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Arizona Suzuki Association

Newlsetter



Suzuki Early Childhood Education and the Seven Concepts of the Suzuki Philosophy

by Alexandra Jacques, Violin and SECE Teacher

A Suzuki Early Childhood Education class will be offered for the first time at this year's ASA Fall Workshop. This is a great class where parents and young children can bond through singing, movement, and playing instruments while building musical and life skills. This class isn't new to the Suzuki world, but is fairly new in Arizona and we'd love to have families with babies and toddlers take advantage of the opportunity to participate at the workshop!

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Save the Date!

- **October 18-19, ASA**
Fall workshop

Suzuki Early Childhood Education and the Seven Concepts of the Suzuki Philosophy Continued from page 1

Suzuki Early Childhood Education (SECE) is a weekly music program for children ages 0-3 with their parents. It was developed by Dorothy and Sharon Jones, at the encouragement of Dr. Suzuki, who of course believed that music education should start as early as possible. The class is designed for teachers to work closely with parents to create a positive, nurturing environment for children, to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and development of fine character. My perspective of SECE is as both a trained teacher, and a new parent who brought my son for an institute SECE class this past summer when he was three months old. We spend much of our training focusing on the Seven Concepts of SECE, core beliefs of the Suzuki Philosophy that we can sometimes forget about in instrumental lessons. Studying these concepts in depth has influenced my violin teaching, and has been very timely now that I have my first child, as these are ideas I find valuable in parenting as well. Here are the seven concepts, with explanations as they fit into the SECE curriculum and class activities.

Every Child Can Learn: This fundamental belief that all Suzuki teachers and families hopefully share, is the reason why it wasn't considered unusual for me to enroll my son into an SECE class at an institute when he was only 3 months old. Teachers understand that babies and toddlers have unlimited potential to learn, and activities are designed so that there is something for every child. The three-month-old baby may be tracking the ball rolling in the circle at the beginning of class with his eyes for the first time, while the 1-year-old may develop the skills to roll the ball in the circle without his mother's help, and the three-year-old will be watching the circle to see who hasn't had a turn, and who they should roll the ball to next.

Ability Develops Early: Children's brains develop rapidly in the first three years of their life, and infants are born already being able to recognize their mother's voice and sounds heard in the womb. The SECE program aims to create a nurturing environment as early as possible, allowing children to experience music through listening, singing, movement, and playing instruments. A number of skills are addressed, such as steady beat, understanding pitch, counting, tracking left to right, social/emotional skills, and many more than I can list here. Prenatal listening is also encouraged for expectant mothers.

Environment Nurtures Growth: A primary goal of SECE teachers is to create a calm, supportive, low-pressure environment with stimulating musical experiences. Children and parents sit in a circle to encourage children's focus in the circle, the class includes a variety of activities with little downtime, teachers speak calmly, and children are encouraged to take turns on instruments, but never pressured. This allows children to learn in small steps when they are ready.

Children Learn from One Another: Unlike other music programs, SECE classes are not divided by age or ability level. Having a mixed ages of babies and toddlers in the class allows younger babies to learn from observing the older children, and older children are motivated to model good behavior for younger children. In an ongoing class, a six-month-old baby might see a two-year old walk into the circle every week to help the teacher count the drums, and once he can walk, will know the right time to do the same during class.

Success Breeds Success: Failure can breed fear and discourage a child, but celebrating success leads to more successful learning. In SECE class, even seemingly small successes are celebrated, such as a baby taking the mallet for the lollipop drum for the first time, rather than just having a "listen turn" for the steady beat activity. This will create confidence, and motivation to repeat this in the next class. After many successful weeks he may be confident enough to walk up for a turn on the drum without his mom. Celebrating each successful step in class creates a rich learning experience for each child.

Parental Involvement is Critical: One of my favorite tips from the teacher of my son's SECE class this summer was encouraging the parents to sing all of the songs in class. We might not love our own singing voices, but in our children's eyes, we are rockstars, and our singing will, in time, encourage them to sing. SECE classes set up the Suzuki Triangle (parent, child, teacher) from an early age, and acknowledge that the parent is the child's most important teacher. Babies and toddlers rely on their parents for just about everything, so seeing their parents' involvement in class is so valuable to their development.

Encouragement is Essential: A wonderful moment, observed often in SECE classes, is a child going back to their parent for a hug after a successful turn on one of the instruments. Children need motivation to perform, and those hugs, smiles, and verbal praises mean everything to a child when they do well. They are far more likely to continue in their efforts with loving, positive reinforcement from their parents.

To learn more about SECE, you can visit the SAA website, (<https://suzukiassociation.org/ece/about/>), and I highly encourage you to listen to the "Building Noble Hearts" podcast, Season 1, Episode 5, "Skills I Didn't Know My Child Had" which is available on podcast apps or the SAA website.

If you have any questions, you can email me at aly788@gmail.com.



Suzuki Full Circle

By Laura Tagawa, ASA President and Violin Teacher

This summer, Suzuki students from around the state gathered in Prescott to attend the Chaparral Suzuki Academy (summer institute). Suzuki violin, cello, and piano students attended five classes daily including master class, repertoire, technique, fiddling, and musical improvisation. As a Suzuki event, parents also attended with their children. By the end of four days making music together, strong friendships were formed, and students returned home motivated and inspired.

It was six years ago that Owen Weldy and Catherine Ross attended the Chaparral Suzuki Academy as students. Owen was nine years old and Catherine was eight years old, both played violin and were in Suzuki Book 3. They attend the institute for two summers and have remained good friends since then. As the director of the institute, when they contacted me about coming back as volunteers to help, I was very excited to have them return. In their new roles as assistants, Owen and Catherine helped in every aspect of the institute, including organizational work, daily set up and clean up, and assisting teachers in class. They each had the opportunity to lead a piece and help students in class. They also got to perform solo pieces with piano on the faculty recital. Owen performed *Winter from the Four Seasons* by Vivaldi and Catherine performed *Czardas* by Monti, each showing amazing musical growth and maturity! After their time as assistants, Owen and Catherine answered the following interview questions about their experiences as Suzuki students, both then and now. They share their experiences with an open heart, offer advice for younger students, and inspire us all!

Laura Tagawa (LT): Please share your favorite memory or experience from CSA when you were a student.

Owen Weldy (OW): My favorite memory when I attended CSA was the improvisation class with Jonathan Best. He was so creative and put music in a whole new perspective for me.

Catherine Ross (CR): I liked playing with a large group and the improvisation class was my favorite. I really liked performing the fiddle piece and my solo performance on the final day. Also, you make new friends.

LT: Please share your favorite memory or experience from CSA when you were an assistant?

OW: My favorite memory as an assistant was helping the young campers and seeing them improve.

CR: WORKING with young musicians. Watching their final performance and seeing how far they'd come. I was so proud of them! And leading a student piece in performance.

LT: What other musical groups to you currently perform with (school orchestra, etc)?

OW: I attend Desert Vista High School and play in the chamber orchestra there. Last year I played with the Phoenix Youth Symphony.

CR: I am a member of the Tempe Preparatory Academy Sinfonia, Phoenix Youth Symphony Symphonette and Youth Concert Strings.

LT: How has your experiences as a Suzuki student shaped who you are today, both as a person and musician?

OW: My experience as a Suzuki musician has shaped me into a person with good work ethic and resilience against life struggles.

CR: It taught me the foundation of good practice, and that memorization is key!!! Especially for young kids and this is so important. And it taught me good technique. Don't ever quit anything, commitment and hard work can go a long way.

LT: Any advice for young Suzuki students?

OW: Advice I would give to young Suzuki students is to embark on as many musical opportunities as they can, because it helps make several good connections that they may never know about. I met one of my best friends through a Suzuki group I attended when I was 9 years old.

CR: Even when practicing is difficult, try to find ways to make it fun. Play in front of your friends and neighbors. Play in a different place like the backyard or driveway. My mom used to make an ice cream practice sheet, and it worked! Once all the sections were completed, I'd have a little ice cream party. Set goals for yourself, small or big. When you meet a goal, it feels good.



The Chaparral Suzuki Academy (CSA) took place June 12-15, 2019 in Prescott, Arizona. Suzuki violin, cello, and piano students enjoyed four days of classes and performances. CSA is an SAA approved summer institute and serves to build community among students, teacher, and parents. The week concluded with a celebration concert featuring solo and group performances from the Suzuki repertoire, piano and string duets, a musical skit, and fiddling. Thanks to all who attended and the amazing faculty who inspired all!



2019 CSA Faculty, Photo credit: Emile Davies-Venn

CSA pictures
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Celebration Concert: Photo credit: Emile Davies-Venn

Suzuki in the Schools: Scottsdale, Arizona

by Laura Syjud, ASA Board Member and Suzuki in the Schools Violin Teacher

In Scottsdale, Arizona within the Paradise Valley Unified School District, parents are talking about a five year old program at Desert Shadows Elementary School. Suzuki Violin is part of the curriculum for Preschool through third graders. All students come to Suzuki Violin class once to four times a week depending on the grade level and class. In fourth through sixth grade, students can opt into the program or explore other opportunities at the school. Two parents, Matt Ruffino and Becky Kellbaugh, share their experience in the program watching their children go through the stages of the Suzuki in the Schools program.

Mr. Ruffino describes how, six years ago, he saw his oldest daughter holding a violin. The sounds were not polished, but the image was not one he thought he would ever see. In his words, "I never had any intention to put a violin in my daughters hands. The fact that we now have three children with a proclaimed passion for the instrument would not have happened without this program. Having four children pass through the school since the program has begun, we are lucky enough to experience this time over".

Some skills Mr. Ruffino has seen in his daughters and son since starting this program include improved posture, concentration and more smiles through feeling the pride of accomplishing something such as playing the violin. The program, "...exposes the children to a musical experience that not only challenges them, but helps to build confidence in themselves through personal achievement," states Mr. Ruffino.

Becky Kellbaugh has a sixth grade daughter who started in the Suzuki program at Desert Shadows in second grade. In her words, "With Mrs. Syjud's patience, support, and guidance, my daughter was able to catch up with her peers in a short amount of time". Here daughter has chosen to continue with the program as her elective throughout the upper grades. On performances, Mrs. Kellbaugh mentions, "Mrs. Syjud provides several opportunities for students to showcase their talents throughout the school year by performing at the school as well as at public settings."

Consider visiting Mrs. Syjud's website to learn more about what is happening in the Desert Shadows Elementary School, Suzuki in the Schools program.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/pvlearners.net/lsyjud/home?authuser=1>



Suzuki Strings

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Suzuki Voice





Arizona Suzuki Association Fall Workshop

October 18 and 19, 2019

Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N 10th St, Phoenix
Friday, October 18 – 5:00 – 8:00 Teacher workshop with Winifred Crock and
Cello Master Classes for Bk 4 and up with Mary Beth Tyndall

Saturday, October 19 – 9:00 – 3:00 Student Workshop

Suzuki Early Childhood Education Class

Cost: \$65 before October 1/ \$75 after October 1 (See website for Cello Master Class, Teacher Workshop, SECE Class pricing) Deadline: October 8, 2019

Saturday Student Workshop:

Violin students in Books 1-3 will have a Repertoire class with Winifred Crock, Master class with Arizona teachers, Fiddling with Taylor Morris, and Musical Expression with Kari Weldon.

Violin students in Books 4 and Up will have a Repertoire/Violin Ensemble with Winifred Crock, Orchestra with Winifred Crock, Master class with Arizona teachers, and Fiddling with Taylor Morris. Cello students in Books 1-3 will have a Repertoire class with Mary Beth Tyndall, Master class with Arizona teachers, Fiddling with Taylor Morris, and Musical Expression with Kari Weldon.

Cello students in Books 4 and Up will have a Repertoire class and a Cello Choir class with Mary Beth Tyndall, Orchestra with Winifred Crock, Fiddling with Taylor Morris.

Musical Expression is *All aboard the "Express" Train!:* exploring musical expression through art, drama, and voice.

Please check the ASA Website www.azsuzuki.org for information on our clinicians Winifred Crock and Mary Beth Tyndall. Sign up and pay at the website under Fall Workshop 2019. Music for cello choir is also available at the website.



Winifred Crock



Mary Beth Tyndall



Arizona Suzuki Association Fall Workshop

October 18, 2019

Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N 10th St, Phoenix

Friday, October 18 – 5:00 – 8:00 Teacher workshop with Winifred Crock

Cost \$30 plus ASA membership

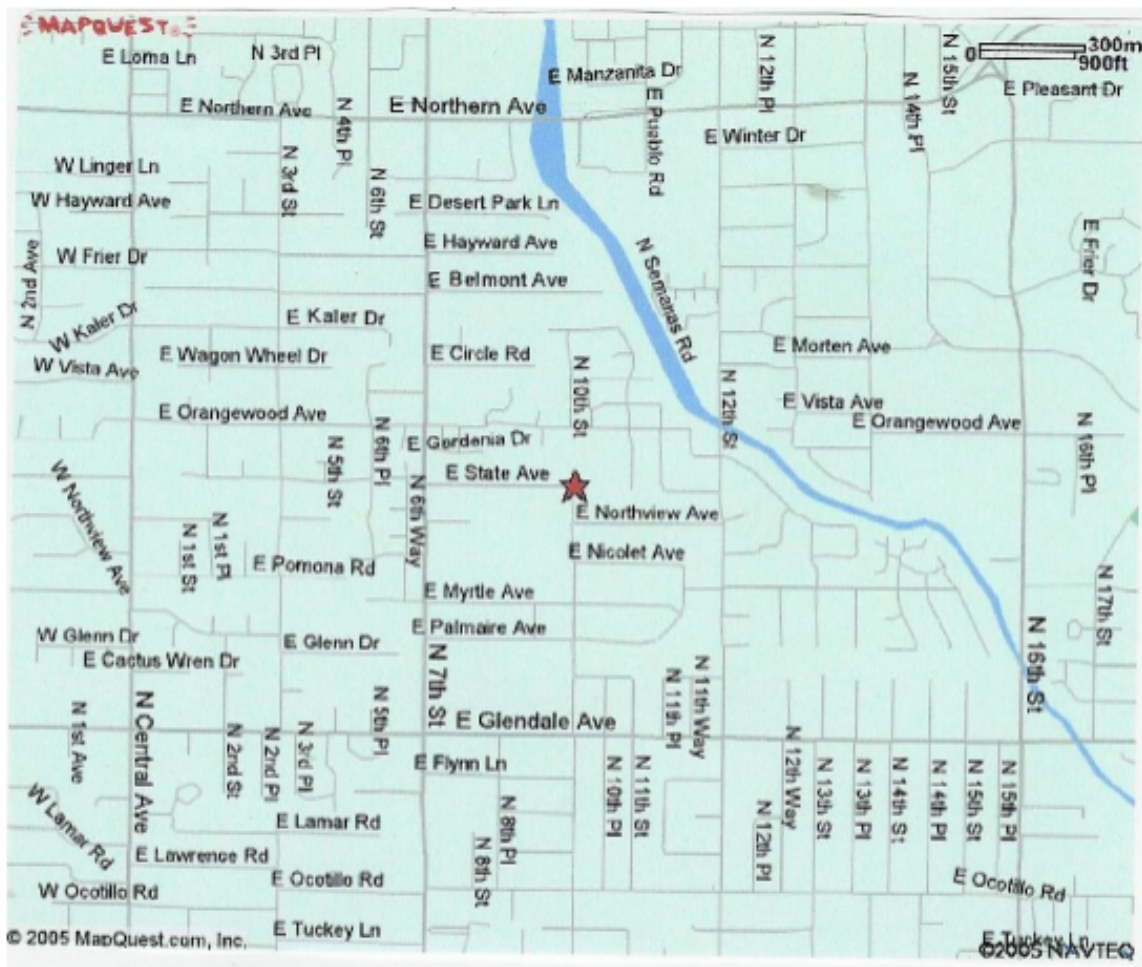
Teacher Workshop: Lift Offs and Landings: Teaching “Off-String” Bowing Techniques

The plethora of off-string bowings for string players make string music compelling, interesting and beautiful. Off-string techniques broaden tone color and articulation choices as well as the possibilities for stylistic interpretation and musical expression. Join Winifred in a detailed discussion of sequences and philosophies of teaching off-string bowing techniques. A variety of pedagogical concepts and materials will be shared as well as solutions for many common issues. This workshop is open to all string teachers (private and school teachers). Bring your instruments!



Winifred Crock

Map to Orangewood Church, Site of ASA Workshop



7321 N. 10th St, Phoenix, AZ 85020

From 51, the Piestewa Parkway, heading north, take the Glendale/Lincoln exit left (west). Then take a right (north) on 12th St. and go about 1/2 mile to Northview. Go left (west) until the street T-stops at 10th. Take a right (north) and it is right there.

Going south on 51, take the Northern exit going west (right). Go to 12th St. Take a left (south) to Northview, then a right (west) and follow the instructions above.

From I-17, take Glendale exit east (right). Go to 7th St. Take a left (north) to State, take a right (east) and the street stops at the church.

FALL 2019

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



Arizona Suzuki Association

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[Recipient]

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