



Newsletter



Palouse Suzuki Strings

February 2009

Group Class Reflections

By Diane Worthey

Have you ever wondered why teachers insist that students attend group classes each week? Why do we spend so much time and energy instructing in groups? What do students gain from group class that they don't acquire from the private lesson?

Susan Jang, one of America's top up and coming professional violinists, agreed to write a few words about the importance of group classes for our February Newsletter!

Susan started lessons in Ann Arbor, Michigan at the age of 6. Like you, she started with Twinkle rhythms and bow exercises. She came to private lessons each week, played in solo recitals, attended Suzuki workshops, and attended group class. Susan practiced...A LOT.

It is no surprise to me that after much hard work, Susan is now embarking on a very promising career. She tells me that her path has been a "long road", but she loves music with a passion and appears happy to have been presented with so many opportunities. Susan is extremely modest, so she didn't tell me all of her accomplishments when we spoke recently.

Instead, she wanted to talk about her memories of growing up learning the violin. But, in order to appreciate her words below, I need to tell you about at least some of her achievements, so I did some detective work. (Google is great!)

Susan has played at Carnegie Hall and has placed in several International Violin competitions. She was the 2006 Stulberg Gold Medalist, was the 4th place winner of the Stradivarius International Competition, and is concertmistress of the American Chamber Strings. She now studies with Pamela Frank and Ida Kavafian at the Curtis Institute and is graduating soon to pursue a professional career. She has certainly grown into a mature musician, a person I am honored to have started on the violin 15 years ago.

When Susan called me recently to reconnect, she didn't want to talk about all of these things. She wanted to talk to me about her childhood experiences, and she brought up her group class memories in the conversation. I asked Susan to write a few words for us, and here is what she wrote. Her group class experience clearly provided essential motivation in her younger years.

"I think when you are growing up as a child, learning to play an instrument, the most important key is motivation. What the child will learn from lessons and group classes is self confidence, respect for self and others, musicianship skills, and so much more. The group will not only be a fun experience for the young ones, but also it gives them the chance to show their accomplishments to others and to enjoy music. Learning the violin is like a language, you must surround the child with an environment. For example: listening to classical music, attending group classes, etc."

Susan also wrote about her passion for music, and the importance of a positive relationship between the teacher and student. Susan's words and story inspire me to appreciate the work students, parents and teachers do each and every week at group class. Group classes really do have a long lasting effect. It's sometimes difficult to see the long term benefits, when we are in the midst of the trees.

March PSS Calendar

2	Rep/Read	Moscow
9	Rep/Read	Pullman
18	Spring Break	
23	Rep/Read	Moscow
30	Solo Day	Pullman

I wonder if there are any former Palouse Suzuki Strings students, in all sorts of walks of life who would like to contribute their perspective on the value of Suzuki group classes. It would be interesting and inspirational to hear from these grown up Suzuki kids, wouldn't it?



Which one is Susan?
She's in the front row next to that little one...
(Kayla Worthey)



Susan Jang



PERFORMATHON UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Performathon February 21st. It was great fun and a real test of concentration for performers! A list of performers follows:

Annalie Reed, Ben Searcy-Jorgenson, Dana Lu, Kendall Forseth, Terra Sullivan, Sunny Tran, Jack Desrosier, Benjamin Sobeloff-Gittes, Jonna Sobeloff-Gittes, Anne Rhee, Elizabeth Niehenke, Katherine Ruck, Caroline Ruck, Samuel Qualls, Lobna Abdel-Rahim, Jashvina Devadoss, Semolina Schillberg, Tabitha Bauer, Kezia Bauer, Helena Kirkland, Laura Kirkland, Anna Elise Rodgers, Megan Varnum, Haley Varnum, Symanthika Bose, Clare Eigenbrode, Noah Leibnitz, Kira Vierling, Tia Vierling, Bridget Scoles, Madison Vanderwall, Morgan Vanderwall, Ryan McCluskey, Patrick Worthey, Gavin Scoles, Kate Smith, Hannah Safe, Ryan Lawrence, Christopher Park, Milena Johnson, Alexis Ahn, Johan Joo, Hannah Hicks, Cole Wang-Li, Hannah Young, Armando Guzman, Elizabeth Guzman, Rebekah Heo, Tim Stagg, Haley Stagg, Logan Stagg, Owen Blair, Cloe Sandmeyer, Leah Bennett, Terah Bennett. Con Brio Orchestra also played as well as some teachers filling in when needed.

Thank you to Elena Panchenko, Gladys Patten, Caroline Germain, Linda Wharton, for their accompanying skills and all the teachers for their organization and time at this event. All people involved donated their time and talents to make the performathon a success!

TREASURER UPDATE

Kara Roche has volunteered to be our newest Parent Board member as treasurer. We will have an election this solo day. She and Claudia will be working through the transition for the next month. Thanks to Claudia for doing such a fine job as our treasurer the last couple years.

BOOK RECITALS

December 14	Owen Blair	Book 1
December 22	Noemi Hill	Book 2
January 30	Johan Joo	Book 5

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Attention All PSS Students!

I would personally like to invite you and your family to attend the next Washington Idaho Symphony Concert. It will be a very exciting program including a performance of Brahms Double concert for violin and cello featuring Dr. Meredith Arksey on violin and Dr. Ruth Boden on cello. Brahms wrote this concerto to re-establish his close friendship with his friends, Joseph Joachim (violinist) and Robert Hausmann (cellist). He had promised Hausmann to write a concerto for him, but hadn't quite gotten around to it. I'm sure Hausmann was disappointed since Brahms was such a great composer, and we cellists often feel neglected when it comes to having great literature to perform! Brahms also had a serious falling out with his very dear friend Joseph Joachim. The concerto's theme is made up of the notes F, A and E. It stood for Joachim's personal motto *frei aber einsam* ("free but lonely"). Imagine, one concerto to bring back together three close friends – music can have such power!

Also on the program will be Howard Hansen's 2nd Symphony better known as the "Romantic". Serge Koussevitzky, a conductor, composer and bassist commissioned this symphony to celebrate the Boston Symphony's 50th anniversary. Howard Hansen was an American composer born in Nebraska in 1896, and lived to be nearly 85 years old. He became a well-known composer and was hired to be the director of Eastman School of Music, one of our country's top music schools. One of the themes used in the symphony has become known as the Interlochen theme. Interlochen is an arts camp that many former (and one current) PSS students have attended. The theme is always played at the end of concerts and the audience leaves in silence. This is your chance to hear it and APPLAUD! Hope to see you there.–Sheila Kilcoyne

Saturday, March 28, 8:00 p.m. | Gladish Auditorium, Pullman, WA

Sunday, March 29, 3:00 p.m. | Clarkston High School Auditorium, Clarkston, WA

Adults \$15 Students \$6 (one free child with a paid adult ticket)

Other Community Music Events

March 3, 2009	University Auditorium Chamber Music Series, 7:30 pm: Fireworks
March 10, 2009	Entry Deadline: Musicfest Northwest
March 12, 2009	University Auditorium UI Symphony Orchestra and Concerto Winners, 7:30 pm.
April 10, 2009	Amie Quesnell, Viola, Lionel Hampton Music Hall, Friday 4 pm.

♪♪ **STRING ADVERTISEMENTS NEXT PAGE!!!** ♪♪

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

Becker 2000 Viola, 14 inch, \$300/o.b.o., call Judi McDonald, 509-332-6998, jmcdonald@math.wsu.edu

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