



The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, April, 2011

The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra is a community orchestra of musicians who come from a variety of musical backgrounds to share a common interest in the performance of traditional fiddle music. The orchestra plays by ear as well as written arrangements of traditional tunes from various styles including Celtic, French Canadian, Southern U. S., and New England -- with a special selection of tunes written by Vermont fiddlers. The graduated parts and chord charts allow musicians of various ability levels to play together in harmony.

The purpose of the orchestra is to provide a place for musicians to learn all the basics of performing and musicianship, both in the traditional manner (learning by ear) and using sheet music. This Community Orchestra meets weekly in Montpelier and performs for contradances, convalescent centers, community events, and fundraising events throughout the state. There are three sessions yearly: fall, spring, and summer; so participants can pick and choose any or all of the sessions. Each session culminates with a final performance. Many of these performances include prominent Vermont fiddlers or folk artists and are performed in fine concert halls. These special events help give members a well rounded performance background.

Other players of guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, accordion, concertina, flute (silver or wooden), are also welcome. Limited spaces for some instruments. Check the website for recommended skill levels or contact the director for more information.

The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra is truly the "People's Orchestra" in that no audition is required and players of all levels are welcome. Some of our members begin after less than a year of training, and some of our players are regular trophy winners in fiddle contests. So dust off your fiddle or other folk instrument (or rent or buy one locally) and join us! There is no limit to the number of fiddlers we could have. The more the better!!

Vermont Fiddle Orchestra
P.O. Box 806
Montpelier, VT 05601



The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra

A community orchestra for fiddlers, violists, cellists, bass players, mandolin players, guitarists, ukulele and banjo players, flute players and other traditional instrumentalists.

Traditional music taught by ear and in written arrangements with graduated parts to accommodate all levels of playing ability and learning preferences.

Performances, contradances, community benefits, youth fiddle groups, workshops, jam sessions, and more!

Available for hire for your concert or special event. Join us!

**www.vtfiddleorchestra.org
1-877-FIDDLE1(343-3531)
info@vtfiddleorchestra.org**

ABOUT THE REHEARSALS

The rehearsals include instruction that helps the orchestra members play in tune and time as well as improving bowing and rhythm skills. The orchestra rehearses some selected tunes using written music. Those who do not read music can record parts to help them learn by ear as well as continue to improve their music reading skills. The rest of the rehearsal is devoted to playing by ear in the traditional manner. For those who are unable to keep up with the speed of the tunes, chords are provided along with instructions on how to play chords. Many of the musicians get together outside of the orchestra rehearsal for more jamming and playing. Musicians need to bring a pencil and a music stand (if they have one!). It would also be helpful to have a three ring binder, a tuner, a seat cushion, possibly a stand light, and a recording device for those who are learning their parts by ear. CDs with the tunes that we play by ear are available for purchase at a modest price.



VFO with Sarah Hotchkis, Tim Newcomb, Susan Reid, & David Kaynor in April, 2011

There are adults all over the state of Vermont who are just beginning to learn to play an instrument for the first time. The VFO provides a place for musicians to gain the skills they need in order to progress and grow musically as well as broaden their ties in the community.

Did you miss the opportunity to play in a band or orchestra when you were young?

Musicians, young and not so young, will find the VFO excellent training for any group, whether it be a classical orchestra, traditional string band, or just playing on one's own or with friends.



Youth Programs

Sap Run Fiddlers is a youth and teen group for all ages and levels under the wing of the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra. This group meets regularly throughout the year for workshops, sessions, contradances, and performances. They are often invited to perform with the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra to help keep the tradition alive.

Youths and teens are also welcome to participate in the community orchestra for any of the sessions providing they are able to work well in an adult environment.



To find out all you need to know about the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, it's members, and information about upcoming concerts or events, see our website at www.vtfiddleorchestra.org

JOIN US!

To become a member of the VFO or to be on our mailing list, simply email us at info@vtfiddleorchestra.org or call us at 1-877-FIDDLE1

You may come to a rehearsal to try us out and see if it is the right group for you. The first rehearsal is free. If you decide to join, you can pay the full enrollment at the next rehearsal! A full session is very inexpensive. Come check us out!

We meet weekly for three sessions per year in Montpelier. Check web site for details.

The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra is a 501(c)3 Non Profit Organization. Tax deductible donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Mail to address on reverse.

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Amount enclosed:

Thank you very much for your contribution!