



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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## **District 8**

Hello from District 8. Welcome to February, 2024! This is the month that we are especially reminded of the importance of good timing. Some people will tell you that the difference between old time fiddle music and violin music is the inclusion of an audible beat in fiddle music to aid the dancers. This was necessary when the band was only the fiddler. Violins were normally included as part of an orchestra where other instruments could be heard that provided a dance rhythm. When playing in small groups, the fiddler can play the melody and not add the extra timing if others in the group are providing a solid danceable rhythm. If the accompaniment includes a guitar playing a strong rhythm the fiddler has more flexibility when playing the melody. If it also includes a bass, the guitar player has more flexibility in how they play. Each member of the group needs to listen to the sound that the audience hears and modify their playing accordingly. If your waltz sounds like it might be a polka you might need to modify your playing. Timing is important and must be heard by the audience. If they can't hear a beat, they will probably end up tripping all over themselves. The same is true for the members of the group. If they can't hear what the others are playing, they end up tripping all over themselves. The importance of correct timing is reason that we have a leap year implemented in the month of February. Happy fiddling from all of us here in the SE corner.

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