument. This one is so old. I've tried a lot of violins, but I haven't found one that I like better yet."

Mia first showed interest in the violin on a field trip to a fine arts demonstration at McLennan Community College. "They had a group of charter school kids who were doing Suzuki (violin method), and Mia said, 'I want to do that,'" said Mia's mother, Tina, who is a homeschool teacher for Mia and her siblings, Hannah, 17; Nicolas, 9 and Anthony, 5. Mia then began studying with Dr. Julia Hardie at the Central Texas String Academy. Mia easily makes the transition between classical music and fiddle tunes. She takes fiddle lessons from Joey McKenzie in Burleson. One of his claims to fame is the musical training of the Quebe sisters, who have been featured in television commercials for H-E-B. He now tours with the sisters' band and also owns a violin shop in the Metroplex. Hardie, her violin teacher, "doesn't mind" that Mia has taken up the fiddle as well. "She doesn't protest," Mia said. "I think she thinks it might have a bit of impact of what I learned in classical because I have to change how I hold the bow and other stuff. I think she's a little afraid that it'll ruin what I've learned the past nine years. But it's not a problem for me." Her father said combining the two may be harder than Mia realizes. (Continued page 5)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November

Nov 4 John Allred	Nov 17 Bethany Hoover	Nov 25 E.J. Hopkins
Nov 4 Emily Richey	Nov 17 Sean Orr	Nov 25 Walterre Smith
Nov 4 Laura Terry	Nov 17 Barbara Seholm	Nov 26 Lacie Carpenter
Nov 5 Bob Zimmerman	Nov 19 Tom Fonville	Nov 27 Alene Mundine
Nov 6 Gene Brown	Nov 19 Don George	Nov 27 Judy Wilson
Nov 6 Jeff Rohloff	Nov 19 Mark Seale	Nov 27 Ryan Elmore
Nov 6 Marty Elmore	Nov 20 John Blevins	Nov 29 Craig Wallace
Nov 7 Kyle Russell	Nov 20 Randy J. Hanson	Nov 29 Myka Williams
Nov 7 Ian Stewart	Nov 20 Danita Gardner	Nov 30 Cherri Fryer
Nov 9 Steve Rodriguez	Nov 20 Zack Stevens	
Nov 10 Sloan Stephens	Nov 21 Tonya Hopkins	
Nov 13 Truett Aaron	Nov 21 Lisa Hopkins III	
Nov 13 Glenn Cornelius	Nov 22 Clifford McCall	
Nov 13 Dale Morris Jr.	Nov 25 W.F. Cryer	
Nov 17 Charles Gardner	Nov 25 Vi Hopkins	

It's a very difficult thing to do because she's changing styles and a lot of different things back and forth. If she decided to go one way or the other way, she could probably be a heck of a lot better, faster, in whatever she decided to stay with. But she's doing both of them, and I don't think she's hurting herself. It's harder for her. We have contests, and there are kids who practice an hour a day or two hours a day, but they're practicing fiddle. Mia practices an hour a day or two hours a day, but she's doing classical and fiddle." Mia is also learning the piano, "so she probably spends three hours a day playing music. She wants to learn to play the guitar, so she's working on that," Tina said. "Someday I want to learn to play the viola, too. I can read that clef but not well," Mia added. Mia was introduced to fiddle music by her dad, who plays piano, organ and trumpet in addition to the guitar. "He just loves fiddle music," she said. "We'd be going down the road listening to country music, and he'd go, 'Play that fiddle!' "I just wanted to do it because I love the fiddle so much. Song-wise, [fiddle music] is easier, but technique-wise, it's a little harder. In classical, you have songs that go up into seventh position. You're trying to make it look complicated and sound sweet. In fiddling, it's just the nitty-gritty stuff, real simple. But technique-wise, it's a lot different than classical. One thing I had to work on was smoothing out my bows because in classical it was choppy, and also, keeping my fingers low, just making it easier instead of making it look impressive and sound sweet."

Shortly after taking up fiddle music, Mia began entering competitions. She's taken part in 19 festivals since March 2007 and won the fifth contest she entered. She has more than a dozen songs in her contest repertoire. "Some are real simple tunes, maybe a little jig, a short little song you can use," she said. "I've got some good breakdowns. If you've got 15 songs, three of those would need to be waltzes. A waltz is smooth and sweet."

Mia said she's had audience members at festivals tell her "that was the best waltz I've ever heard." "It's just because I've played classical. Most [fiddlers]

are just used to doing hoedowns all the time, and I'm used to that slow, sweet stuff so I put that into waltzes," she said.

Besides the competitions, Mia plays a couple of times a month for the folk music mass at St. Jerome Catholic Church. Her family attends St. Joseph in Bellmead. Mia, who is entering the 10th grade, hopes to study music at Baylor University. After that, she's unsure of her plans. Her dream job would be to play music scores for movies. She loves the films of M. Night Shyamalan, not so much for the content but for the music. (Continued page 6)



Now fully restored, Mia Orosco's fiddle is a family heirloom from her great-grandfather.

Photo Credit: Kevin Tankersley

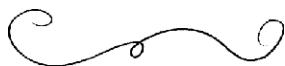
"They're scary movies but they have some really good background music," Mia said of films like "The Sixth Sense" and "The Village." "I haven't decided what avenue of music I want to go into yet," she said, but definitely a music career. And the Waco Symphony is one of my goals, too." Mia has a jump start on her career should she decide to become a music educator. "We had a talent show at our homeschool association here in Waco," Tina said. "[Mia] played that night and through that has gotten three students. For a nominal fee, she's giving them beginning fiddling lessons, just to whet their appetites." Mia is confident she could teach youngsters the violin as well.

"Following the Suzuki method, it wouldn't be hard," she said. She's already helping with the violin training of her younger brother. When Tina suggested that her daughter bring out her violin and play for a guest, Mia reluctantly agreed. "Only if Daddy will play with me," she said. With Nonie gone to fetch his guitar, Mia said: "He's a good guitar player, but he won't admit it. Whenever you get up to play in contests, you always have to have a back-up guitarist. And they get paid. They get 10 percent of whatever we win."

'Play that Fiddle!'

Mia Orosco is an accomplished fiddler and violinist
By Kevin Tankersley

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Robert Johnson, Publisher.



DONE GONE

Graham Contest Results

0-12

1. Jessica Sell
2. Michal Garza
3. Katie Crawford
4. Annie Reinke
5. Sloan Stephens

20-59

1. Aaron Carter
2. Cody Marriott
3. Bill Jones

Open

1. Cody Marriott
2. Bubba Hopkins
3. Brooke Wallace

13-20

1. Bubba Hopkins
2. Clayton Bankston
3. Leslie Boehm
4. Kyle Russell

60+

1. Weldon Turpin
2. Gene Brown
3. Walt Hardin

Accompanist

1. Rex Gillentine
2. Jacob Johnson
3. Caleb Wallace

UPCOMING EVENTS

Glenrose Contest Info

What: 9th Annual Dale McPherson Memorial Contest

When: November 8, Registration 9 a.m., Play 10 a.m.

There will also be a jam after the contest.

Where: Somervell County Expo. Center, Hwy. 67, Glenrose, TX

Divisions & Prizes:

0-10 years: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30, 6th \$20, 7th \$10

11-20: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30, 6th \$20, 7th \$10

21-59: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30, 6th \$20, 7th \$10

60+: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30, 6th \$20, 7th \$10

Accompanist: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30

Open Contest: 1st \$200, 2nd \$175, 3rd \$150, 4th \$125, 5th \$100, 6th \$75, 7th \$50, 8th \$25

GLENROSE

FIDDLE FEATURE: MIA OROSCO

Mia Orosco is tuning her fiddle, aligning her instrument with the sound of her father's guitar. "That's close enough for fiddle," she said, laughing. But behind that laughter is a serious musician. The 15-year-old Mia has played the violin for nine years, and she added fiddle music to her repertoire about 18 months ago. "It's exactly the same," she said of the difference between the violin and the fiddle. It's just the music that changes. And the hundred-year-old instrument that Mia plays once belonged to her great-grandfather, Juan Anzaldúa. The fiddle "was my grandfather's," said Nonie Orosco, Mia's father, "but I never heard him play it. He would take it down every once in a while and kind of pick around on it." Last year, Nonie remembered the instrument and got it from his father.

"This thing was in an old shirt box," he said. "It was in at least 10 pieces. The fingerboard was off and the tailpiece was off and the pegs were broken and there was a big crack in the middle. I had just met a man in Belton who builds violins. I told him the story and asked him if he could just make it look like a violin." So Nonie gave the fiddle to his new friend Olaf Riewe, who lives in Austin in hopes that it could be repaired enough to make a decorative wall hanging. But he forgot to ask about the price.

"I dropped it off to him. Well, he's a talker and I'm a talker, and I left there and I never asked him what he was going to charge me," Nonie said. (Continued page 5)