

## About Jest Fiddlin'



*Anna Kennedy writes:* I wanted the violin to represent the NIU Community School of the Arts. I wanted to come up with something unique that each child taking lessons here can identify with. I incorporated the collage colors red, white and black to give it the school spirit. In the background, there are various instruments that the children play. The fiddler on top of NIU's most recognizable roofs (Altgeld and the Holmes Student Center) is a whimsical figure and honors Marc Chagall's painting of "The Fiddler." Wikipedia reports that this fiddler represents "survival, through tradition and joyfulness, in a life of uncertainty and imbalance." Listening to music certainly allows me to defuse stressful moments in my life. I love the magic that flows in many of Chagall's works from his childhood memories. His work is full of his strong passion for life. I hope that every child taking lessons at NIU will have fond memories of the teacher's dedication and love for music. I chose to include sections of the first movement of the Concerto for Two Violins in D Major by J.S. Bach on the sides of the violin, as it is a milestone piece for each Suzuki violinist.

**Anna Kennedy** was born in Poland and came to the United States at age 16. She has a degree in studio art and art history and lives in Somonauk with husband Scott and daughter Sophie. She loves to teach art, paint, knit, garden and homeschool her daughter.

All proceeds from Performathon support arts education for community school students.