

# PSS Newsletter

December 2009



## Palouse Suzuki Strings Winter Concert, Monday, Dec. 14

### Helpful Hints:

The PSS Board has copies for sale (at cost!) of Edmund Sprunger's book, **Helping Parents Practice**.

This is a great resource for humane, effective guidance for both parents and students. Ask your teacher to see a copy and purchase this inspiring book for yourself.

We are all looking forward to our concert on Monday afternoon, followed by a few weeks of winter break! Invite friends and family to the concert; all can enjoy the potluck dinner afterwards. (Last names beginning A-N please bring dessert; O-Z please bring a hearty appetizer. Nothing too messy, crumbly, or gooey please!)

Students should arrive at Simpson United Methodist in Pullman for the concert at 3:45. Parents of young children should sit with their child's repertoire class. Students should wear a white top and black bottoms, and bring their instrument and music.

The concert begins at 4:30 pm. Parents who wish to photograph or videotape the performance may do so from the balcony. See you soon! -CPS

## String Shoppe

Cello 1/2 size with bow, for \$300. Call 509-432-9434 or email [jeeheeheo@hotmail.com](mailto:jeeheeheo@hotmail.com).

3/4 size cello with bow and soft case. Asking \$750.00. Please contact Ron at 509-334-8574 or email to [beasmil@roadrunner.com](mailto:beasmil@roadrunner.com)

1/8 size Franz Hoffmann Etude Violin (2007) outfit with Brazilwood/Horsehair & upgraded Dominant strings, excellent condition, asking \$270, contact Yuyuan at 509-332-2851 or [luyy1@yahoo.com](mailto:luyy1@yahoo.com)

1/8 size Hoffman Etude violin with bow, case, and upgraded Dominant strings. Very good condition. \$250. Robin, 332-6730, [robinbond@verizon.net](mailto:robinbond@verizon.net)

### Applebee's Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 6th, from 8-10am, when PSS will be having another Applebee's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser! This event was a lot of fun last year and is a great way to help keep tuition low.

Tickets will be available at group classes in January for students, parents, and teachers to take home and sell to family, friends, and neighbors. For every \$7 breakfast ticket sold, PSS will earn \$5. The breakfast consists of a stack of two pancakes, two sausages, plus a drink.

PSS students will again be serving the meals at Applebee's during this event; watch for a sign-up sheet at the January Solo Day if you want to help serve. If you would like to have tickets to sell before January, please contact a Board member.

For every five tickets your child sells, they will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$25 Wal-Mart gift certificates.

### Contact Us

The website offers our monthly newsletter, schedule, handbook, registration form, current tuition rates, interesting links and other important information.

Web Site: [www.palousesuzuki.com](http://www.palousesuzuki.com)

PSS Phone: 208-310-2615

Email: [palousesuzukistrings@gmail.com](mailto:palousesuzukistrings@gmail.com)

## Book Recitals!!

### Congratulations to:

**Erich Wacker, Book 1,  
October 24**

**Hannah Safe, Book 2,  
November 24**

**Anne Rhee, Book 1,  
November 21**

Have a book recital to celebrate or announce? Please submit to PSS secretary Carol Spurling at [writer@plumassignment.net](mailto:writer@plumassignment.net).  
Thanks!

### Holiday Shopping List

Here are some ideas for gifts for the musicians in your family:

Book of fiddle, pop, or ethnic music to explore

Make a CD or file of your music for a distant relative

A video or audio recording of a great musician, past or present (check out eBay or the Shar catalog)

Rosin (there is a fancy violin-shaped one on the market)

Concert tickets, for a special night out with a parent

Kids can give their parents a promise for X number of practice sessions without grumbling

Promise each other that you'll go share some music with someone who needs it in 2010.

## 'Tis the season for holiday music!

The Washington Idaho Symphony will present a pair of concerts featuring seasonal music and classical favorites, Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 at the Gladish Community Center, and Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 at Lewiston High School.

Selections will include Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks (hear David Turnbull climb to dizzying heights on the piccolo trumpet!), the exciting Oxford Symphony by Haydn, and Tchaikovsky's Suite from the Nutcracker. There will also be some traditional Christmas carols as arranged by Leroy Anderson. As always, children are admitted free with a paying adult! Also stay tuned for February's Young Artist Concert, featuring a fabulous violinist, a soprano, and a harp soloist!



*Music At St. Mark's* will present a free Christmas carol concert and sing-along, complete with hot chocolate and cookies on

## Visions of Sugarplums...

December 16 (Beethoven's birthday!) from 5:00-7:00.

The next concert in their series will be a "Bach's Lunch" at noon on January 10. This concert will feature the intricate and energetic Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, and the *entire* Concerto for Two Violins in D minor ("the Bach Double") with Richard Kriehn and Becky Miller.



The Idaho-Washington Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will present three performances of Handel's Messiah, at 7:30 pm on December 17, and 4 pm on December 20 at the University Auditorium in Moscow, and at 4 pm on December 19 at Lewiston High School.

Thanks to Becky Miller for these concert listings.

# Winter Instrument Care

By Inga Kingsley

As winter temperatures plunge into the single-digits, we bundle up in lots of layers to protect our bodies from frostbite. But what about winter care for your violin, viola or cello? The frigid air outside and the dry, warm air inside during this season warrant a little extra attention to instrument care. Here are a few tips:

## 1. Transporting Tips

- a. When traveling with your instrument, avoid sudden changes in temperature. For example, warm up the car for a few minutes, and then bring your instrument from a warm house to a warm car. (Cases, no matter how fancy they may look, keep the previous temperature and humidity conditions for just a few minutes.) Otherwise, rapid changes can cause instruments to go out of tune, or at worst, cause cracks.
- b. DO NOT leave your instrument in a vehicle during extremely cold weather. Even if it's inconvenient, bring it inside with you to a workplace or an errand stop. Who knows—people may even ask you to play a tune or two! Kansas City Strings gives this general rule of thumb is: Don't leave your instrument in any area where you wouldn't leave a baby.

## 2. Humidity

We live in a dry area, and when we turn up the heat inside homes, the dryness increases. In the winter, low humidity can cause the wood to shrink, namely on the top of the instrument, and this creates a risk for cracks. There are a few options for adding back some of the humidity:

- a. Run a humidifier in the room where you keep your instrument. Keep the case away from heaters and vents.
- b. Ask your teacher if a product like a Damp-It would be a wise purchase. A Damp-It puts small amounts of humidity in the instrument. They are long sponges enclosed in a protective tube, placed in through the f-hole. To use, soak the Damp-It in water for 10-20 seconds, squeeze out the excess water onto a towel, and then insert into the lower part of the f-hole. During the winter, these sponges will dry out so they need to be checked at least once a week. Damp-Its are available for fractional size violins as small as 1/16 size, as well as for violas and cellos.

You can't control the winter weather or totally eliminate its dangers, but with a little extra care, you can lessen its effects on your violin, viola or cello.