



# ARIZONA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

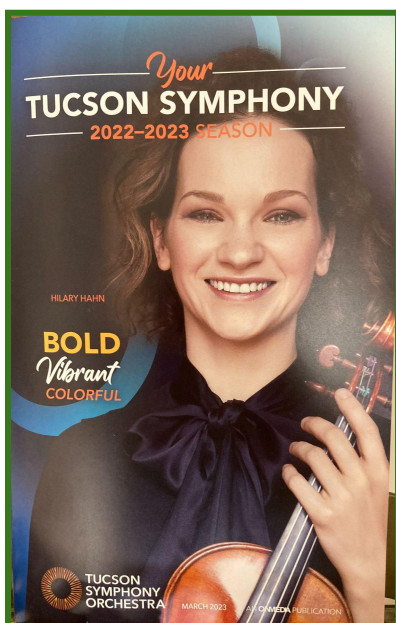
## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

[azsuzuki.org](http://azsuzuki.org)

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ✿ Hilary Hahn: Inspiration!, pp. 1-2
- ✿ February ECC Course in in Tucson, p. 3
- ✿ Book Club: *Suzuki: The Man and His Dream to Teach the Children of the World* by Eri Hotta, pp. 4-5
- ✿ Book Club: *FIDDLELING - The Basics and Beyond: Instruction for Players of Any Level* by Patrick Clark, p. 5
- ✿ News from Around the State, pp. 6-7
- ✿ NAU Curry Summer Music Camp, p. 8
- ✿ ASA Board Election this May, p. 9
- ✿ Remembering Suzuki Bass Pioneer Dr. Dan Swaim, pp. 10-11



## Hilary Hahn: Inspiration!

By Dr. Laura Tagawa, ASA President and Violin Teacher

Hilary Hahn performed the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra on March 22, 2023. Her playing sparkled (as did her silver dress!) and she dazzled the audience with amazing fast passages and soaring, lyrical melodies. Tchaikovsky's concerto takes thirty five minutes to perform and it seemed to go by in a flash. After finishing the concerto, the audience gave her a rousing standing ovation, and she treated everyone to a movement of solo Bach as an encore. Hahn is an international violin soloist, performing solo recitals and concertos with orchestras around the world. Hahn started Suzuki violin lessons shortly

before her fourth birthday, taking lessons at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. She became well known in the Suzuki community when she recorded Suzuki Violin Books 1-4 with pianist Natalie Zhu which were released in 2020. She has made 22 feature albums, several of which have been awarded Grammys.

With so many recordings of solo music, chamber music, and concertos with orchestra available, what is it about attending a live performance that makes it so special? The anticipation leading up to the concert, coming together to listen as a part of an audience, knowing that you are hearing a one of a kind performance unique to that moment? These and many other things for each listener contribute to the experience. For me, listening to a live performance allows me to be present in that moment, distraction free.

Hahn started a 100 day practice challenge project in 2017, in which she records and posts a clip of her practice on social media. She records these short, unedited clips wherever she happens to practice that day including in a hotel, on a jet or at home. When selecting the clips she said, “I make a point of not picking up the part of the practice that is impressive, I pick out the part that’s the actual work, where I know I was in the zone, and I wasn’t thinking about anything else.” Part of her message for doing this is to be deliberate in what you do, no matter what else may be going on in life. This project has inspired many other musicians to start practice challenges of their own. You can read the full New York Times article from March 14, 2023 here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/14/arts/music/hilary-hahn-violin-practice.html>





## February ECC Course in Tucson

by Alice Vierra, SAA Registered Teacher Trainer

Suzuki teachers are aware that there is still so much of the population today that has no idea what the Suzuki method is all about. It is easy to lose track of this when one has a full studio or is teaching the Suzuki method at a school. It feels then like the whole world is just “Suzuki teaching”. But it is important to always reach out

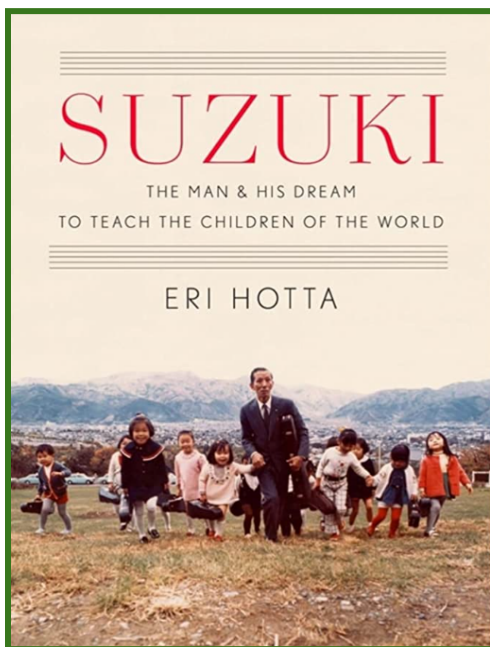
in whatever way possible to others who are new to the method or perhaps have never even heard about Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. He was the man who in the 1950's - 1960's started to explore the idea that children could learn music in the same way that children all over the world learn their own language. He called it the ‘Mother Tongue’ method. It was brought to the U.S in the 1960's and began to be applied to many other instruments besides violin.



I taught the ECC 8 hr. course on two Sunday afternoons in March at the Fred Fox School of Music, University of Arizona, sponsored by the Arizona Suzuki Association. Nine young college students were the participants - the next generation. They were inquisitive and willing to listen and I was ready to share the materials and my own experiences about how the Suzuki Method began, the way the Suzuki Triangle works, the importance of listening, moving in small steps, memorizing, delaying reading and more. It was inspiring for them when I played the Suzuki Association of the Americas videos of children performing and of Suzuki teachers discussing the method. It

was also fun to play a few of my own videos. One of my favorites to play is always the video of two 5 yr. old cellists at the end of one year of study playing a D scale with the rhythm of variation B and using the words: Mon-day (rest) and Tues-day (rest) etc. Now - when the participants decide to take more Suzuki training they will have finished the pre-requisite course ECC. I personally thank the Arizona Suzuki Association for offering/sponsoring this course and for providing scholarships to Arizona college and university students.





## Book Club

### *Suzuki: The Man and His Dream to Teach the Children of the World* by Eri Hotta

**Reviewed by Dr. Laura Tagawa, ASA President and Violin Teacher**

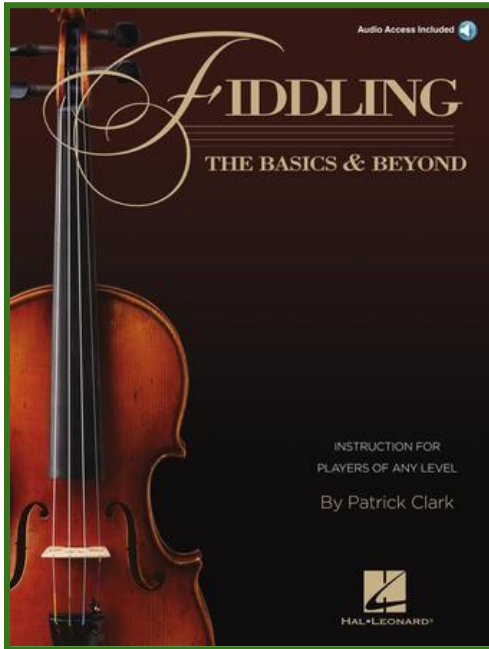
*Suzuki: The Man and His Dream to Teach the Children of the World* was published in 2022. This book is of interest to all who are involved or interested in the Suzuki world, both educators and parents. The author Eri Hotta has extensive knowledge of Japanese history both as a professor and author and is also a Suzuki parent whose daughter studies Suzuki violin at the New York School for

the Arts.

Dr. Suzuki's life spanned almost the entire twentieth century. His life work founded on the conviction that all children possess tremendous capacity to learn is examined in detail. Hotta takes the reader from Suzuki's childhood working in his violin factory in Nagoya to his studies in Berlin between the two world wars to the beginnings of his teaching career in Tokyo in the 1930's seamlessly. The book is written in chronological order. It also includes info about how the Suzuki movement continues to grow even after Suzuki's death. Many who have read Suzuki's own writing, such as *Nurtured by Love*, will enjoy understanding the context of many of his stories.

On March 20, 2023, Eri Hotta was featured in a Suzuki in Action! Webinar hosted by SAA and Alfred Music. In this free online session, Eri discussed her book. She mentioned two chapters of special interest to all Suzuki practitioners which focus on the topics of tone and talent. Chapter 5 is titled "For the Sake of Beautiful Tone." She described the importance that Suzuki attached to the beauty of tone as "the leitmotif that guided his musical life." At age 17, Suzuki fell in love with the voice of the violin after hearing Mischa Elman's recording of Ave Maria. He let his ear be his guide when he went to Germany in search of a master teacher. Only after attending and listening to many concerts did he find his master teacher, Klinger. In his teaching Suzuki believed that repetition in hearing beautiful things is crucial in music training. "No Suzuki Thing as Born Genius" is the title of Chapter 6. Suzuki redefines talent, not as something inborn such as eye color, but more like a muscle that can be trained to remarkable degrees. Suzuki's talent education movement is not exclusively for the talented, but for everyone. Every child has talent.

When asked why she wrote this book, Emi responded that Dr. Suzuki is a fascinating subject, having lived almost the entirety of the 20th Century. He lived through great historical turning points and encountered many intriguing characters including Einstein and Jimmy Carter. This book is written in a style that is thorough, yet easy to follow. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about Suzuki's life and philosophy and it is a welcome addition to my musical library!



## **FIDDLING - The Basics and Beyond: Instruction for Players of Any Level by Patrick Clark and published by Hal Leonard**

**Review by Dr. Louise Scott, SAA Registered Teacher Trainer**

This is an excellent musical instruction manual for Suzuki individual or group lessons. I have found that children love to learn many fiddling favorites such as Boil the Cabbage Down, Cripple Creek and Soldiers Joy. Sixteen pieces are included with instructions. Each piece includes simple to more difficult parts, that are useful for groups with combined levels of advancement. Playing the fundamental rhythms of fiddle pieces not only enhances the student's technical skills in the Suzuki repertoire but also improves reading skills. A CD is included.

\*Patrick Clark grew up in Flagstaff, AZ where he earned a BM in violin performance at Northern Arizona University with Suzuki training, in 2006. He taught at the Nevada School for the Arts before moving to Nashville to play with various national artists such as Darius Rucker, Josh Gracin, Sara Evans and with groups on TV shows such as the Tonight Show, Good Morning America, and Dancing with the Stars. Patrick and his family currently live in Flagstaff.

## News from Around the State

### Suzuki Strings and Voice Perform at the Phoenix Suns

On January 6th, Suzuki Strings and Voice students performed the National Anthem at the Suns vs Heat basketball game.





### **GFA Education Director Chuck Hulihan Inspires Suzuki Guitar Students**

On April 15th, Guitar Foundation of America Education Director Chuck Hulihan visited the Dorsey Guitar Studio hosted by Summit School of Ahwatukee to work with Suzuki Guitar students for a morning of workshops and master classes.



### **Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU Kitt School of Music Returns!!**

Information at [www.NAU.edu/music/programs-events](http://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.

### **ASA Fall Workshop 2023**

Save the date! ASA is busy planning for a fantastic Fall Workshop on September 23, 2023. The workshop takes place in Phoenix at Orangewood Church from 9am-3pm. This yearly workshop brings together Suzuki families and teachers from around the state. This year we will be joined by guest teachers, Gail Acosta (violin, viola) from California and Mary Beth Tyndall (cello) from Tucson. Dr. Louise Scott (Flagstaff) will also offer a special session on Friday, Sept 22 for violin students and teachers. Visit the ASA website for more information, <http://azsuzuki.org/>

## NAU Curry Summer Music Camp

### Wednesday, June 7th – Sunday, June 11th

The NAU Curry Summer Music Camp is proud to present a 5-day camp for choir, band, and orchestra students this summer. Receive expert music instruction, rehearse, perform, and attend musical programs in Ardrey Auditorium as well as the Kitt Recital Hall in the newly named Kitt School of Music.

Amy Bennett, well-known orchestra teacher and clinician will direct the orchestra. Amy Bennett is in her twenty-sixth year of teaching with Gilbert Public Schools. She has been the Director of Orchestras at Highland Junior High since the school's opening in 1998 as well as the Assistant Orchestra Director at Highland High School. Mrs. Bennett earned her Bachelor of Music Education with Suzuki training and Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Northern Arizona University in May of 1998. In 2004, she earned her Master of Music Education degree from Arizona State University. For the past 17 years, Mrs. Bennett has been the Division II conductor of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony in Mesa, Arizona. She has been a faculty member of both the Scottsdale Community College and Northern Arizona University Summer Music Camps and has served as a guest conductor for various honor orchestras throughout Arizona. In 2009, Mrs. Bennett received the O.M. Hartsell Excellence in Music Teaching Award from the Arizona Music Educators Association and in 2015 she received the Arizona ASTA Outstanding Public School Teacher of the Year Award.

The camp will include private lessons, chamber music groups masterclasses, elective courses, participation in large ensembles and a final concert.

To secure a spot in the 2023 NAU Curry Summer Music Camp, please complete registration by May 5th, 2023. A non-refundable \$60 deposit is required with your registration.

REGISTRATION at [www.nau.edu/music](http://www.nau.edu/music)

open: Events and Special Programs

click on: Summer Music Camp

String-related questions contact:

[Jacquelyn.Schwandt@nau.edu](mailto:Jacquelyn.Schwandt@nau.edu)

Non-string related questions contact:

[Malory.Donahue@nau.edu](mailto:Malory.Donahue@nau.edu)



## **ASA Board Election this May**

ASA will be holding an election for the 2023-24 Board of Directors. Voting is open for all ASA members during the month of May. To vote, please click the link:

<https://forms.gle/7ZrFRsW715Cea1pw9>

### **2023-24 ASA Board of Directors**

Chris Mahar

Laura Syjud

Chris Dorsey

Christi Elie

Eunice Elie

Samara Humbert-Hugues

Alexandra Jaques

Anne Schreiber

Louise Scott

Laura Tagawa

Alice Vierra

Kari Weldon

Mary Wilkening



## Remembering Suzuki Bass Pioneer Dr. Dan Swaim

**By James Meyers, Suzuki Parent**

The string bass world lost a giant last month. Dr. Dan Swaim passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side on April 4th, 2023. He was known simply as “Doc” to all of his students and his passing leaves a big hole in the lives of the people who knew him.

I met Doc back in 1980 when I was a high school student. He became my private lesson teacher and helped me become a better student. I studied with him briefly in college but then put the bass down to focus on my engineering studies. We lost touch after that until 15 years later when I read an article about him in a Suzuki Method newsletter. He had developed the

Suzuki Bass Method. By then, I was married and had four young boys. They had been studying Suzuki violin and I didn’t realize there was a Suzuki Bass teacher in our own state. Eventually, all four of my boys would study with Doc through their senior year in high school.

Dan began developing Suzuki Bass Methodology in 1988 when he joined Suzuki Association of the Americas. In 1993, he became Suzuki’s first Bass Teacher Trainer. He was widely recognized as a presenter at many conferences for Suzuki, the Music Educators National Conference, The International Society of Bassists, and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He was also honored to serve as faculty at the 13th World Suzuki Method Conference in Matsumoto, Japan in 1999 again at the 16th in Massimo Japan in 2013. His success with young bass students is widely recognized, locally, nationally and internationally. He was recognized by ASTA as the Outstanding Studio Teacher of the Year in 2009. The International Society of Bassists selected him for the Special Recognition

Award in the Young Bassists Ambassador category in 2017. Many of his former students now perform professionally in symphony orchestras including Atlanta, Cleveland, Milwaukee, New Mexico, Philadelphia, Phoenix Symphony, the Arizona Opera, and others. Some former students brought their children to study in his Suzuki Bass Studio and they also have gone on to play professionally. An esteemed colleague described him as quiet and strong with tons of loyalty for his students.

He will be greatly missed.



**2023  
CURRY  
SUMMER  
MUSIC  
CAMP** **NAU**

*We're back,  
and we're ready for you!*



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](http://nau.edu/currycamp)  
Registration opens on 01/02/2023

**NAU**  
**NORTHERN**  
**ARIZONA**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Kitt School of Music





# FALL WORKSHOP

**September  
23, 2023  
(SAT)**

**9am-3pm**

**Orangewood  
Church  
7321 N 10th St.  
Phoenix**

*Suzuki Violin, Viola, Cello and Guitar students are invited to attend the 2023 ASA Fall Workshop. Classes include master class, group class, fiddling and orchestra or enrichment. The day will end with a workshop concert. Come join us for a fun day filled with music and friends!*

*Visit the ASA Website for more info.*

*[azsuzuki.org](http://azsuzuki.org)*

**SPONSORED BY  
ARIZONA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION**



## ARIZONA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

[azsuzuki.org](http://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](http://azsuzuki.org)

*When Love is deep, much can be accomplished.*

- Shinichi Suzuki