



Arizona Suzuki Association Winter 2010 Newsletter

Special Points of Interest

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Beautiful Hearts, By Laura Tagawa, ASA President

"Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance. They get a beautiful heart." --- Shinichi Suzuki

There are many ways one can interpret beauty, whether in art or music or in human beings. Suzuki believed the two are the same and that through music, one can develop a beautiful heart. Of course parents and teachers see evidence of this in their homes and studios, where students come together to share their music together. On a daily level, it can sometimes be difficult to remember though. At times practicing can be a challenge, or a certain song can be a challenge. At these moments it may seem as though learning the notes is the goal, but rather it's the process of the journey that leads us to the beautiful hearts.

"Knowledge is not skill.

Knowledge plus ten thousand times is skill."--- Shinichi Suzuki

"Any child can be developed, it depends on how you do it." --- Shinichi Suzuki

"Beautiful tone, beautiful heart." --- Shinichi Suzuki

Suzuki gives us many tools for achieving musical development and growth including his philosophy of learning, a fine collection of repertoire, recordings and lots of "words of wisdom." Suzuki wrote books such as *Nurtured by Love* and *Ability Development from Age Zero* which give teachers and parents valuable insight and inspiration.

We also have tools both nationally and locally to broaden our Suzuki experiences. The Suzuki Association's web-site provides valuable information about the approach as well as current listings of upcoming summer institutes listings and teacher training courses (<http://www.suzukiassociation.org>). Our own Arizona Suzuki Association gives parents and teachers a chance to get

involved locally. We provide a current list of Arizona Suzuki teachers, information about upcoming events around the state, a booklist, interesting links and informative articles in our newsletters. We encourage our members to share news of events and participate in state-wide events. This will build a strong sense of community and provide exceptional opportunities for growth and inspiration for our students.

Suzuki's dream of creating beautiful people through music continues to be realized in Arizona and around the world.

"When love is deep, much can be accomplished." --- Shinichi Suzuki

"Music exists for the purpose of growing an admirable heart." --- Shinichi Suzuki



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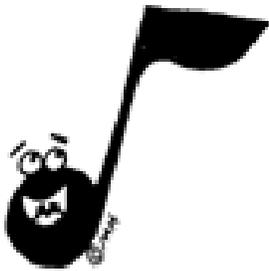
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Message from Gloria Elliot, ASA—PPG, President



Oops!

When in the fifth measure of the piece my friend made a note mistake while studying in Japan, she said, “Oops.”

Kataoka Sensei asked why she said it then when in fact she had already made at least 5 musical mistakes.

“It is too bad that you only notice the note mistakes which are the easy mistakes to correct.” Dr. Suzuki always said that after the student learns the correct notes, counting and fingering, they could BEGIN to study the piece. This is a foreign idea to many teachers and parents. We thought when all those things were accomplished that the piece was “done.” Learning to listen and do technique well produces such things as ringing tone, down beats, clear and even scales,

the so-called “musical performance of someone with natural talent.”

What does it take to produce that “talented” performer? The first thing is a belief that all children can do it. This is the most basic idea of Dr. Suzuki’s method. We may need to re-read *Nurtured by Love* regularly to really understand this in our daily work with students. That book also gives us insight into how to create the nurturing environment where the child can learn most effectively. This involves having the music playing many hours every day and regular practice with a positive presentation. The recordings provide much more than just the correct notes and counting, the students absorb the musical aspects without being

told what they are in words. With that understanding, teachers can help students develop the technique needed to produce musical sound. Parents help the child learn the notes, fingerings and counting that are the starting point. By attending performances, working regularly with students and providing positive reinforcement, parents help create a desire to learn in the student and over time true ability. Parents also must provide an instrument that can reproduce those musical sounds for the child to be successful.

We all have “talented” students. Let’s all believe and work hard together!

News From Around the State

The Music & Dance Academy, celebrating its 15th Anniversary in 2010, provides comprehensive music education for all ages, fostering ability in each student and inspiring a learning community that embraces diversity. The Academy uses innovative teaching methods in strings, guitar, woodwinds, brass, percussion, piano, voice and dance. Academy students perform throughout the year in public recitals and Gala Concerts.

Each season the Academy offers the community workshops featuring nationally and internationally renowned artists and leading Master Teachers, Magic Rug Concerts, engaging and interactive musical concerts for families and children, and a Faculty Artist Concert Series. Committed to excellence in teaching, the Music & Dance Academy is a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts.

Summer Institutes:

Please check the Website www.suzukiassociation.org to find dates and locations of Summer Institutes. This experience can't be beat for bonding a family in the joy of playing instruments.

ASA 2009 Fall Workshop with Terry Durbin

On October 23 and 24, 2009, Arizona Suzuki Association held a Fall Workshop with Dr. Terry Durbin. On Friday, October 23, Dr. Durbin gave Master Classes to advanced students. The next day, Dr. Durbin captivated the students with his zany humor and ability to improvise on Suzuki pieces. He and the students played pieces like they never had before. Everyone left with a smile on his or her face. Dr. Durbin also directed an orchestra of advanced students. What a fun-filled and inspirational day! Go to our website www.azsuzuki.org to see pictures from the day.

We are currently planning next year's Fall Festival. If you would like to help in the planning, please email Mary at marywilkening@cox.net.

Valley of the Sun Suzuki Association

(VSSA) held its Fall Book Promotion Recital on November 21. Over 50 students performed in solos and in groups. VSSA will hold its Annual Spring Workshop on Saturday, April 24. The theme is **Wizard of OZ**. "**We're Off to See Su-**

zuki..." For the location and more information contact Kristine Ehlis 480-703-0452 kristinee@cox.net



NAU—Michiko Yurko will be teaching a Unit 1 teacher training session with Music Mind Games starting the evening of

March 26-March 28 (7-9PM on Friday, Sat and Sun. 9:30-4:30) Visit her website : www.musicmindgames.com. There is a cap on the number of participants, so be sure to register early.

A special rate has been set aside at the Drury Inn in Flagstaff. If one calls, ask for the promotion "E-Saver". This Inn is on campus and it is walking distance to the school of music.

Registration fee is only \$195.00 compared to \$320.00 if you take teacher training at an Institute or at her school in Maryland.

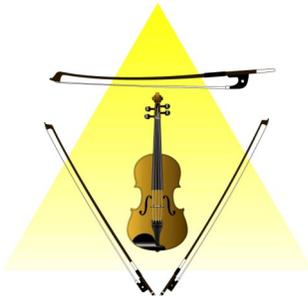
Registrations will be up shortly through the NAU Community Music and Dance Academy Website, www4.nau.edu/music/academy/



ASA
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