



ARIZONA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

azsuzuki.org

IN THIS ISSUE

- ✧ Suzuki in the Schools: Starting and Maintaining a Program, pp. 1-3
- ✧ Teacher Workshop with Winifred Crock, p. 4
- ✧ Book Review: Mark Bjork's EXPANDING HORIZONS: The Suzuki Trained Violinists Grows Up, pp. 5-6
- ✧ News from the Kitt School of Music at Northern Arizona University, p. 6
- ✧ Fall Workshop Recap, pp. 7-8
- ✧ Every Child Can! Course, p. 9

Suzuki in the Schools: Starting and Maintaining a Program

BY LAURA SYJUD, ASA SECRETARY

This year marks 9 years in my current position as Suzuki in the Schools Director at Desert Shadows Elementary School in Paradise Valley Unified School District in Scottsdale, Arizona. The program consists of Kindergarten through 3rd grade classes coming 2-3 times a week for 30 minute lessons. The older grades, 4th-6th students, can continue in the program. We currently have 40 students on average participating in 4th-6th grade.

Starting and continuing a program such as this takes research and a lot of trial and error. The funding for this program was created through a grant written by one of my administrators. This particular program encompasses the entire school and is part of the everyday culture and schedule. There is much communication between myself and the entire staff to figure out schedules, rehearsals, concerts and assemblies. Communicating with students' families about upcoming events, ordering supplies and t-shirts, as well as keeping track of inventory are all important parts of the program.

Thankfully, when it comes to the tenants of a Suzuki in the Schools program the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) has us covered. Since this is a program styled after the Suzuki Method, the SAA states the Suzuki philosophy that every child can learn, creating a positive learning environment, encouraging noble values, and encouraging positive personal, social and educational values should be incorporated into each class. In many schools, this aligns with the educational philosophy of every teacher. In some circumstances, it can be difficult if a support teacher who does not encompass this philosophy is in the classroom. In this delicate situation, the Suzuki teacher may need to address this with the teacher.

Other suggestions from the SAA have been more difficult to incorporate into the schedule that my particular school has. For example, the suggestion is to have private lessons once a week, as well as a small group lesson and one large group lesson. With all the pullout classes, interventions, field trips, special class events, and other scheduling conflicts, there is only time for one large group twice a week. I see 13 classes throughout the week on a rotating basis. The entire class comes. The largest number of students in the class is 26. In order to even make smaller groups and/or lessons work, we would need to hire another Suzuki teacher to team teach.

The SAA also reminds us as Suzuki teachers that we should always teach graded repertoire, teach in small steps with much repetition, encourage memorization, reinforce mastery of skills, promote daily listening, and make sure that posture and basic techniques are in place before introducing note reading.

In the beginning of leading this program, I stuck strictly to the Suzuki repertoire, as that made the most sense to me and I was very comfortable with teaching points. I still teach pre-twinkle songs as well as all the twinkles to Kindergarten-2nd grade students. In the very young grades, we also use music and movement activities. Every lesson includes a bow hold, posture, and tone activity. I use supplemental warm-ups and songs using the Suzuki rhythms as well. Some of the books I use include “String Odyssey”, by Dryden Thomas Meints and “Step by Step”, by Kerstin Wartberg.

After teaching through the “Twinkles”, I then introduce the method book by Winifred Crock, “Learning Together” and the note reading book also by Mrs. Crock, “Pattern Play for Strings”. I teach by rote until note reading is at an appropriate level, which does not take long with the sequence put together in “Pattern Play for Strings”. The SAA does provide Suzuki in the Schools Training as well as the repertoire training listed above by Winifred Crock. This enables my students to be eligible for district orchestra events as well as Allstate Orchestra.

Many of my students continue on to the middle school level. In order for them to be ready, it is important that they can read first position notes in G Major and D Major independently. I have found that using the Suzuki Philosophy along with these supplemental materials have created a great balance.

Throughout the journey of creating and maintaining a Suzuki in the Schools program, I have learned that being adaptable, learning the culture of the school, and continuing training is so important. Also, reaching out to other teachers and getting ideas through forums and other venues is so important to keep things going in the right direction. In the end, it is entirely worth the hard work and hours spent building and keeping the program going.

References

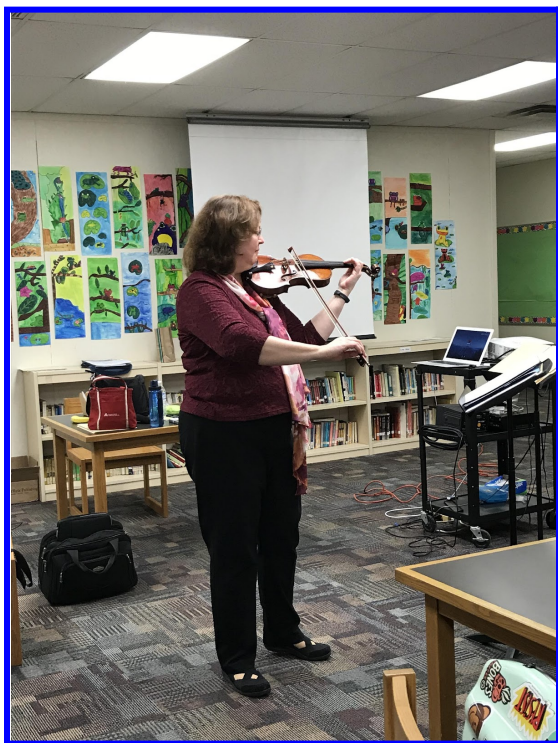
Crock, W. (2010). *Learning Together: Sequential Repertoire for Solo Strings or Strings Ensemble* (Vol. 1). Alfred Music .

Crock, W. (2010). *Pattern Play for Strings* (Vol. 1). Forrester Press.

Suzuki in the schools. Suzuki Association of the Americas. (n.d.). Retrieved December 28, 2022, from <https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/schools/>

Wartberg, K. (2004). *Step by Step: An Introduction to Successful Practice for Violin* (Vol. 1A). Alfred Music.





TEACHER WORKSHOP WITH WINIFRED CROCK REIMAGINING LITERACY FOR STRING TEACHERS

JANUARY 21 & 22, 2023

1 OR 2 DAY OPTIONS AVAILABLE

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

AZSUZUKI.ORG

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 20

ASA is hosting Winifred Crock for an online teacher workshop on January 21 & 22. The workshop is flexible and you can choose to attend one day or two days. The registration deadline is Jan 14, register today! <https://azsuzuki.org/teacher-workshop/>

A note from Winifred about the workshop:

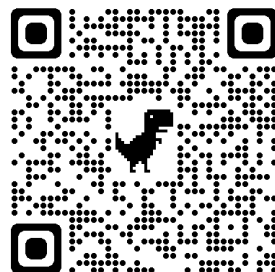
Please join me for materials overview, sequences for teaching, ways to assist struggling readers, and ways to challenge fluent readers. Have you wondered why we rush in performance? Have you thought about technical practice connected to literacy? Have you thought about the many manifestations of the dot in notation and how to help our students in the easiest, most child friendly way? What about music theory through the lens of a string instrument rather than the piano keyboard? Sign up today!

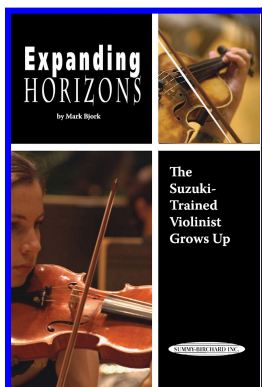


Questions about the workshop?

Please email Laura Tagawa at

arizonasuzuki@gmail.com





Book Review: Mark Bjork's EXPANDING HORIZONS: The Suzuki Trained Violinists Grows Up

BY DR. LOUISE SCOTT, ASA VICE PRESIDENT

EXPANDING HORIZONS: The Suzuki Trained Violinists Grows Up

by Mark Bjork (published by Alfred Publishing Co., Alfred.com, 2008 - a division of Summy-Birchard, Inc.)

Mark Bjork, retired Violin Professor from the University of Minnesota School of Music, offered a MM in performance with Suzuki pedagogy that attracted students from the USA and internationally. Mr. Bjork graduated from the University of Indiana where he studied with the famed teacher, Josef Gingold. In 1967 he initiated one of the first and longest running Suzuki programs at the MacPhail Center of Music in Minneapolis. He has presented workshops and taught at Institutes all over the world. His former students are members of major professional orchestras, chamber music performers, teachers and as he states, “many happy amateurs”. In this book, he shares a unique journey of over 40 years of teaching beginners to professional performers.

Some chapters pertain to the study of violin but much of the information in this pertains to teaching any instrument - Suzuki or not - and will certainly give teachers valuable ideas and approaches to use as the student grows up.

Chapter 1. “When will they be ready for real lessons?”

This chapter is best explained with Mr. Bjork’s opening paragraph.

Several years ago I received a note from the parent of a 13-year-old student informing me that the boy was now “ready for real work”. This particular student had come to me at age 5. During his time with me he had covered a quantity of literature, soloed with three professional orchestras playing major works from the Romantic virtuoso repertoire, and had about half of the Paganini Caprices successfully under his belt by age 13. If he had not been doing “real work” until then, what was he doing?

Mr. Bjork states that many believe that the Suzuki Method is only for younger students and don’t realize the vast expertise of Suzuki trained performers are in major orchestras and college teaching positions. Mr. Bjork named his book, “Expanding Horizons” to help prepare teachers as their students change and grow up. For example: to work alone, develop excellent reading skills, relate to the greater community in school, youth orchestras, summer camps, competitions and study in college. I am sure many teachers will find the advice and information in this book most valuable.

Here is a list of the remaining chapters that states the topics of discussion.

Chapter 2 . . . The Weaning Process: Preparing for the Teen Years.

Chapter 3 . . . Motivating the Older Student

Chapter 4 . . . The Suzuki Students in the School Orchestra

Chapter 5 . . . Competitions and Competitions

Chapter 6 . . . A Concerto with Orchestra!

Chapter 7 . . . Lesson Structure

Chapter 8 . . . Establishing A Daily Practice Routine

Chapter 9 . . . Where Does Listening Fit In

Chapter 10 . . . What is “Tonalization”?

Chapter 11 . . . Do you Sight-Read the Morning Paper?”

Chapter 12 . . . The Right Hand

Chapter 13 . . . The Left Hand

Chapter 14 . . . Scales

Chapter 15 . . . Etudes and Such

Chapter 16 . . . What About the Mozart Concerti?

Chapter 17 . . . Where Do We Go After Book Eight?

Chapter 18 . . . Repertoire

Chapter 19 . . . Are We Setting Our Students up for Pain?

Chapter 20 . . . The Suzuki Students Goes to College

Chapter 21 . . . Preparing the College Audition

Chapter 22 . . . Wishing the Best for a Lifetime of Music

A quote from Mr. Bjork from the last chapter (22) is as follows:

It is my fond hope that the suggestions in this volume have helped the reader “expand horizons”. “My intention is that teachers and parents will have gained some insights and ideas, and had their imaginations stimulated to work with students at an exciting time in their lives when so many new things are opening up for them. Hopefully, we can direct them towards the achievement of Shinichi Suzuki’s goals, to which we committed ourselves when we began this journey with “Twinkle Variations”. These goals are to develop each child to the highest of his or her abilities, and nurture that growth towards becoming beautiful human beings. If we have accomplished this, we have given them the gift of music, in whatever form and at whatever level they choose, to enjoy for a lifetime.

News from the Kitt School of Music at Northern Arizona University

Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU returns!!

Information at www.NAU.edu/music/programs-events

Registration opens January 1, 2023

Dates: Wednesday, June 7- Sunday, June 17, 2023

Open to students going into 9th grade through graduating 12th graders

A string orchestra will be directed by popular guest conductor, Amy Bennett

Band and choir camps will be offered during the same dates to share elective offerings and social activities.



Fall Workshop Recap

BY LAURA TAGAWA, ASA PRESIDENT

ASA held a Fall Workshop for students on Saturday, Sept 24, 2022 in Phoenix at Orangewood Church. Violin, viola, cello, guitar and voice students from around the state gathered to play music together. In the morning, students had an orchestra class with Amy Bennett, master classes and group class playing the Suzuki repertoire. Students and teachers performed western themed music together in the afternoon, including Home on the Range, Ghost Riders, Street of Laredo, Fiddles Out West and Blazing Bows of the West. The day ended with a spectacular concert, yeehaw!!!

A special “thank you” to Suzuki parent Emile Davies-Venn for photographing our event!





Every Child Can!© An Introduction to Suzuki Education

Sponsored by Arizona Suzuki Association

Date: February 12 and 19, 2023 (Sundays)

Time: 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music, 1017 N Olive Rd, Tucson, AZ 85719

Teacher Trainer: Alice Vierra

Every Child Can!© (ECC) is an introduction to Dr. Suzuki's philosophy and its application to Suzuki education. For parents, teachers, prospective teachers and others, this course provides an inspiring, in-depth look at the Suzuki approach to teaching and learning. In addition to exploring the elements of the Suzuki approach and its far-reaching goals, it includes an introduction to learning styles, history of the development of Suzuki education, the role of parents, the importance of Suzuki pedagogical training, and an overview of the SAA's role in supporting teachers and parents. A fast-paced, engaging and inspiring program, ECC includes video materials and SAA-developed courseware, and provides each participant with useful reference materials (manuals) for later study. For teachers, ECC serves as the first course in the Suzuki Association of the Americas 'Teacher Development Program.

Every Child Can!© is an 8 hour course. Alice Vierra, SAA Trainer, will teach the course. 100 percent attendance required to register the course with SAA.

Course Fee: \$100. Partial scholarships available to students who attend a university or college in Arizona.

Contact/More Info: Laura Tagawa arizonasuzuki@gmail.com

Registration: <https://azsuzuki.org>



Join the NAU Curry Summer Music Camp this summer for a five day festival experience for choir, orchestra, and band students from Arizona and across the Southwestern USA.

This camp is open for all students going into grades 9 -12 in the Fall of 2023.

Mark your Calendars!

Wednesday, June 7th -
Sunday, June 11th

Register Online

nau.edu/currycamp
Registration opens on 01/02/2023

NAU
NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

Kitt School of Music



ARIZONA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

azsuzuki.org

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 are easy! Visit the ASA website and click "Join ASA"

azsuzuki.org

Music is the language of the heart without words.

- Shinichi Suzuki