



# Newsletter



*Palouse Suzuki Strings*

*March 2009*

## Contextual Success

by Elizabeth Young  
a Suzuki Mom for over 13 years

If we're honest, success is important to most of us, for obvious (and maybe a few not-so-obvious) reasons. We want to know that what we are doing matters; we like to look good in front of others; we often believe in an invisible link between success and happiness. In the lives of children, success often breeds further success. It's that magical 'intrinsic reward' that we want them to thrive on.

So how do we measure success in the process of raising a young musician? What standards shall we set? Flawless performances? Speeding through book after book ahead of the others? Cheerful practicing day in and day out? (Are you laughing yet? You should be!)

Much of what our children learn **while** they are learning to play an instrument will shape how they learn and experience other things in their lives. Perfectionism in an imperfect world can be crushing to a child. And the comparison game is flawed because one can 'win' or 'lose' simply by changing the choice of accomplishment to be compared. (There is always someone out there who is better than me at a certain thing, and someone out there who is not as good as I am at something else.)

If our children learn early to measure their success as improvement over their own previous accomplishments, they will be set to succeed not only in music, but in many other areas of life. Small strides forward become reasons for celebration—and provide motivation to keep working. The only person we should ever measure our child against is herself or himself.

But it is not only our children's success that we gauge. We also tend to wonder if we're 'doing it right', or if so-and-so is a better Suzuki parent. Again, we must ask ourselves, what is the standard for our success? Our child's playing ability? Our understanding of music? Our ability to coach our child's practice sessions cheerfully day in and day out? (This is another good spot for laughter.)

As adults, we can easily spot the pitfalls of perfectionism and the comparison game and keep both out of our self-assessments. We also have another advantage that comes with age and experience. It could be called 'keeping sight of the big picture.' When we do this, we recognize that timing makes a big difference and we avoid engaging in any form of evaluation (of ourselves or our children) when it simply doesn't make sense to do so.

For example, a book recital is **not** the time to ask ourselves how well a child is playing or if s/he really learned all the pieces in the book just finished; a much better time for those questions might be at a rehearsal session beforehand (without the pressure of an audience) or halfway through the next book when we hear a review piece and realize that it sounds simply amazing. The end of a stressful week is **not** the time to ask ourselves if we are keeping practicing fun; it's time to be grateful if we practiced at all. If failure and disappointment characterize most of our evaluations—of ourselves or our child—it may be time to step back and ask how the current situation might soon be changing to circumstances that will lend themselves to a more positive and constructive

## *April PSS Calendar*

6	Rep/Read	Moscow
12	Rep/Read	Pullman
20	Solo Day + Orchestra Rehearsal	Moscow
27	Final Concert 6:30	Pullman



Hannah (15), Jeff, Elizabeth, Grace (18) Young

situation might soon be changing to circumstances that will lend themselves to a more positive and constructive

experience. If another commitment, or illness, or . . . has made the past few weeks (or even months) less productive and constructive than we would like, we can take this particular season and place it back in the context of a year of growth and development and continue to celebrate each and every success we see.



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for  
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### Performathon A Success

Many of you may be wondering how much money was collected through the performathon this year. Our treasurer tells us that she was able to deposit \$831.81!!! This money can be used for both scholarships and/or operating expenses for this year and next. Thanks to all who participated in any way.

#### Book Recitals

Ian Roche	Violin Book 1	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Morgan Vanderwall	Violin Book 5	March 15 <sup>th</sup>
Madison Vanderwall	Violin Book 4	March 15 <sup>th</sup>
Dana Lu	Violin Book 2	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Leah Bennett	Viola Book 1	March 29 <sup>th</sup>

**Congratulations!!!**

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**April 10, 2009 Friday 4:00 p.m.** Amie Quesnell, Viola, Lionel Hampton Recital Hall

**April 18, 2009** The annual **Family Concert** will be presented by the Washington-Idaho Symphony at **10:00 a.m. in Lewiston High School and 1:00 p.m. at the Gladish Auditorium in Pullman.** This is always fun and is paced and designed for younger listeners. It features the famous walk-through” to get close to the musicians. **And its free!**

**April 25, 2009** String Festival Faculty Recital, **Friday, 7:30 p.m.,** Lionel Hampton Recital Hall

**April 26, 2009,** Sheila Kilcoyne’s Studio Recital, **Sunday, 2 p.m.,** St. James, Pullman

**May 3, 2009** Janet DeTemple’s Studio Recital, **Sunday, 4:30 p.m.** Unitarian Church, Moscow

**May 9, 2009** Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra, **Saturday, 7:30 p.m.,** Lionel Hampton Recital Hall **FREE!**

## Cougar String Camp at Washington State University

Cougar String Camp is for violinists, violists, cellists and bassists, grades 7-12 (those going into 7<sup>th</sup> through those having just graduated from high school). The dates are June 28-July 3.

The camp focuses on chamber music, jazz, fiddling, technique and orchestra, and making music fun!! It is open to both Suzuki and traditional students. Students should have played at least three years. We have an advanced and intermediate orchestra and many levels of chamber groups, from extremely advanced to those just learning to shift and do vibrato. We have a great faculty and energetic counselors. There are lots of exciting non-musical activities also. This will be our fourth year, and I've gotten e-mails from parents saying how much their kids talked about the great time, and how much they learned at camp last summer. **The price is the same as last summer!!! We're trying to keep the price affordable for everyone. The full package for the week costs \$385 and includes room and board, social activities, tee-shirt. For commuting students the cost is \$265 and includes lunches, social activities, tee-shirt.**

*There is a special CSC Quartet Fellowship competition this year. Pre-formed quartets may send in a recording by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The winning group will receive all expenses freeroom and board and tuition. For application, click on the Quartet Fellowship link on the web page.*

WSU's piano camp, Summer Keyboard Explorations is run in conjunction with the string camp, so if a string player wants to come with a friend who is a pianist, they can share a room, and participate together in many activities. The registration deadline is June 2nd but early registration is recommended. Here is the link to the web site where all the detailed information and forms are found. <http://libarts.wsu.edu/music/camp/csc/>

For more information phone or E-mail Meredith Arksey at 509-335-3961, [marksey@wsu.edu](mailto:marksey@wsu.edu)  
For the piano camp link, go to the string camp page and click on Summer Keyboard Explorations.

### *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](mailto: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](mailto:luyy1@yahoo.com)

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

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

**Strings for full-size cello.** C/G Jargar Cello, A/D Larsen Cello, \$80, [jeeheeheo@hotmail.com](mailto:jeeheeheo@hotmail.com) 509-334-0234