



Arizona Suzuki Association

Spring 2016

Newsletter

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Creating Well-Rounded Human Beings, by Deena Reedy, D.M A

In the quest for the secret of music, a "man-made art", Dr. Suzuki determined, "Even if I had no talent, and even if my progress was slow, I determined to plod on step by step toward my goal of becoming a whole, well-rounded human being. I did not hurry, but I did not rest either. I endeavored ceaselessly. And it gave me both peace of mind and something to live for." When I began my journey as a Suzuki teacher over 15 years ago, I had been teaching students the traditional way, just as I had studied my instrument. There were many things that always struck me about Suzuki students that I had seen perform over the years, not the least of which was how fearless they were about performing from memory and, of course, how young they could begin learning and with such an atmosphere of fun and joy! However, the overall goal of creating a well-rounded human being with a beautiful heart was very appealing. Recently, this has taken on an entirely new meaning for me.

Although I have had many students over the years that have put forth great efforts and have studied for many years, this marks the first year I will see a student complete her private music education from age 4 through high school graduation. I had no idea what a joyful journey it could be. Witnessing a person grow from a young child into a beautiful human being is a rare gift I would not have been able to experience without the Suzuki approach to teaching. For many of the early years, I was amazed at this student's progress, nurtured not only by her weekly lessons, but her interest in the flute and desire to work hard and especially by her mother's constant and gentle guidance. This student quickly developed an excellent and disciplined work ethic under her mother's direction, coupled with my suggestions. Although I thought we might never reach a point where she would abandon her excellent practice habits (as happens with practically all students at some point), it became an issue about midway through

high school. She was getting by with little practice, playing in orchestra, but not making much progress. Her parents had a heart to heart conversation with her, and told her if she didn't start showing some effort, that they wouldn't continue paying for lessons. Of course, every child is different, but in this case, this was the wake up call she needed. She realized she didn't want to stop her lessons and began to practice more diligently again. However, if the work ethic hadn't been so successfully established early on, and our student/teacher relationship hadn't been cemented by years of working together, she might have made a different decision. No matter what struggles one may experience, try to remember that the long term end result of developing a well-rounded human being far outweighs the short term struggle.

In addition to music, it's been incredible to see this student grow physically taller (we used to measure her height on my arm, but now we'd have to do the reverse), emotionally more mature, learn to work successfully with other musicians, excel in swimming and become a wonderful human being inside and out who has chosen a college and a career path. In order to accomplish this well-rounded persona, though, there were choices that were made to help maintain a balance; my student didn't do every competition or recital, but kept a balance between music, swimming and other activities. (I think we as teachers need to remember to do our part to help facilitate these choices.) Although she will not have music as a major, she has assured me that she will seek out opportunities to continue playing, because she loves to play.

In closing, I would like to share one other quote from Dr. Suzuki: "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."

Having now experienced this purpose from a long term perspective, I look forward to experiencing this transformation in many more students for many years to come.

“Summer: Ready or not, here it comes!” by Amy Norton, Suzuki Violin Teacher



It seems that as soon as the weather starts warming up, students and parents alike can't wait for long, lazy summer days free from carpool, early morning wakeups, and endless commitments. As a parent and a teacher, I get excited about unscheduled summer days because all the free time equals more practice time and lots of progress for my students and my children, right?

The truth is, the very thing that makes summer so wonderful can sometimes make consistent practicing and progress difficult. It can be tricky to practice consistently during the season of camping, water fights and spending time with friends and family. Unfortunately, summers without practicing can lead to months of work to regain skills that were mastered in May! With some advanced planning and preparation, summer can be a time of great progress. Here are some ideas from Suzuki teachers and families to keep motivation and momentum during the summer months.

Work for Consistency. We all know that 7 days in a row of practicing, even in small amounts, leads to greater progress than practicing long amount for 2 days. Schedule a time every day for practicing, and stick to it. Mornings right after breakfast works great in my house. Suggest to your children that the practicing gets done before friends or video games, and if you know you have a busy day ahead, get up a little earlier to get the practicing in before you set off on your adventures.

Have a plan for vacations. While it's not always possible to travel with instruments, sometimes a little creativity can keep the momentum going. Take your instruments along on your vacation and perform for family members and friends. Take a practice break at a rest stop! I once heard about a piano teacher who challenged her students while vacationing to find a piano to play on every day and take a photo to send back to her. And don't forget about the listening! Even if you can't bring your instrument on a road trip, think of how many repetitions of your current book CD you can accomplish during your long drives or flights!

Set Goals. Summer is a great time to set new practice goals. Work for 7, 14, 30 or more days in a row without missing and then celebrate your accomplishments. Make a goal for the whole summer of repertoire to learn or a specific technique to master and chart your progress.

Be flexible and have fun! Summer is a great time to be creative in your practicing. Take your practicing outside for a day, invite a music friend over and have a “practice playdate” where the children practice then play together. Watch for outdoor concerts and events to motivate and excite your students.

Don't forget about Summer Institutes! These wonderful, focused weeks can be just the shot of motivation you and your student need. There's nothing like the energy that comes from associating with amazing friends and faculty from all over and the new ideas you can take from the classes and concerts you attend.

With a little planning and thinking ahead, summer can be a time of great progress. Here's to a summer full of great musical fun and accomplishment!

ASA Fall Workshop on October 21 and 22, 2016.

The 2015 ASA Fall Workshop will take place on October 21-22 at Orangewood Church in Phoenix. The two-day workshop includes Friday Master Classes for Book 4 and above students, from 4 to 7 pm, with Suzuki violin, viola teacher, Terry Durbin, and Suzuki cello teacher, Carol Tarr, a Saturday Workshop for violin, viola and cello students, and a Teacher Workshop.

Schedule:

Friday Oct. 23, 4:00 -7:00 pm- Master Classes with Terry Durbin, violin, viola and Carol Tarr, cello.

Saturday Oct. 24, 9:00 am -3:00 pm - Student Workshop for Suzuki violin, viola, and cello students. The day will conclude with a workshop concert at 2:00 pm.

Saturday Oct. 24 3:30 - 5:30 pm - Teacher workshop with Terry Durbin: Group Lesson Ideas and How to Make Group Lessons Work for You and Your Program.



Dr. Terry Durbin

Dr. Timothy (Terry) Durbin's unique brand of teaching excellence makes him one of the most sought-after clinicians/conductors in the country. With infectious enthusiasm and inspired musicianship, he brings smiles and laughter to students throughout the United States and around the world. His dynamic teaching career includes over 800 workshops and institutes! His performance and teaching career stretches across the United States and Canada into Bermuda, Germany, Italy, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, and he has recorded two CDs, including the complete chamber music of Marcel Dupre for the Naxos label. He has been appointed principal conductor of the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra for the 2016-17 season. He has directed the South Dakota and Montana All State Orchestras. He is the holder of the American Suzuki Institute Suzuki Chair Award for 2013. Terry Durbin is also an accomplished composer and notable arranger.

Dr. Durbin holds a DMA in orchestral conducting from Claremont Graduate University in Los Angeles, California, a Masters in violin performance from

the University of Illinois, an undergraduate degree in violin performance from the University of Alabama, and is currently the director of the Suzuki String Program at the University of Louisville. He is a registered teacher trainer with the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

Terry lives with his wife, Sandy, on 140 acres north of Lexington, Kentucky. They have three children and two grandchildren.

He believes in the magic of music's power to enrich our lives.



Carol Tarr

Carol Tarr teaches at her home studio in Lakewood, CO, and long-term training at the University of Denver, Lamont School of Music. She has twice been president of Suzuki Association of Colorado. Her activities for the SAA include member of the cello committee, board of directors, Suzuki Principles in Action committee, and cello-coordinator for conference 2010. Carol loves to work with students, parents and teachers.

Phoenix Piano Group News, by Gloria Elliott

The Phoenix Piano Group of the ASA recently held their annual graduation concert with 33 students from 5 studios participating after having passed an audition in April. The Arizona Book 1 Level Christmas Day Secrets through the International Level 4 Haydn Sonata No.48 were all represented and the picture accompanying this article shows students with their trophies during the final bow. The recital was held at My First Piano in Mesa on May 7.

Master Teacher, Bruce Anderson, taught Arizona students from March 1 – 6. Five Phoenix teachers had students participate. Mr. Anderson was the first American piano teacher to do extended study in Japan with Suzuki Sensei and Kataoka Sensei for 3 years. That education in addition to his own masters degree and years of experience provide a broad range of knowledge and technical skills to share with teachers and students. His exciting way of helping students learn to really hear what they are playing can improve a student's playing in just one lesson. ASA-PPG looks forward to his return next winter. In addition, Dr. Karen Hagberg will teach in Arizona in the fall of 2016. Arizona piano teachers using the Suzuki approach feel that students and teachers gain from the perspectives shared by these master teachers and our goal is for all students to have at least 1 and hopefully 2 master classes each year. If advanced students can benefit, surely beginning students can – and they do!

The February workshop with Japanese teachers went very well with teachers registered from Canada, all west coast states, Nebraska and Arizona participating. Sixteen Phoenix area students were selected for the Friendship Concert held at the Kroc Performing Center. Twenty-eight area students participated in master classes.

The Kick-Off Concerts in January in Mesa with private pizza buffet and organ concert at Organ Stop Pizza were enjoyed by 38 students and their families and relatives.

ASA-PPG Students at their
Graduation Recital

Teacher's Column

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

**Just register today at
www.azsuzuki.org**

Name_____

Instrument_____

Address_____

City_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Or, fill out this form and send it to Mary Wilkening, 1157 E Acacia Circle, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340 with your \$10 annual dues.



On the Road: Summer Travel Tips for Musicians

By Laura Tagawa, ASA President, Violin Teacher

If your plans take you on the road this summer, here are some tips for travelling musicians! Before the trip I recommend making sure you have all the supplies you need while travelling. For string players, this includes rosin, polishing cloth, an extra bow (if possible) and an extra set of strings. Even if your strings are new, it's funny how as soon as you leave home they seem more likely to break! This could be because of the change in temperature and humidity, or because you may be playing more than usual (if attending a summer music camp). Never the less, it is good to be prepared since you may not have access to a music store in your area while travelling. Also be sure to pack all your music books. It may save space to photocopy the music you will need and put it in a binder, rather than bringing a lot of heavy books.

If travelling by air, be sure to check with the airline for size limitations for carry-on items. For violinists, bring the smallest size case you can. Consider asking your teacher or friend to borrow a travel size case if you play a full-size violin. If travelling with a fractional size violin it should fit in the overhead without any problem (never check it with your checked bags). If you are a cellist, check with your teacher about travelling with a cello on an airplane, or the possibility of renting or borrowing a cello at your destination.

If travelling by car, always bring your instrument inside with you, especially if travelling in warm/hot weather. If you must leave your instrument in a parked car, be sure it is not visible so it is not a target for theft. Also be sure it is never in direct sunlight.

Once you arrive at your destination, always check the condition of your instrument. It can be exciting practice in new places while travelling. If staying at a hotel or sharing space with others, a practice mute may come in useful. Try playing outdoors if the weather is nice, and enjoy the change from your home routine! Here is a checklist of things to bring, especially if you are attending a summer institute or camp. Enjoy your summer travels and music!!!

Travel checklist for musicians:

- Instrument (with an extra bow, if possible)
- Shoulder rest (violin and viola), rock stop (cello)
- Rosin and polishing cloth
- Extra set of strings
- Practice mute
- Music
- Pencils
- Folding music stand
- Tuner



News from NAU School of Music

2015 Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU - Dates: Senior Session: June 19- July 2(*entering grade 9 - 13 in fall 2016*) Junior Session: July 3 - 9(*entering grade 7 - 9 in fall 2016*)

Learn

- Work with NAU School of Music faculty and renowned musicians from across the country
- Full ensemble rehearsals with outstanding clinicians each day
- Attend master classes, sectionals, and other courses that expand knowledge and appreciation of different facets of music
- Private lesson and chamber coaching opportunities



Perform

- Finale ensemble concerts in Ardrey Memorial Auditorium at the end of each week
- Audition to perform for peers in the annual Student Honor Recital, Student Chamber Recital, and Variety Show
- Pianists perform in recital on the stage of Ardrey Memorial Auditorium at the conclusion of each session

Enjoy

- Established in 1950 by Dr. Jack Swartz
- Surrounded by the San Francisco Peaks on the Northern Arizona University campus in Flagstaff, Arizona
- Attend concerts, recitals, and other fun activities such as the talent show, dances, movie nights, camp games, and more!
- Go to [www.nau.edu/music camp.](http://www.nau.edu/musiccamp) for more information.



It's our 20th Birthday!



The Arizona Suzuki Association was incorporated in April, 1996. We held our first Fall Festival on November 2, 1996 at Bethany Community Church in Tempe. The clinicians were Rodney Farrar, cello, and Doris Koppelman, piano. Watch for a trip down Memory Lane in the upcoming issues of the ASA Newsletter.





ASA Board of Directors 2016-2017

The ASA Board for 2015-2016

Laura Tagawa, President, Violin

Chris Mahar, Treasurer, Parent

Bonnie Roesch, Secretary, Violin

Mary Wilkening, Newsletter, Webmaster, Cello

Kylie Ahern, Violin

Eunice Elie, Violin

Christi Elie, Violin, Viola

Amy Norton, Violin

Megyn Neff, Violin

Louise Scott, Violin

Gloria Elliott, Piano

Kari Weldon, Voice

ASA members will receive a link from Survey Monkey to vote for our Board of Directors.

How About a Music Camp This Summer?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU. Junior Camp is July 3—9. Senior Camp is June 19—July 2. For more information go to www.cal.nau.edu/camp.
2. Prescott's Chaparral Musicfest Suzuki Piano and Violin Academy (For Suzuki Piano Students in Books 1—3 and Suzuki Violin Students in Books 1—4; Ages 6—12); The dates are June 8—11. For more information go to www.chaparralmusicfest.org.
3. West Valley Youth Orchestra Chamber Music Summer Camp with Quartet Sabaku for students in Suzuki Book 2 or above or comparable traditional students. This camp is held in Goodyear June 6-10. For more information go to www.wvyo.org.

See www.suzukiassociation.org for more Suzuki Camps



ASA
1157 E. Acacia Circle
Litchfield Park 85340



**ASA Fall Workshop with Terry Durbin and Carol Tarr,
October 21 and 22, 2016**



**It's Arizona Suzuki Association's 20th birthday!
Plan to come to the Fall Workshop and help us celebrate.**