



Newsletter



Palouse Suzuki Strings

January 2009

Sharing Your Music: Oh, the Places You'll Go

By Inga Zornes

Minutes before Barack Obama was sworn in as President, more than a million heard a quartet including renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Itzhak Perlman, premiering John Williams' "Air and Simple Gifts." The musicians' smiling faces and gestures suggested they were so honored to play at this historic event that it didn't matter it was below freezing during the outdoor performance.

Did they, as children, ever dream they'd have such an honor? And how about you? Have you thought about where you might share your music someday?

Your weekly private and group lessons are the first steps of a long, fun journey. Solo Days, plus yearly or twice-a-year studio recitals, help you prepare polished performances for friends and family.

But what's after that? Let me share my story. I started playing violin in fourth grade. In a few years, I was playing special music with my mom at church. At school, I had a great time demonstrating the violin to curious kindergarten classes. Many summers I participated in music camps and later worked as a counselor and coach. Friends joined me for duets, chamber music, and even talent shows at elementary and middle school. High school meant more concerts and Solo & Ensemble competitions. When I got to college, my summers included an orchestra camp in Indiana and a string quartet job in New York!

Sometimes my musical experiences were out of the ordinary—playing for people who wouldn't usually attend a classical concert or recital. One time I was hired to play "dinner music" as hungry college students gulped down food at the campus dining center. I've played my violin for many weddings, an awesome responsibility in helping make someone's special day *really* special.

My most appreciative audiences were those at retirement homes and hospitals where I played during the holidays. Another time I played background music for a dinner honoring Salvation Army workers. Because the room was so noisy, I wondered if anybody heard or cared. But as I packed to leave, an older lady came over with tears in her eyes. "Thank you for playing tonight," she said. "You played all my favorites, and it really made my day." I'll never forget her response.

I've seen string musicians playing farmers' markets and strolling through nice restaurants. I even heard about string players who performed the national anthem before a basketball game!

Diligent practice is your key to opportunities like these. Even now, your abilities can open doors. How about playing a piece for your class during "Show and Tell" or at the school talent show? Play "Happy Birthday" to help a friend celebrate. Put on a mini-concert for neighbors or grandparents. Share your smile and a few polished pieces at a retirement home to encourage those who may feel forgotten. And don't forget this coming February 21-- the Performathon at the Palouse Mall!

You never know where your music skills may take you. Stay ready by keeping your review pieces polished. Give every opportunity your best. Maybe you won't play for more than a million, but who knows? Believe it or not, Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman were once young musicians, too!

PSS February Calendar

2	Rep/Read	Pullman
9	Rep/Read	Moscow
	Parent forum	
16	President's Day, No Classes	
21	Performathon	
23	Solo Day	Pullman

Coming PSS Events.....

Parent Forum

Need help getting over a mid-winter practicing slump? Do you have ideas to share with other parents? Do you wonder if it is all worth it? Come to the parent forum on **February 9th, at 3:45**. Signs will direct you to the location. Janet DeTemple will be bringing her wisdom to the forum and will facilitate the discussion. She can talk with you about the long-term affects of practicing. She has been in contact with some of her former students and can give us an idea what we are working toward.

Performathon

February 21st at the Palouse Mall we will have our spring fund raiser. The Palouse Mall is excited to host us near *Ross Dress For Less*. The goal is to have string music being performed for 8 continuous hours. This is not only one of those great performance opportunities, it is also a chance to let people know about our program, and raise money for a good cause. All money collected goes toward operating expenses or scholarships, depending on the need. We encourage everyone to participate! Caroline Germain has graciously donated the use of her piano keyboard, the teachers donate their time, and we will have accompanists for each performer. Jon Cheskin is in charge of scheduling, you may contact him at joncheskin@yahoo.com or 208-669-0187. Next, all you have to do is get pledges from friends or relatives.

Other Community Events....

Washington-Idaho Symphony Concert January 31-February 1

This months concert is the always-anticipated young artists concert. **We are especially excited that one of the two soloists for this concert is PSS alumna Emily Holmes**, a senior at Moscow High School. She will be playing the first movement of the *Symphonie Espagnole* by Eduardo Lalo (it's not a symphony and it's not Spanish! It's a concerto by a French composer- go figure!) The concert will also feature a soprano soloist singing music from Gounod's *Faust*, and the orchestra will play the stirring and beautiful *Symphony No. 2* by Brahms and the rousing *Festive Overture* by Shostakovich. As always, kids 16 and under are admitted free with a paying adult.

Saturday, January 31, 8 p.m. Gladish Auditorium, Pullman
Sunday, February 1, 3 p.m. Lewiston High School

Palouse Chamber Music Workshop and the Biava Quartet

As part of the distinguished Auditorium Chamber Music Series, the Biava Quartet of New York will perform a recital and take part in a five-day residency at the University of Idaho. Of particular interest to our students is the Palouse Chamber Music Workshop, in which local pre-college students who have been preparing chamber music will be in master classes with the Biava musicians. For more information about other residency events, see

<http://www.class.uidaho.edu/concerts/>

Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 Biava Quartet at the UI Administration Auditorium
Saturday, January 31, 4 p.m. Palouse Chamber Music Workshop Final Concert UI School of Music (free!)

Advertisements

Do you want your private lessons and tuition paid for? We have an opening on the parent board for Treasurer. The treasurer position will pay for group class tuition and private lessons with a PSS teacher during the fall, winter, and spring. Claudia Guzman can give you an idea of the time commitment. We need a Suzuki parent who wants to get involved. The board is a very collegial group and enjoyable to work with. You can talk with any of the board members for more details.

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), good condition, \$200, Jung Song (208)596-9039 or email Jungeun0919@gmail.com

1/2 size Becker violin, good sound, Carla Bennett 509-334-5603

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

Wanted 1/4 size cello, contact Kristine Kuhn, 509-332-4285

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

