



Newsletter



Palouse Suzuki Strings

April 2009

Janet DeTemple: A Teacher in the Suzuki Spirit

By Jonathan Cheskin

At this moment, everyone knows the biggest news at the Palouse Suzuki Strings: Janet DeTemple, after 33 years with the organization, is retiring after this year's Spring concert. Personally, I have known Janet only for about three years, but in that short time I have greatly benefitted from her experience both as a Suzuki Teacher and PSS Coordinator. This past Saturday, I

met with Janet, ostensibly to research this article recapping her exceptional career as a Suzuki teacher, but also perhaps to learn something about what one could conclude about the Suzuki method after teaching so well and for so long.

I first asked Janet how she got started on the violin. It turned out to be at a public school program in Portland, OR, and she started surprisingly late-in the eighth grade. As she recounted her high school and college years in the Portland Junior Symphony, I immediately started to see a pattern emerge; a pattern of intimate relationships and exceptional aesthetic experiences. Janet showed me a picture of herself in the orchestra in 1961 as it was being conducted by Aaron Copland (!). She told me that the girl sitting concertmaster was now in the Boston Symphony. I thought to myself, gee whiz, what the heck would it have been like to be conducted by Aaron Copland? Is this really the same guy who wrote *Appalachian Spring* and *Fanfare for the Common Man*? Absolutely.

Janet actually did not initially go on to a career in music; instead, she got an English degree from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, got married to Duane, and taught high-school English in the San Francisco Bay area while getting a Masters' at San Jose State. When she moved to Pullman in 1970, she was looking for something less arduous than full time teaching, given that children were on the horizon. She found herself playing violin in some musical soirees at the home of Louise and Eugene Greenfield, which would eventually become the basis for the formation of the Washington-Idaho Symphony. Friendships with Julia Cohen, Annabel Baker and Janice Ho would begin to turn into collegial relationships as the orchestra got off the ground.

A turning point seems to have come in 1976, when Janice Ho took Janet to the Pacific Northwest Suzuki Institute in Forest Grove, OR, and Janet had a chance to observe some first class Suzuki instruction by teachers such as Rosalind O'Keefe and John Kendall. In Janet's words, these were some of the "best quality people I have ever seen" (this sounds like Suzuki himself talking) in terms of their expertise, compassion, and ability. O'Keefe's Pre-Twinkle class captured Janet's imagination to the point where she decided to form a pre-twinkle class herself at the newly formed (two years prior) Palouse Suzuki Strings, and the rest, as they say, is history. Janet would teach here until 2009.

Along the way, Janet remembers more intimate relationships and exceptional aesthetic experiences. Janet would take up further formal violin study with WSU professor Alan Bodman. At PSS,

April PSS Calendar

20	Solo Day +	
	Orchestra Rehearsal	Moscow
27	Final Concert	6:30 Pullman

May PSS Calendar

4	Solo Day	Pullman
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Janet would go on to teach many repertoire classes, and when the teachers needed organizing, she became the *de facto* coordinator. When a renowned Suzuki teacher, Debbie Goolsby, moved into the area in the late 1980s to try to start a Suzuki program at WSU, Janet did an apprenticeship with her, and helped her organize a Palouse Suzuki Institute. It turned out, however, that Goolsby needed to turn over the institute to another hand, and Janet stepped in to become the director. She would remain in the position for 12 years. Debbie and Janet would teach many classes together at the PSS and at the Institute, and started the elite “Encore” performance group, which played at events all over the Palouse.

The pattern here, as I have said, is one of close relationships and exceptional aesthetic experiences. Dr. Suzuki understood that great musical careers always include these two elements; this is why we do group classes. We play together so that we can experience the music together, learn from each other, and become greater than ourselves. Janet’s life with the violin and the Suzuki method has been a succession of collaborations toward that one goal that Suzuki always had in his eye—excellence. Janet may be leaving the faculty of PSS, but she will always be a part of the group, a part of our experiences. Best wishes, Janet!



Thank You

The PSS Faculty would like to extend their appreciation to our Board of Directors for all of their work this year, and especially to departing long-time board members Allison Willoughby and Claudia Guzman for their efforts on behalf of the organization. We also wish Allison and her family all the best in their upcoming move. Thanks so much!

Book Recitals

Semolina Schillberg	Book 1	March 28
Hannah Young	Book 10	April 24
Katherine Ruck	Book 4	April 26

Congratulations!!!

On a Related note....

Thanks also to Carol Spurling, who will take over as PSS Secretary and Kara Roche, who has already started as Treasurer. We will be officially electing officers at the final concert.

Jonathan Cheskin Awarded Scholarship

Congratulations Jon on being awarded a \$300 scholarship by the Suzuki Association of Washington State. He will be able to attend Book 4 Cello Teacher Training with Ann Grabe at the Idaho Suzuki Institute in June, 2009. These training sessions are not inexpensive when you figure in tuition and associated travel expenses. Palouse Suzuki Strings benefits when our teachers seek out this level of training.

Concert Information

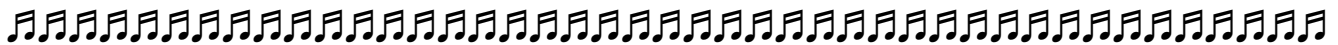
The teachers have been distributing concert information in flyers and email. The concert will be in Pullman and starts at 6:30 pm, on April 27th. Performers need to arrive at 5:45 to tune and warm up. The usual concert attire is black pants/skirt and white top. Sneakers should be avoided if possible. Don’t forget your music! Families can bring a treat to share after the concert. Please feel free to invite relatives and friends to this concert, the kids will love to share their music to a full house.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please check out our website for summer institute opportunities. A summer institute is Suzuki Group experience on a grand scale. There are usually repertoire classes, technique, orchestra, and fun enrichment activities. It is a sure way for you kids to make lasting musical friends. You can find the summer institutes by clicking the direct links or searching the Suzuki Association of America link to go farther afield. Our website is www.palousesuzuki.com

Concerts and Recitals

April 26	Sheila Kilcoyne's Studio Recital	St. James Church, Pullman, 2 P.M.
May 2	Jon Cheskin's Studio Recital	Unitarian Church, Moscow, 2 P.M.
May 3	Janet DeTemple's Studio Recital	Unitarian Church, Moscow, 4:30 P.M.
May 9	Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra	Lionel Hampton Recital Hall, 7:30 P.M. (Free)
May 10-15	Musicfest Northwest	Spokane, WA



Suzuki String Shop

1/16 Kiso Suzuki (1975) violin \$100, To see, call Becky at 208-596-3699

1/8 Franz Hoffman violin outfit, excellent condition \$150, To see, call Becky at 208-596-3699

¼ Klaus Mueller Prelude violin \$125, To see, call Becky at 208-596-3699

¾ Strausberg (W. Germany, 1986) violin \$250, To see, call Becky at 208-596-3699

1/2 size cello, Nagoya Suzuki No. 40, Anno 1990, \$425, Tim or Jessica Kirkland, 208-883-0530

1/10 size Franz Hoffmann Etude Violin with bow/case (2008), excellent condition, \$180, Jung Song (208)596-9039 or email Jungeun0919@gmail.com

Full Size Violin, Antonius Strad. Crem. Faiebat Anno 17, nice case and two bows. Appraised at \$650 asking \$575, Ann Saberi (509)432-3335

1/8 size Franz Hoffmann Etude Violin (2007) with case, upgraded brazilwood/horsehair bow and Dominant strings, excellent condition, \$295, contact Yuyuan at 509-332-2851 or luyy1@yahoo.com

Set of **strings for 1/8 size violin**, \$5, contact Yuyuan at 509-332-2851 or luyy1@yahoo.com

1/2 size Palatino Cello with soft case and bow, also new string set. \$300. 509-334-0324, jeeheeheo@hotmail.com

Strings for full-size cello. C/G Jargar Cello, A/D Larsen Cello, \$80, jeeheeheo@hotmail.com 509-334-0234