

Fiddlers strum up fun at New Hampshire contest

Pickin' party

By ERIC PARRY
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 musicians from all over New England basked in the sun while fiddlers competed for top honors at the Meetinghouse Park Fiddle Championships yesterday in Hampstead, N.H.

'We're building and every year we hope it gets bigger and bigger,' organizer Nick Pangaro said of the second annual competition.

Yesterday's event was one of the seven concerts being held this summer at Meetinghouse Park behind Town Hall and the Police Department.

Chelsea Hadden, 15, made the four-hour-plus trip here from the Poughkeepsic, N.Y., area with her mother to win the junior category of the competition.

'I've always been a performer no matter what it is,' said Hadden, who also dances and plays several classical instruments.

Hadden has only been playing the fiddle for three years, but according to Rick Aubert of Manchester, who was listening in the audience, she's got a mastery of the instrument.

'When they make it come alive and make the instrument dance, you get the goosebumps,' Aubert said after congratulating Hadden on her performance.

Ben Fiering, 10, of Hanover said he prefers playing classical music but enjoyed performing in yesterday's competition.

'I really try to get into the music and communicate the emotions of the music,' Fiering said of 'Ashokan Farewell,' which is one of three songs he played yesterday. 'It's just what you want in a fiddle contest, it's beautifully written and it's simple enough to play.'

RESULTS

JUNIOR/JUNIOR DIVISION (AGE 11 AND UNDER)

1st Place - Nina Margand, Richmond, N.H.

JUNIORS DIVISION (12 TO 17)

1st Place - Chelsea Hadden, LaGrangeville, N.Y.

ADULT DIVISION (18 TO 59)

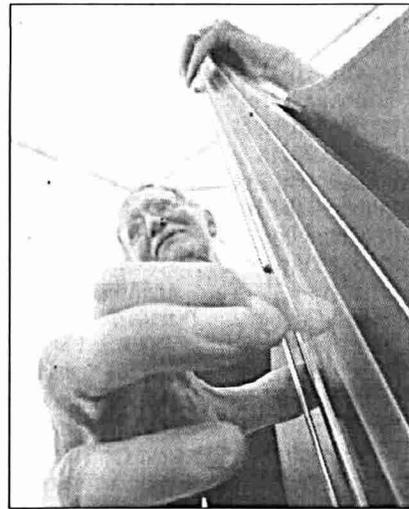
1st Place - Sharon Pangaro, Hampstead, N.H.

SENIOR DIVISION (60-PLUS)

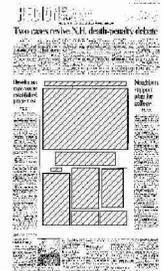
1st Place - Lloyd King, Methuen.

MASTERS DIVISION

1st Place - Lauren Beaudry, Auburndale.



INTO THE MUSIC: Saying that he's been playing bass 'forever,' Paul Dingle of Boxboro joins an impromptu bluegrass jam.





JAN SEEGER/Staff photos

Violinist Wayne Keene, a retired physicist from Guilford, N.H., has only been playing music for a year. Yesterday, he performed onstage during an open bluegrass jam at the second annual Meetinghouse Park Fiddle Championships in Hampstead, N.H.