



Arizona Suzuki Association

Spring 2012

Newsletter

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Summer Reading, by Laura Tagawa, ASA President

Summer is a great time to take a break from our normal busy schedules and routines. It can be a time to travel and discover new places or a time to spend time at home with family. Whether you find yourself on the road (perhaps on your way to a Suzuki Institute!) or at home, summer is a great time to escape with a favorite book. There are many choices of music related reading for teachers, parents and students.

In an attempt to include a wide variety of books and with such a wealth of material available, the following list is not complete. Please ask your teacher for additional recommendations for your specific instrument or for their own favorites!

Books by Suzuki:

Ability Development From Age Zero by Shinichi Suzuki

Written in the 1960s, the focus of this book is on the parent and the child. With this book he shows how to create a warm environment which will encourage any child to become a happy, loving and talented human being.

Nurtured By Love by Shinichi Suzuki

Nurtured By Love is a collection of Dr. Suzuki's thoughts on the ideas that guided his life and work.

Suzuki Reference Books:

Shinichi Suzuki: The Man and His Philosophy by Evelyn Hermann

A biography of Dr. Suzuki and the spread and success of the Suzuki Method all over the world. Contains tips for applying the principles of the Suzuki Method and a pictorial account of Dr. Suzuki's life and work.

The Suzuki Violinist: A Guide for Parents and Teachers by William Starr

A comprehensive guide to teaching the Suzuki violin literature, containing many

illustrations. Written by an early leader in the field after his year in Japan observing and working intensively with Suzuki.

To Learn With Love: A Companion for Suzuki Parents by William and Constance Starr

Practice, motivation, learning, nutrition, competition, and family lifestyles are a few of the topics discussed by these experienced teachers, performers, and parents.

Recollections of a Peripatetic Pedagogue by John Kendall

American Suzuki pioneer John Kendall's recollections of events in his life and career. Available from sharmusic.com

Music Books for Children:

Composers:

Sebastian: A Book about Bach by Jeanette Winter

Beethoven Lives Upstairs Barbara Nichol

Play, Mozart, Play! By Peter Sis

Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saens by Barrie C. Turner

I, Vivaldi. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers by Janice Shefelman

General:

The Philharmonic Gets Dressed by Karla Kuskin

Story of the Orchestra: Listen While You Learn About the Instruments, the Music and the Composers Who Wrote the Music! by Robert Levine

Music is by Lloyd Moss

Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin by Lloyd Moss

Practice:

Practice Ideas for Suzuki Students, free online book from Wikibooks, http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Practice_Ideas_for_Suzuki_Students

More book ideas available at:

<http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/bibliography>

<http://www.ams-net.org/childrens-lit>

Ideas from Parents as Partners by Mary Wilkening, ASA Past President



Did you have a chance to participate in the “Parents as Partners” online symposium sponsored by Suzuki Association of the Americas in January—March? For the second year, SAA put out over 50 videos of teachers and parents speaking about their ideas on teaching and learning in the Suzuki approach. Some were new this year, some were repeats from last year. Not all the videos were equally inspiring, but some were excellent. I will summarize some of my favorite ideas below:

3/5/12 – Lauren Baker – Lafayette, LA violin teacher—Sharing the Vision of Excellence:

Components that Guarantee Success

1. Understand the Suzuki Philosophy. Read Nurtured by Love. Both parents should read it. Know that “Every Child Can”. Remember the quotes from Dr. Suzuki: “Man is the son of his environment,” and “Where Love is deep, much can be accomplished”.

2. Approach the lessons: Follow the teacher’s instructions. Concentrate on the main teaching points for the week. Be certain you understand the new skill or technique so you don’t practice it incorrectly. Use a camera to record the new skill at the lesson. Don’t try to remember everything at the lesson. Take notes and write it down. Avoid instructing the child at the lesson. The stu-

dent can only pay attention to one teacher at a time. Tell the teacher if there is stress in your child’s life.

3. How to practice at home: Avoid interruptions. Look forward to practice and stay calm. Have a predetermined plan for practice with the materials out and ready. Ask questions instead of giving orders to the student. This helps the student to become an independent thinker. Smile and laugh a lot. Be whimsical. Be aware of your body language and facial expressions. The number of repetitions is determined by the number of times that are needed to make the skill easy. Be sure there is enough time in the schedule to get practice done. Control extra-curricular activities. Practice every day, especially on the new skills. Strive for posture excellence every time you practice. The goal is not a piece, but new techniques that are learned. Skills that are not mastered bring frustration.

4. Be sure the instrument is the right size so tension doesn’t build up.

5. Allow time for listening. The student should listen to the new piece 10 times a day.

6. Go to group lessons. This builds team spirit.

If you strive for excellence, so will your child.

1/30/12—Kathleen Spring – Denver, CO Violin Teacher - How You Can Be Helpful & Supportive to Your

ASA Fall Workshop on October 26 and 27 2012.

Mark your Calendars!

ASA is planning our 2012 Fall Workshop. The theme will be **Fiddle Fest**. It will be held at Orange-wood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N 10th St. in Phoenix on Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27 with nationally renowned fiddler, Patrick Clark of Nashville, TN. Friday afternoon's session will be offered for advanced students. Dr. Louise Scott, Professor of Violin at NAU, will be teaching Master Classes for violin students and Dr. Mary Ann Ramos, Professor of Cello at NAU will be teaching Master Classes for advanced cello students.

Patrick Clark has been living in Nashville for nearly five years, and is doing well in the industry. Patrick is a utility player playing Fiddle, Violin, Viola, Mandolin, Acoustic Guitar and he sings. He also has a Bachelors Degree in Violin Performance from Northern Arizona University. By the time he was 18 Patrick had placed first in countless fiddle competitions and won the title of Arizona State Fiddle Champion and Four Corners Regional Champion. Patrick Clark also has experience in the classical world too. He has been concert master of nine orchestras in his career. His influence of classical music gives him a strong, focused tone, and technical accuracy. He is now pursuing a career in music and is currently the fiddle/utility player for **Platinum Recording Artist, Darius Rucker**, lead singer for **Hootie and The Blowfish**.

Patrick Clark will work with all the students at the Saturday Fiddle Fest. Local teachers will give Master classes to beginning and intermediate students. All students will enjoy learning line dancing as well.



Patrick Clark

News from Around Arizona

Visiting Suzuki Violin Teacher, Thalia Greenlaugh, taught Valley area and Tucson area violin students this past March. Thalia is a graduate of the two-year Suzuki teacher training program at The School for Strings in New York City and was on faculty there for many years beginning in 1979. She has also founded and directed Suzuki programs in New Jersey and Long Island, NY, where she moved with her family in 1985. Her studio currently has about 60 students.

During a trip to Arizona in March, Thalia visited Tucson where she worked with area Suzuki violinists in both group classes and master classes. She also taught at the Valley of the Sun Suzuki Association's Spring Workshop in Mesa and gave master classes to Suzuki violinists in Central Phoenix. While in Arizona she was hosted by ASA violin teachers, Leslie Turner (Phoenix) and Laura Tagawa (Tucson).



In Photo: Thalia Greenlaugh teaching Samuel Qu (violin student of Laura Tagawa) in Tucson Master Class

Teacher's Column

Would you like to be listed on the Arizona Suzuki Association Website as a registered Suzuki Teacher?

**Just register today and send in
your \$10 dues* for 2012—2013**

Name _____

Instrument _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send this Form and \$10 to Mary Wilkening, 1157 E. Acacia
Circle, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340.

www.azsuzuki.org

***Teachers, Please go to our
website at www.azsuzuki.org to
download a group application
form for your studio. Group rates
are only \$5/family for 10 applica-
tions and fees sent in at the
same time.**

ASA—Phoenix Piano Group, by Karen Nalder-Kazarick

This year our local piano group held a workshop in Phoenix for our international Suzuki Piano Basics organization (SPB). Master classes were taught by the two head teachers from the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto Japan where Dr. Suzuki began the world-famous Suzuki method. This is part of the speech delivered by Keiko Ogiwara:

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, founder of the Suzuki Method, always said that practicing everyday is the same thing is eating every day. In other words, as skipping a whole day of meals is not an option we wouldn't skip a day of practicing.

So how is piano practice in your home? I am sure your children don't willingly go to the piano to practice on their own. That is quite normal for children. Even so, please, without fail, say to your children, "Let's practice again today!"

We use our bodies to play the piano, and therefore we need a lot of repetition over a long period of time to be able physically to play the piano well.

As parents practicing with your children, haven't you thought to yourselves, "Why can't they do something that they were able to do just yesterday?" And teachers, haven't you thought, "I assigned this last week, why can't they do it?"

For the body to be able to do anything and therefore to become an ability, daily repetition is absolutely necessary. Do not think, "How many times do I have to say the same thing over and over." Instead, you must tenaciously ask the same things for as many times as it would take to develop them into abilities.

Please nurture your children with patience and with faith. This great effort on your part will be the strength your children will develop, the strength they will have for the rest of their lives.



Parent's Column, by Chris Mahar

Growing Musicians

Advocates of 'The Mozart Effect' claim that music makes you smarter, but I've always wondered whether they have the cause and effect relationship reversed. It could be the other way around; smarter people make more music. Doctor Suzuki was not, however, concerned about making people smarter. He wanted children to develop beautiful spirits. He was more concerned with developing virtue than intellect.

Whichever your motive, virtue or intelligence, if your kids continue their musical education through their teen years they will spend a lot of time around some really smart, disciplined and fun people both intelligent and virtuous. These are good people to know. They're intensely busy engaged teens who are deliberately and actively making their own lives.

We hear a lot of negative things about teens in general these days, about how they are shallow, faddish and self-occupied. Keep your kids in music through their teens and they will not be those kids. I know this because my two musical teens, brought up as Suzuki musicians since late toddlerhood, are, and hang out with just this sort of people.

My kids both played for years in several groups including the local Suzuki tour group and the Phoenix Youth Symphony. There they were surrounded by similar types; remarkable and intensely busy young people struggling to balance family, academics and music. These aren't hipster kids who change styles with the modern world's whims. There is nothing shallow or trivial about them. Many have their lives planned out for weeks or months ahead. They are absurdly busy, staying awake into

the wee hours of the morning doing homework and writing essays. They conjugate Latin verbs or read Dostoyevsky on break during rehearsal. Many of these kids do homework in the car on the way to and from rehearsal, and during songs when they don't have to play.

I've been keeping attendance at PYS orchestra rehearsal, and the 'excuses' for kids not showing up include such things as; performances by their school orchestras and bands, college visits and auditioning at Julliard and other big name schools, National Honor Society events, scholarship receptions, and my personal favorite, 'involved in a national robotics competition..' Pretty fair reasons to miss an orchestra rehearsal.

Keep your kids in music. Don't let them quit. Because whether or not music makes you smarter or a better person, it lets you hang out with smarter and better people. Plus you get to play, and listen to beautiful music along the way, which is its own reward.

Drawing for free music lessons at the Workshop! Plan to attend!



News from NAU School of Music and NAU Community Dance and Music Academy

Flagstaff Summer Offerings:

Are you going to be in Flagstaff this summer? Access our summer offerings for Suzuki violin students through the www.nau.edu/academy. Join our afternoon classes from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, June 12-14; June 26-28; July 10-12; July 24-26; August 7-9 offerings: Group/Ensemble, Music Mind Games, Master Class, optional fiddle or chamber music from 4 to 5pm.

CURRY SUMMER MUSIC CAMP AT NAU—2012 CAMP DATES

Junior Camp (7th-9th grade) July 8-14

Senior Camp (9th-12th grade) June 24-July 7

www.nau.edu/music

The Curry Summer Music at NAU continues to offer opportunities for musical and social growth through orchestra, sectionals, master classes and a wide variety of elective classes.

Parents as Partners, Continued

Teacher:

1. Teachers love music and teaching. They believe that “Every Child Can” learn to play the instrument. They want parents to be as committed as they are.
2. Parents are the “Co-practicers”. They need to be enthusiastic about the process of learning to play an instrument.
3. Parents should keep communication open. They need to talk to the teacher about how things are going at home. Teachers don’t want the parents to lose the dream along the way.
4. Just do all the stuff the teachers ask you to do such as going to group lessons, participating in recitals, helping with recital logistics, going to concerts, attending workshops and institutes, and taking part in parent education sessions. Stay active in the summer.
5. There are many ways of bringing joy to others such as in group lessons, and playing for other people at retirement homes or other places.
6. Make music important at home. Listen to music together. Arrange for the students to perform for the family. Have performances and parties to celebrate milestones. Celebrate when the student knows the “Twinkles” or has completed a book.
7. Be present in the moment at lessons. Take notes and videos so you can remember how to practice correctly at home. Let the teacher do the talking in the lesson. Don’t talk or instruct your child unless so directed by the teacher. The child can listen to only one teacher at a time in the lesson. Divided attention for parents or students doesn’t work. Come to the lesson on time and unhurried. Turn off cell phones. Trust the teacher’s pace.
8. At home, be the teacher. Practice regularly using notes and video from the studio lesson. Remember the details. Review as directed. Find ways to keep the practice enjoyable.
9. Be enthusiastic. Communicate with your student and your teacher.

If you would like more information from Parents as Partners and the Suzuki Triangle, go to our ASA

Website at www.azsuzuki.org and click on Events/Parents as Partners.



ASA Board of Directors 2012-2013

The ASA Board for 2011-2012

Laura Tagawa, President, Violin

Mary Wilkening, Newsletter, Webmaster, Cello

Chris Mahar, Treasurer, Parent

Eunice Elie, Violin

Christi Elie, Violin, Viola

Hisami Iijima, Violin

Karen Nalder-Kazarick, Piano

Bonnie Roesch, Secretary, Violin

Louise Scott, Violin

If you would like to vote on this slate of ASA Officers, please go to our website www.azsuzuki.org. Follow the voting link on the home page.

How About a Music Camp This Summer?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU. Junior Camp is July 8—14: Senior Camp is June 24—July 7. Information at www.cal.nau.edu/camp.
2. Prescott's Chaparral Musicfest Suzuki String Academy (For Suzuki Students in Books 1—2); Dates are June 3 June 6—9. For more information go to www.chaparralmusicfest.org or call 928-777-8663.
3. West Valley Youth Orchestra Chamber Music Summer Camp with Quartet Sabaku for students in Suzuki Book 3 or above or comparable traditional students. Held in Goodyear June 11—15. See www.wvyo.org for more information.

See www.suzukiassociation.org for more Suzuki Camps



ASA
1157 E. Acacia Circle
Litchfield Park 85340



**ASA Fall Workshop: Fiddle Fest with
Patrick Clark, October 26-27, 2012**