



Newsletter



Palouse Suzuki Strings

March 2008

Go, team !

By Elizabeth Young

As members of a sports-saturated culture, most of us are familiar with the necessity of teamwork. The call to work together resonates throughout the locker rooms and across the playing fields of our society. Even when the all-eclipsing goal of winning is replaced by less aggressive values, such as cooperation and community, teamwork still remains the cornerstone of the foundation upon which our values are realized.

This is no less true in the lives of families who have discovered one of the key components of a musical education built upon the unique ideas of a wonderful teacher named Shinichi Suzuki. One of the invaluable tools that Dr. Suzuki gave us to employ as we raise musical children is good old, undefeatable teamwork.

Who are the team members? The ‘first string’ (oops—pardon the mixed metaphor!) is made up of parent and teacher. Together, they represent an amazing array of resources which, when used in a cooperative and collaborative manner, are pretty unbeatable. These resources include—but are by no means limited to—the following: The parent brings an intimate and profoundly personal understanding of the student, and how she or he thinks and learns. This, by the way, continues to grow in the practice room, and becomes ever more useful throughout a Suzuki education. Likewise, the parent brings the deepest investment in the well-being and development of the child. The teacher, in addition to specific training in educational methods that work well at a variety of developmental stages, brings his or her own experiences as a musician (and former student!).

Who or what then, is the “opposition”? Hopefully, it’s not your child, although it may feel that way some days. No, I believe that the opposition varies from day to day or season to season. It may show up one time in the form of a tendency to tire quickly on the part of the child. Another time it may be reluctance to try something new, or conversely, the inability to understand why we have to keep doing “old” stuff that has already been learned. (Sometimes known as “review” or “repertoire class”.) It may be that ever-threatening enemy . . . over-commitment to too many activities to ever be able to do any of them particularly well.

Now, if you ever find yourself, as a Suzuki parent, feeling like you are out there all alone, just look around for your incredible teammate. Your child’s teacher is only a phone call or an email away, and she or he would love to share your burden and offer you something new from that inexhaustible bag of tricks! Once the two of you are engaged together, executing the same game plan, the opposition is simply, well, “toast.”

PSS Calendar April

| | | |
|----|---------------------|--------------|
| 7 | Rep/Read | Pullman |
| 14 | Rep/Read | Moscow |
| 21 | Solo Day | |
| | Orchestra Rehearsal | Pullman |
| 28 | Final Concert | Pullman 7 PM |

Of course, there is a very important third member of this team: your child. Initially, however, I would like to suggest that she or he is more like the “second string.” You see, a young child is typically not mature or experienced enough at the outset to engage fully in the cooperation and collaboration that drives teamwork. So, in the beginning—and for a time which only you can measure accurately—your child needs you and your teacher to lead the way and demonstrate the success that comes from collaboration with another.

My experience has been that, when I worked in cooperation with my children’s teacher, sharing my parental concerns and asking for input when I needed it, the many stumbling blocks that each girl faced along the way became much easier to conquer. Practice routines were easier to outline. Review was accepted without resentment. Progress became the norm. And here’s the weird part . . . somewhere along the way, each child moved from second string to first—with a sense of ownership and shared cooperation in dealing with the obstacles that remain to be faced.

Many years ago, when my oldest daughter was learning to play the Twinkle variations, her teacher required his students to memorize a list of sayings that he had gleaned from Dr. Suzuki himself. One that I still remember goes like this: “Every child learns. It depends on the teacher; it depends on the parent; it depends on me. Therefore, I will say, ‘Thank you, Teacher. Thank you, Parent. I will do my best.’” It has been my experience that when teacher and parent work in cooperation with one another to do their best for the child, the child can do no less than her best in response. So, “GO, TEAM!”

Elizabeth Young is mother to daughters Hannah (violin) & Grace (viola), and has spent a combined total of 20+ years raising her girls in the Suzuki method. The family was involved in PSS for 17 years. (No math re: the age of the author, please!)



MAD ABOUT MUSIC TOUR

A wonderful opportunity is coming our way on May 31st. All the way from New Mexico, Susan Kempter’s Suzuki group is making the Palouse one of her main stops on their upcoming tour. She has a select group of Suzuki students and parents that will be coming our way. Let’s be grand hosts and show them a good time. It will be a whirlwind day, starting with a 10 a.m. rehearsal at the Dahmen Barn. Following this, is a picnic and hike at Kamiak Rondo Butte from 1-3 p.m. Then we would recommend a costume change for a concert at the Dahmen Barn at 7 p.m. There are going to be sign up sheets for the concert and potluck/picnic in your teacher’s studios. PSS is planning on buying giant subway sandwiches for the picnic with the rest being a potluck. Please consider participating in this event in anyway you can!-aw

| <i>PSS May Preview</i> | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 5 | Solo Day PSS/Musicfest | Pullman |
| 31 | Mad About Music | Dahmen Barn |

FREE FAMILY CONCERT!!

“Anatomy of the Orchestra” is the theme of the Fugue free family concert put on by the Washington-Idaho Symphony. The selections will include Dance of the Buffoons, John Henry Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra, Harry Potter, and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4. During the last song families are allowed to walk through the orchestra while it is playing. You can feel the vibrations with your feet while the sounds flows around you! **April 12th, the symphony will play at 10 a.m. in Lewiston, and at 1 p.m. in Gladish in Pullman.** Did I mention it is free?-aw

FINAL CONCERT PLANNED

It’s not too early to think about the final concert. The children will perform on **April 28th in Pullman, at 7 p.m.** We are assuming families will have eaten, so after the concert will be a reception with “after dinner” treats. We are having our videographer, Rhett Mahoney, tape the concert again. If you have any suggestions to make it better please let me know. He has been very willing to work with us. The board will be taking orders for DVDs again. This time before I put in the final order you will need to prepay. Theme and Variations We want you to be able to get your DVDs right away before the teachers leave for the summer! -aw

TEACHER RECEIVES MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Our very own cello teacher Jon Cheskin has been awarded a merit scholarship from the Suzuki Association of America to attend the Boise Institute this summer. This scholarship is not just given to anyone. Dr. Cheskin submitted an application, resume, letters of recommendation, and a videocassette audition in which he played the first movement of Beval Sonata and Tchaikovsky’s Chanson Triste. As an aside, Palouse Suzuki String teachers are all highly trained. To ensure quality teaching the teachers are required by our constitution and by-laws to keep Song Form up with their Suzuki training. The training can be very expensive when you consider travel and tuition. We congratulate Dr. Cheskin on his accomplishment!-aw

HOORAY
for
t.p.d.y.

BOOK RECITALS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|
| Terah Bennett | Book 1 | March 16 |
| Jonna Gittes-Sobeloff | Book 1 | March 29 |
| Myoung-Jun Kang | Book 5 | March 29 |
| Annie Cooper | Senior | March 30 |

STUPENDOUS!!!

Is your child growing again? Sonata Check out the advertisements on the next page.

STRING SHOPPE

Cello, 1/2 size, excellent condition, price: \$300 Call Jeehee Kim at 509-334-0324(H) or 509-432-9434(C)

1/2 size K Becker violin including shoulder rest, good condition. Price \$220. Please, call Hoa at 509-432-5227

2004 Nagoya-Suzuki 1/8 size violin with bow and zippered case. \$200, call Matt or Jill McCluskey, 334-1607, or mattmcc@wsu.edu

1/2 size Cello, Bow and Soft Case. \$350. Please contact Wendy at 882- 6296.

Very nice 3/4 violin, bow, chinrest and case. \$500. Please contact Wendy at 882-6296

Student grade 1/4 size violin - \$50. Call Jenni Light at 509-243-1222 for questions.

2006 Hoffman Etude violin, 1/8 size, excellent condition. Email Carol Spurling at writer@plumassignment.net or call 892-0649

1/4 Cremona (\$125), **1/2 Klaus Mueller Prelude** complete outfit, new. **3/4 Arthur Ross**, and several other **full-size violins**, call Ron at 882-2919 to view.

Viola outfit, \$175, call Ron, 882-2919

Cello full size: excellent full outfit, new, \$490, Ron 882-2919

Cello for advanced players, with fiberglass case, \$3,200, Ron at 882-2919

Cello, older, inquire. Call Ron at 882-2919

There are 5 hidden terms in the newsletter. They are all musical forms. Find them and receive a prize!