



# Arizona Suzuki Association Winter 2017 Newsletter

## The Benefits of Suzuki Training for School Teachers, by Amy Bennett, Guest Columnist

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When I entered college, I knew I wanted to teach orchestra in the public schools. What I didn't know, was that I was going to use my NAU Suzuki teacher training education and experiences every day in my orchestra classes. As a freshman in college, my violin professor encouraged me to enter the Suzuki teacher training program at NAU. It took some convincing, as I was not a Suzuki student growing up, and I really felt that all I needed were the standard music education classes to be a good teacher. I can now say, that my Suzuki classes prepared me more for teaching school orchestra than any of my other college method classes.

Having the opportunity to teach group classes, was the best hands-on experience I could've asked for. I had to make lesson plans, work on my classroom management skills, and be able to change those plans on the spot when

things went a different direction than anticipated. On top of that, I had to do it all with a parent audience! Student teaching was much easier because I had already had so much practice being in front of the students. I have had many student teachers during my 19 years of teaching. I can always tell which students have had Suzuki teacher training, because they walk in confident and ready to teach on day one.

So many of the skills I learned for introducing new pieces to my private students, transfer directly into my very large classes. Every time we start something new, I break it down in to smaller chunks and we learn the hard material first – usually without the music.

Whether it is a new rhythm, new notes, or new fingerings, I teach it to the entire class, not just the section that has it in their music. Then when the students see the new material in their music, it is easy for them and they are able to learn the rest of it

much quicker.

Classroom management is always taken care of by keeping them busy. I learned in my Suzuki classes to always “play more and talk less.” The students are here to make music, not listen to me talk. Every day we end with a review piece. This always leaves the class on a positive note and the kids are proud of what they can do. It's a great motivational tool to get them excited to accomplish more.

Without my Suzuki teacher training classes, I would not be the teacher I am today. I have been very blessed to be doing exactly what I always wanted to do. My Suzuki teacher training has given me so many wonderful teaching opportunities.

*Please see a picture of Amy Bennett's Orchestra, Division 3 of Metropolitan Youth Symphony, on Page 2*

Amy Bennett conducting  
Divieion 3, Metropolitan Youth  
Symphony



### Teachers Enjoy “SPA Days in Phoenix, By Laura Tagawa, ASA President

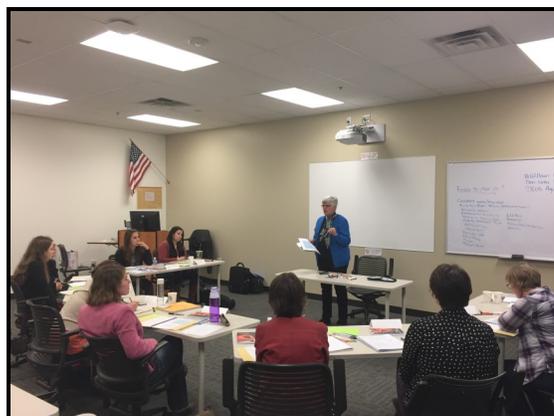
Suzuki teachers gathered in Phoenix on January 14-15, 2017 to attend SPA, the Suzuki Principles in Action course. The SPA course a class offered by Suzuki Association of the Americas and was hosted by ASA. SAA teacher trainer, Joanne Melvin from Calgary taught this eleven hour course. The course is designed to focus on how to teach, not what to teach, and to allow for the sharing of ideas among all instrument areas. Eleven teachers (violin, piano, and flute) came from Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Discussions focused on the art of teaching and topics included: creating and maintaining a long-term vision for each student, focusing attention on tone development, incorporating ear training and learning by ear in daily teaching, and giving productive, balanced, frequent feedback to students, among other topics. Video highlights included presentations by SAA teacher trainers, student performances, and footage of Suzuki teaching in group settings.

“Let’s continue to study the method by which every child grows and to seek the way to raise children better and better; let’s together continue our quest for deeper study and practice. How fortunate it is that we have challenging lives in which we are walking together holding hands.” –Shinichi Suzuki in *Where Love Is Deep*, p. 34



Participants in the SPA Class



Jeanne Melvin teaching the SPA Class

## Summer Music Camps

### **Summer Institutes:**

Please check the Website [www.suzukiassociation.org](http://www.suzukiassociation.org) to find dates and locations of Suzuki Summer Institutes. This experience can't be beat for bonding a family in the joy of playing instruments



### **Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU Summer 2017**

**Senior Session: June 18 - July 1 (*entering grade 9 - 13 in Fall 2017*)**

**Junior Session: July 2 - 8 (*entering grade 7 - 9 in Fall 2017*)**

[www.nau.edu/cal/curry](http://www.nau.edu/cal/curry)

***IN THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY***

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**Chaparral Suzuki Academy**

**June 14-17, 2017**

**Location: St Luke's Episcopal Church, 2000 Shepherds Ln, Prescott, Arizona**

The Chaparral Suzuki Academy fills a need within the Arizona community for an affordable Suzuki style camp for violin, viola, and piano students. The classes offered stimulate and motivate our students while reinforcing the skills developed in the normal course of study at home. We are a SAA approved summer institute. The academy is aimed towards ages 6 – 12. Some students younger than 6 can be accommodated if you contact us directly.

**Deadline:** The registration deadline is May 1 or, if full capacity is met, earlier.

**Questions?** Contact Laura Tagawa, Director at [chaparralsuzuki@gmail.com](mailto:chaparralsuzuki@gmail.com)

The **West Valley Youth Orchestra** is sponsoring **WVYO Chamber Music Summer Camp with Quartet Sabaku**. The dates will be June 5–11, 2017, in

Goodyear Arizona. Please go to [www.wvyo.org](http://www.wvyo.org) for more information.

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News From Around the State

**Valley of the Sun Suzuki Workshop 2017**

**SAVE THE DAY: Saturday, February 25, 2017 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Theme: Pirates take over Suzuki**



*Ahoy, musical mateys! Come one, come all to the Valley of the Sun Suzuki Workshop on Saturday, February 25th. We'll have wonderful classes with inspiring clinicians, and will learn some Pirate Suzuki music to play all together in the concert. This year's location is the Tri-City Baptist Church in Chandler, near the 101/202 (San Tan) interchange. Register ASAP to reserve your space! Last year's workshop was completely full. Information and online registration available at <http://www.valleysuzuki.org/spring-workshop.html>.*

Any questions? Contact Lani Hill, [blumesa@byu.net](mailto:blumesa@byu.net) or 480-688-9285 (cell).

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PPG-ASA-Phoenix Piano Group, By Gloria Elliott

The week of January 9 master classes with Bruce Anderson of Florida was rescheduled to next year due to his family emergency.

Graduation auditions will feature a master class for each graduate with Linda Nakagawa of Sacramento and will be held on March 4. All students and parents are welcome to observe. Mrs. Nakagawa will also teach master classes the next day for students who are interested. Graduation will be held at My First Piano in Mesa on April 1.

Planning is underway for a fun event for all students at the MIM in late April and teachers will soon have exact details.



Scenes from 2016 ASA Fall Workshop...



Terry Durbin conducts the Workshop Orchestra.

Dan Swaim and Suzuki bass students give a demonstration during lunch.



Taylor Morris works on fiddling technique with violin students.

Carol Tarr leads a cello repertoire group.





ASA

1157 E. Acacia Circle

Litchfield Park 85340



**See the Arizona Suzuki Association  
Membership Directory Inside!**