

"There's Just Something About Tuesday..."

by Keenan Fletcher

There she was....

Little Miss Tuesday Miller...the youngest fiddle contestant.

You could hear the "awwwww" from the crowd as Tuesday came on stage. When asked her name, she took hold of the microphone, and simply said, "TUESDAY." Her adorable boots, and "Cindy-Lou-Hoo" appearance, won over the hearts of every audience member that day.... including mine.

There's just something about Tuesday. In fact, there's just something special about every young fiddle player that steps foot on the stage.

"How do they do that????"

It's truly awe-inspiring. There they are, unable to drive or vote, but playing memorized intricate versions of songs that have been handed down from generations of fiddlers.

I still remember the first time I told my teacher that I wanted to be just like her when I grew up...a professional violinist. Her reply? "Oh, My Dear. That's going to be a lot of work." Somehow, that really wasn't the response I was going for. Wasn't there a quick magic wand, or a Genie-in-the-Bottle, to give me a head's up? Nope.

Hours-upon-hours-upon-hours of hard work, commitment, sacrifice, and devotion. I see that same drive in each of the young fiddlers who grace the stage. As a violin teacher, I know what it takes. The long car rides to lessons, the endless struggle to encourage a young child to practice.... especially when their friends are outdoors playing.

I see a success story in each one of the young fiddlers who gets up on the stage. Some will become professionals, and some will just play for fun. Some are competitive spirits, and some are "non-competitive" souls, who just enjoy being a part of the Texas Fiddle heritage. Some will walk on stage like a pro, and some will walk off with their heads hanging low. The mere fact that they are participating in a musical form that has been

handed down "knee-to-knee" for the last 100 years is reason to celebrate each and every one of these kids.

As for Tuesday Miller, she is now a "teacher helper" in the Pre-Twinkle Violin group class. The "young" students love and adore her, as she helps them with their bow holds, inspiration and, of course, the Flower Song.

Yes, there's just something very special about Tuesday.

Today, you will see Tuesday perform at the Llano Fiddle Contest, along with her older brother Townes, and her "Uncle" Bill Tuckness, 4th generation Llano Texas Fiddler.

Llano has a very rich heritage in Texas Fiddle and I am extremely proud to be a part of handing down this musical tradition.