



# Arizona Suzuki Association

## Winter 2015

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#### **Suzuki for Life**

By Guest Columnist, Kathleen M Duerksen, MD

I grew up in Iowa City, Iowa and was fortunate to be one of Doris Preucil's original thirteen Iowa students, taking violin lessons in her basement studio each week.

My mother is a choral musician who grew up wanting to play the violin, but there were no violin teachers in her rural farming community. So naturally, when she met Doris Preucil, she signed me up for Suzuki violin right away!

I started playing at age five or six and could play violin even before I could read. Thus, violin has always been a part of my life and seems as natural and important to me as all the necessary skills we learn at that age. For me, it's not just playing the violin, it's part of my family,

friend, and community interactions. Starting young and practicing with a parent makes music an integral part of one's childhood. The Suzuki method fosters and amplifies this and provides a family centered activity. I am grateful that my mother had the fortitude to continue to work with me and make me practice --especially during those difficult junior high years!

I did not pursue music as a career, but it is a very important part of my life. Most years I have been fortunate to play in an orchestra and I feel a real void if I am not playing. The Suzuki method, with its emphasis on listening and then playing, and intense training and development of the student's "ear," facilitates the ability to pick up the instrument again after an absence. It teaches us to think of the music, not just the notes

on the page. Just for fun, I've gone to music camps for bluegrass and folk music and found that I could jump in, play, and have a great time using my "play by ear" Suzuki training. I truly feel that the Suzuki training and discipline, both mental and physical, helped in my process of becoming a surgeon.

I continue to appreciate my Suzuki upbringing and will always think of Doris Preucil as my violin teacher and also a bit like my second mom. I recently visited the Preucil's in Iowa City and wondered whether she'd ever invented the "position machine" she described for students to stand in each day to solidify the correct stance for playing. I didn't see one around their house, but....:-)

(Picture on Page 2)

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Kathleen M Drekksen, MD, with William and Doris Pruecil

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## Every Child Can!

**What:** Announcing an Every Child Can! workshop in Tucson, with renowned educator, Dr. Louise Scott. The weekend will also include a special session for teachers - A String Teaching Overview: Building a Good Foundation for Learning and Playing, student masterclasses and a parent session filled with practice tips and suggestions.

**Where:** The Arizona Music and Dance Academy, 4811 East Sunrise Dr., Suite 143, Tucson, AZ 85718

**When:** January 30 (10am - 5:30pm) & 31 (9am - 4:30pm), 2014

Please see the Schedule below for more details, or contact Deena Reedy, [jtmouse@yahoo.com](mailto:jtmouse@yahoo.com).

### Every Child Can Workshop Schedule

January 30-31, 2015

Arizona Music & Dance Academy 4811 E Sunrise Dr., Suite 143

**Friday** 10 am—5:30 pm—Every Child Can! (1:00—2:30 pm Lunch on your own

**Saturday**—Teacher, Student, and Parent Workshops

9 am to 11 am—String Teaching Overview: Building a Good Foundation for Learning and Playing (all teachers welcome)

11 am—12 noon—Perspective for Parents: Tips for Home Practice

Noon—1:30—Lunch

1:30—2:30—Student Masterclass

2:30—3:30—Student Masterclass

3:30—4:30—Student Masterclass

## 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

### 2015 Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU

[www.cal.nau.edu/camp/](http://www.cal.nau.edu/camp/)  
Senior Camp (9th—12th Grade)

June 21—July 4

Junior Camp (7th-9th Grade)

July 5—11

For more information go to  
[www.cal.nau.edu/camp](http://www.cal.nau.edu/camp)

Facebook: Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU



### Chaparral MusicFest Suzuki Academy

Join us this June 10-13, 2015 in beautiful Prescott, Arizona for this small, intimate, and affordable Suzuki Institute. The **Chaparral MusicFest Suzuki Academy** is a four day session is designed to fill a need within the Arizona region for a Suzuki style camp that will further enrich and inspire our students. The Suzuki Academy is open piano and violin students in Books 1-3. Core classes include Master Class, Repertoire and Group Classes and Musicianship and Theory. Enrichment classes include Fiddle, Student Duets for Violin and Piano, Composition and Music Reading. Space is limited and typically filled with repeat attendees, so early registration is recommended.

Please visit [chaparralmusicfest.org](http://chaparralmusicfest.org) for more info, Brochure and Registration Form.

The **West Valley Youth Orchestra** is sponsoring **WVYO Chamber Music Summer Camp with Quartet Sabaku**. The dates will be June 8—12, 2015, in Goodyear Arizona. Please go to [www.wvyo.org](http://www.wvyo.org) for more information.

## News From Around the State

### Valley of the Sun Suzuki Association (VSSA)

#### Valley of the Sun Suzuki Workshop 2015!

**SAVE THE DAY: Saturday, February 28, 2015 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Theme: Suzuki Loves Legos!**

Plan on attending VSSA's annual winter workshop in Mesa, Arizona. Join us in welcoming our guest clinicians for a day of fun and learning. The winter workshop helps provide a little break from your everyday routine, and you get to spend the day with other Suzuki families. It's a great time for parents to network about practice tips and for the students to see others Suzuki students in action!

#### Guest clinicians

Violin: Gail Acosta, Laura Tagawa, Shelley Rich, Emily Edison

Cello: Emily Millhouse

Music and Movement: Cathy Shepherd

The day for most students will consist of:

- a group class
- a masterclass for those playing Song of the Wind and beyond
- an ensemble music or movement class
- an art class

Students who play Twinkle through Song of the Wind will have the same schedule, but without a masterclass.

Included in tuition: classes listed above; lunch and snack; T-shirt.

Make sure you reserve the day from 8:30-3:30. Registration forms will be posted on the VSSA website [www.valleysuzuki.org](http://www.valleysuzuki.org) by January 30, 2015.

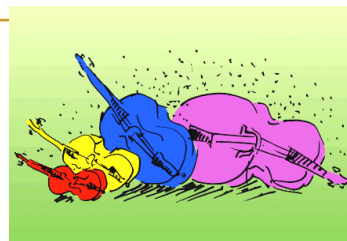
Any questions? Contact Lani Hill, [bluemesa@byu.net](mailto:bluemesa@byu.net) or 480-688-9285 (cell).

### ASA—Phoenix Piano Group Upcoming Events:

January 31, 2015—New Year Kickoff concert and Pizza Party at My First Piano and Organ Stop Pizza

Date and Place TBD—Spring Master Class

May 9—Graduation Recital—11:30 am, My First Piano



### Chandler School of Fine Arts

## 2014 ASA Fall Workshop has a record number of students!

ASA hosted the 2014 Fall Workshop, on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> at Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Phoenix. A record setting 82 students attended on Saturday along with 15 teachers in the Friday Teacher Workshop.

On Friday evening, Mark Mutter presented a Group Class for students in Books 1 —4 followed by a Teacher Workshop on teaching Group Classes. Nancy Yamagata gave Cello Master classes to cellists in Books 4 and above.

On Saturday, Violin, Viola and Cello students in Books 1—3 had Suzuki repertoire classes, master classes with local teachers, and singing classes. They also had fiddling classes with Taylor Morris who wowed the audience with a fiddling demonstration during lunch. Mark Mutter worked with all levels of violinists on Suzuki repertoire, and with advanced violin students on Vivaldi's *Largo*, and with advanced violinists and cellists on his own piece, *Generations*. Nancy Yamagata led all levels of cellists on Suzuki repertoire, and conducted an advanced cello choir in Rodney Farner's arrangement of *Eleanor Rigby*, and *Kojo No Tsuki* by Taki.



Fiddling class



Master class with cello teacher Andrea Gordon



Cello Choir Practice with Nancy Yamagata



Taylor Morris presents a fiddling demonstration



Mark Mutter leads Suzuki repertoire in the final concert



ASA

1157 E. Acacia Circle

Litchfield Park 85340



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