

# ARIZONA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022



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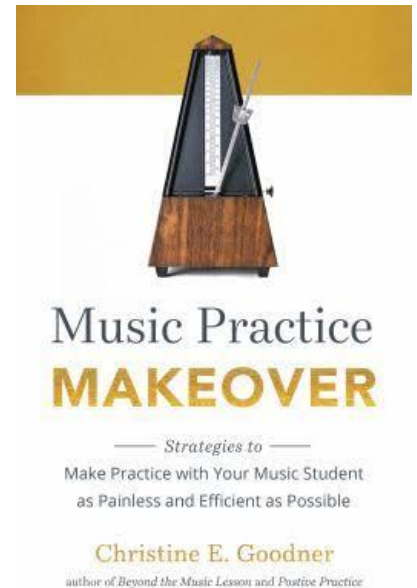


## BOOK REVIEW: CHRISTINE GOODNER'S MUSIC PRACTICE MAKEOVER

By Christopher Dorsey, ASA Board Member and Guitar Teacher

*Music Practice Makeover: Strategies to Make Practice with Your Music Student as Painless and Efficient as Possible* (2022)  
by Christine Goodner

For some of us, home practice with our child can turn into a “daily, scheduled argument.” Christine Goodner’s new book *Music Practice Makeover* is a great resource for studio teachers and parents that encourages us to review our approach to home practice and offers practical approaches for more effective and more enjoyable practice. You will probably hear some new ideas, and perhaps she addresses issues and shares ideas that you have heard many times before. Yes, we all know that many children are “overscheduled,” and thanks to the popularity of Carol Dweck’s research in growth mindset, we know to praise effort, not just results. Goodner also tells us that sometimes just being a calm and present practice partner is enough. It is often beneficial to be reminded of these ideas and hear them presented in new ways, and *Music Practice Makeover* is an excellent, up-to-date resource.



Author Christine Goodner is a Suzuki Violin, Viola, and Suzuki Early Childhood Education teacher who was also a Suzuki student from age 3 and a Suzuki parent. She has previously authored two well-received books, *Beyond the Music Lesson: Habits of Successful Suzuki Families* (2017) and the workbook *Positive Practice: 5 Steps to Helping Your Child Develop a Love of Music* (2018). She is also the host of the podcast *Time to Practice*.

Early in *Music Practice Makeover*, Goodner discusses the high percentage of practice partners who reported that the parent-child relationship was the biggest struggle in home practice. She encourages us to remind ourselves that we are developing a relationship with our child. However, parents may be embarrassed to admit that practice is not going smoothly and may not reach out for

support. Goodner recognizes that it is OK to admit that every practice doesn't go well and encourages us to start conversations with others and research effective solutions.

Goodner emphasizes that learning how to practice and learning the instrument are two separate skills and gives specifically concrete ways to help your child *plan*, *start*, and *end* practice. For example, give your child a practice "heads-up," then set a 10-minute timer for your child to begin. Goodner also shares occasional child development research throughout the book. For example, she reminds us that the prefrontal cortex is still developing until early adulthood, so some high schoolers may still need help scheduling practice into their busy schedules.

In the book, she defines positive practice and addresses common practice misconceptions, taking into account developmental stages of our young musicians. Goodner also addresses how practice could be organized using a short bullet point list for younger musicians and time-chunking techniques for older students. For younger students, having a practice toolkit with stickers, eggs shakers for rhythm, and games will allow the practice partner to offer the child a needed brain break without having to search the home for an item. For an older student, collecting a list of practice strategies or helpful checklists could be part of their toolkit.

I highly recommend Christine Goodner's *Music Practice Makeover*. It is an easy and engaging read and would be a great resource for a teacher to use in parent education whether beginning a new parent or the on-going parent education that often gets set aside once a child is finally playing the instrument. It is important to remember that the practice partner needs support from the teacher throughout the development of the child because their responsibilities as the practice partner change as the child grows. Maybe the studio teacher and parents could use this book as an "icebreaker" and general resource in a virtual book discussion when discussing practice strategies and these common (but not often discussed) issues.

There is something here for every studio teacher and parent, and Goodner makes many references to other excellent child development and music learning resource books that you may want to add to your bookshelf. Maybe you will find a surprisingly simple solution to an unresolved issue or maybe you will learn a new approach that will take more effort on your part as the practice partner. We should give ourselves some grace and allow ourselves to refine our approach to helping our young musicians have effective and even enjoyable practice.

## Summer Camps

**The West Valley Youth Orchestra Chamber Music Summer Camp (Phoenix):** With Quartet Sabaku is June 20 – 24, 2022 at Desert Springs Community Church, 14440 W. Indian School Rd., Goodyear. Time: 9:00 to 3:00 Monday – Friday. There will be a Camp Concert on Friday, June 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 918 S. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear. See <http://wvyo.org> for more details.

**Southwest String Quartet Chamber Music Workshop (Tucson):** This camp is for violin, viola and cello students. The Advanced Division (high school students) is June 6-10 and Intermediate Division (middle school students) is June 13-17. More info at <http://southweststringquartet.com/workshop.html>

**Curry Summer Music Camps at NAU (Flagstaff):** The Curry Summer Music Camp will not take place in 2022. Please check their website for alternate offerings, <https://nau.edu/music/programs-events/community-outreach/curry-summer-music-camp/>

### Suzuki Summer Institutes

Check the Suzuki Association of the Americas for a listing of summer institutes, both in-person and on-line. <https://suzukiassociation.org/events/institutes/>

# ASA FALL WORKSHOP



## Yeehaw!!!!

ASA Fall Workshop  
On  
September 24, 2022  
9:00am-4:00pm

At  
Orangewood Presbyterian Church



We are roundin' up all Suzuki Violin, Viola, Cello, Guitar, and Voice students of all levels and ages to join us for a boot scootin' good time at our Cowboy Fall Workshop! So dust off your hats, shine your boots, rosin your bows, and tune your instruments for a fun filled day of music!

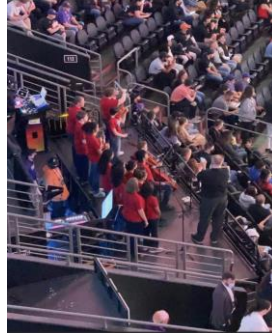
For more information, please visit [azsuzuki.org](http://azsuzuki.org)





## NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

In February, select Suzuki Strings and Voice students had the opportunity to perform the National Anthem at the Phoenix Suns vs. the Orlando Magic basketball game. The students performed our nation’s Anthem with such excitement and professionalism that the Suns' representative said in response to the loud applause afterwards, “We don’t usually hear such a loud applause for the National Anthem!” Slam Dunk Suzuki!



**SAVE THE DATE!!!** ASA is excited to be planning it’s **Fall Workshop on September 24, 2022** at Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Phoenix. Violin, viola, cello, guitar and voice student of all ages and levels are welcome. Check the ASA website for more info and watch for online registration this Fall. <https://azsuzuki.org/2022-fall-workshop/>



**News from the Valley of the Sun Suzuki Association (VSSA):** On March 23rd, a Casual Concert was held in Mesa. The VSSA-sponsored workshop had too few registrants to take place, but we had lots of fun with this concert, instead. About 20 students participated: violin, viola, cello, voice and piano. Teachers from all over the Phoenix area also played their instruments with the group, and took turns leading the songs. Alex Jacques led several numbers with her joyful baby girl in a carrier on her back. All the attendees (students, teachers, parents) were SO happy to be there. After the concert, as we shared refreshments, much happy visiting went on among families, teachers, etc who hadn't been together in a Suzuki concert setting in two years. We're sad the workshop couldn't happen, but very glad to have had this concert together!



## SUMMER READING BOOK CLUB

By Anita Barrios, Suzuki Parent and Guest Columnist

Strike a chord with this list of 10 books for readers of all ages, from picture books to YA (young adult), that feature characters who play string (and other) instruments.

I highly encourage children to participate (with parental / guardian support, of course!) in your local library's Summer Reading program, whether it's in Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, Flagstaff or beyond. Entire worlds of music await you. Enjoy!

### Featured Book

1. **The Mystwick School of Musicraft** (2020), by **Jessica Khoury**. Fantasy.



Amelia uses her flute to charm chickens in the neighbor's coop, while dreaming she can earn a place via audition into the Mystwick School of Musicraft. Her deceased mom was a student there, and she just knows she's destined to study and live there, too.

Except she totally flubs the audition — can't even make a spoutling grow with her flute's magic. She goes home, discouraged, and makes up a song while lying under a tree that reminds her of her mother. The air sparks and a breeze swirls, but she stops the song, leaving the musical magic unfinished (hint: you're not supposed to do that, as it's bad, very, very bad).

Then an invitation to the school arrives at her doorstep and the bus picks her up and... it's all too good to be true. It is. It's a terrible mistake. She shares a name, the exact name, with a girl who died in an accident and was a stellar musician and best friend of her current roommate. The administrators give her a few weeks to audition again and see if she can pass and prove herself worthy of a spot at the school.

In the interim, with help from her new friends, she discovers she's a "composer," a rare type of magician capable of writing their own magical songs. But it's forbidden to compose music (until you're trained in how to do it properly), as it can go very wrong, very quickly.

Then a dark cloud forms and the ghosts inside threaten the school. It takes a bit for the teens to figure out what Amelia's done, exactly, but it's up to her to put everything right and save the school and all her friends.

Look for the sequel coming in June 2022, **The Midnight Orchestra**.

### RENEW OR JOIN ASA TODAY!

- ASA membership is still only \$10 per year!
- Teacher and Family memberships available
- Teachers listed in the Teacher Directory
- Receive ASA Newsletters and event announcements
- Renewing and joining is easy, visit the ASA website and click "Join ASA"

<https://azsuzuki.org/asa-membership-form/>

#### EVERY CHILD CAN!

ASA will host the class in 2023. You can find a list of upcoming ECC classes at the Suzuki Association of the Americas website:

<https://suzukiassociation.org/events/course/ecc/>

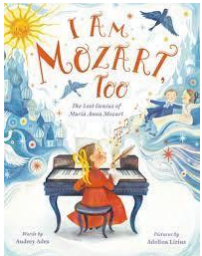
## Picture Books

### 2. **When Step Met Skip** (2021), by **Vicky Weber**.



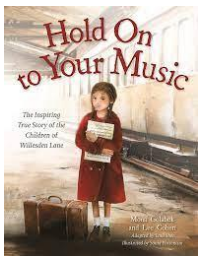
Enjoy the antics of Step and Skip as they explore the musical staff! It's an important concept in music theory all young musicians will use the rest of their playing careers.

### 3. **I Am Mozart, Too: The Lost Genius of Maria Anna Mozart** (2021), by **Audrey Ades**.



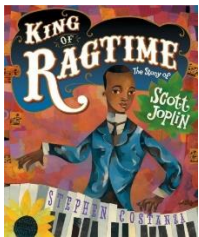
When we think of Mozart, we don't often think of Maria Anna Mozart. She's been lost to the spotlight ever since her father decided she should marry, instead of pursuing a career writing music, like her brother. This book brings her back on stage for an encore.

### 4. **Hold onto Your Music: the Inspiring True Story of the Children of Willesden Lane** (2021), by **Mona Golabek**.



Lisa dreams of playing Mozart or Beethoven on stage on the piano, but has to flee Vienna on a Kindertransport when the Nazis take over and pass laws against the Jews, like her family. Before she gets on the train, her mother admonishes her to "hold onto your music and never let go." When she reaches the group home in England on Willesden Lane, there's a piano -- and of course, she still has her music.

### 5. **King of Ragtime: The Story of Scott Joplin** (2019), by **Stephen Costanza**.



Scott Joplin is born into a musical family, the son of a formerly enslaved Black man in Texas. When little, Joplin makes up tunes on a White family's piano while his mother cleans their house. Later, his mother trades her work for piano lessons for her son. Joplin goes on to college to study music and composes ragtime music, becoming the "King of Ragtime Writers."

## Middle Grade (ages 8 to 12)

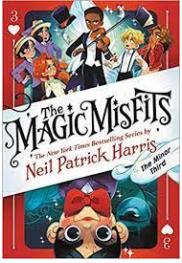
### 6. **Broken Strings** (2019), by **Eric Walters and Kathy Kacer**. Historical fiction / WWII / Anniversary of 9-11.



Shirli Berman auditions and gets a role in her middle school's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. It's not the lead singing role she wanted, but she is playing the part of the old Jewish mother, and decides to ask her Zayde, her grandfather, if he can help her prepare for the part by remembering his deceased wife and her family before World War II. The story is set a year after the Al-Qaeda attacks on the Twin Towers on 9-11, and a violin features prominently in the story.

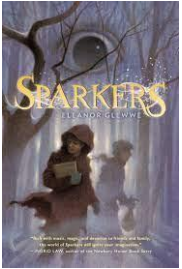


**7. The Minor Third, book 3 in The Magic Misfits series (2019), by Neil Patrick Harris.** Fantasy.



Theo Stein-Meyer is the youngest in a family of accomplished string musicians and his parents have set the expectations bar high. Theo plays violin and has a magic, collapsible bow that can levitate objects when he points. But magic, not the violin, is what pulls at his heart, that and being a vital part of the Magic Misfits, and he lets his violin practicing go by the wayside. This doesn't go unnoticed by his family, and they tug at him to come back into the fold, even as the kids work to foil Mr. Vernon's nemesis' latest plan.

**8. Sparkers (2014), by Eleanor Glewwe.** Fantasy.

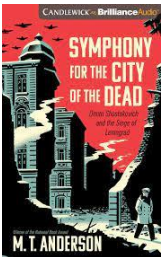


Fourteen-year-old Marah lacks magic, but she's a budding violinist in the city of Ashara, where the magical (kasir) and non-magical (halan or sparker) are segregated and prejudice against the non-magical runs rampant. The sequel, **Wildings (2016)**, further explores a revolutionary solution to the inequalities set up in this magical musical world.

Young Adult (teens)

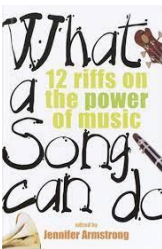
**9. Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad (2017), by M.T. Anderson.**

Non-fiction, historical narrative. WWII / USSR history.



My two teens learned and performed some of Shostakovich's music on the violin, a gavotte, so this was a riveting read for them in high school. My daughter still quotes the author's many points about how Stalin crippled his own army, particularly the tank division and its commander, prior to Hitler's invasion.

**10. What a Song Can Do: 12 Riffs on the Power of Music (2004), ed. Jennifer Armstrong.** Contemporary.



Twelve short stories on the power of music in teens' lives. Stories from the POVs of teen musicians of many nationalities and ethnicities are spotlighted, including: a story about an Abenaki boy by Joseph Bruchac; a Polish Jewish guitar player; a gay singer / songwriter; a Muslim piano player in Ramallah; a violin audition to raise money for a youth orchestra tour; two teens with synesthesia who find each other through a shared piano; and more.

**From Anita Barrios:** I'm a former state-certified middle school teacher. Before that, I was a newspaper editor and reporter. My two Suzuki violin students studied for more than 10 years with Dr. Laura Tagawa. I hope you enjoy the reads and visit my blog, The Fabric of Words, for more middle grade lit recommendations:

<https://amb.mystrikingly.com/#the-fabric-of-words>

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