



Newsletter



Palouse Suzuki Strings

May 2007

In Memory of a Great Teacher

by Janet DeTemple

On April 9 the Suzuki Community lost an important mentor. Yuko Honda died after struggling nearly two years with a virulent form of lung cancer. While most of the families now enrolled in PSS didn't know Yuko, all of us who teach have been touched in one way or another by her wonderful example.

Yuko taught in the Seattle area for at least 30 years. She served often as a clinician at institutes and workshops regionally, nationally and internationally. She grew up in Japan and was a student of Suzuki himself. Because she had so much first hand experience with him, she always felt a special charge to be the embodiment of his teaching.

My experiences with Yuko are as varied as she was as a person. Early on I was sort of scared of her. She was very direct in dealing with teachers and students and she had a reputation for being forceful and sometimes harsh. In recent years I've come to know the real person inside and witnessed an amazing transformation. While her values remained the same (never accept anything but the highest quality playing a student can achieve, and never think that any of them can't reach excellence), in the last several years I became aware of a dramatic change. Where she had been businesslike and closed, she began to welcome personal relationships and to talk quite openly and publicly about her life and her experiences, some of which were tragic. She began to talk about feelings and how they matter when we teach. The courage of her revelations are a lesson all by themselves.

On many occasions I had the opportunity to see and hear Yuko's students perform. They were uniformly stunning in their accuracy and their musicianship. When I observed a teacher training unit at the book one level in Idaho I began to understand why. She didn't stop with notes. She insisted on musical phrasing and artistic performance, even with the twinkles. She insisted again and again that even the youngest students could sound like the recordings. Her students always did. High expectations was the way she believed that we all should love our students. That is such a huge lesson!

Each time I encountered Yuko over the many years we both have taught in the Northwest, she has had something new to teach me and I always came away vowing to be a better teacher.

We will all miss her. We will all keep her memory by striving to be ever better teachers and ever better human beings. She is gone but her legacy will remain with those she touched forever.

PSS SUMMER CALENDAR

July 20th Early Bird Registration Due

September 10th First Class PSS



Pre-Registration Information

Why haven't we always had pre-registration? This experiment has turned out to be a very smart move and hopefully it isn't too much trouble for you. You will be receiving the form in the mail very soon! Tuition is the same as 2006-07. You will be asked pay your \$25 deposit toward your tuition (per family) to reserve your space by July 20th. If you register after this date the tuition increases by \$25. The pre-registration allows us to plan for next fall. If you have questions about registration you can call Teacher Coordinator Diane Worthey, 332-8322 or President Don Heroff 332-4658. This year the forms will be sent to Claudia Guzman our treasurer. Her address is on the registration form.

Election Results

Congratulations to Don Heroff, our new Parent Board President. He was elected unanimously through an internet vote. Thanks to all who participated. Don is very enthusiastic and cares about PSS. I am looking forward to working with him-A.W.

Summer Practice Tips, compiled by Diane Worthey and Allison Willoughby

*Attend a Summer Institute if at all possible. This gives you inspiration and ideas that will feed your progress over the next year or more.

*If you can't attend an Institute, attend the WSU String Camp July 1-6. Call Meredith Arksey for info. (335-3961). This is open to string students entering grades 7-12. The deadline to sign up is June 15th.

*Take as many private lessons as you and your teacher's schedule allows. If you can't do many, consider lengthening the time of the lessons you do have.

*Make a practice calendar and have a goal. (ex: Practice 30 days in a row, perform a piece or a recital for family who are visiting) Reward yourself with an ice cream cone from Ferdinand's for a job well done.

*Listening can happen anywhere- at the very least bring along the CD on vacation and listen, listen, listen.

*Try practicing first thing in the morning as part of your summer routine. Then enjoy other activities knowing you put in the work and you have it done for the day.

*Tackle a piece as a "summer project" with the goal of performing it on the first Solo Day in the Fall.

*Go and visit Bishop Place, Good Samaritan, or other Care Centers and bring your gift of music to others.

*Practice in a different location. Outside or in a different part of the house.

*Bring your violin on vacation and put on a concert for family.

*If you have a brother or sister that plays, practice together once or twice a week the songs you both know. Learn some duets!

*Draw review pieces out of a hat!

Book Recitals		
Myoung-Jun Kang	Book 4	April 21
Katherine Ruck	Book 3	June 3
CONGRATULATIONS!!!		

*Dress up in a costume.

*Get together with PSS friends for a jam session.

*Make a calendar and decide ahead of time what days you are practicing so you don't feel bad about missing a day for that swim party. Have a goal of a certain number of days a week.

*The teachers may not agree with this but—drum roll please—take a little time off! You deserve it.

*If you have several good practices in a week treat yourself to an easy practice (only do the fun stuff).

String Shoppe

Nice **1/8 violin** outfit, Karen Humes, 835-5707

1/4 size Franz Hoffman Etude outfit. \$200. Contact Dolores Michael 208-882-0178

1/2 size Kurt Heinbacher outfit. \$300. Contact Dolores Michael 208-882-0178

1/2 K. Becker violin outfit with brazilwood bow w/horsehair. Good quality. Dominant strings. Call Hoa at 509-334-6476

3/4 size violin outfit. Nice tone and in very good condition. Asking \$600. Call Wendy at 208-882-6296

Wm Lewis **3/4 size violin outfit**, excellent condition, Lois Blackburn, 208-882-8956

3/4 size very nice violin. Call Donna at 509-878-1633 or hooners@palouse.com

3/4 size violin, bow, and case. 1920's, made in eastern Europe ("Bohemia"). New strings, newly re-haired bow. Nice tone. \$275. Call Nancy Holmes 208-882-4918 or email ncholmes@verizon.net

Full size violin, bow, and case. Eastman Strings Violin, antique finish and fine-tuning by Lundin's Violins (Coeur d'Alene). Sweet, warm tone. \$1,600. Call Nancy Holmes 208-883-4918 or email ncholmes@verizon.net

Full size violin, appraised at \$700, Jennifer Hammond, 334-5649

Full Size carbon fiber **violin bow** (appraised at \$350), Jennifer Hammond, 334-5649

Potter 3/4 size cello for sale. Appraised at \$1500, will sell for \$1000. Comes with case and bow. Deborah Harsh birabiro@pullman.com

1/2 Size Cello with bow and soft case. Good Quality \$300, call Jeehee Kim 509-334-0324

15 5/8 viola. Call Donna at 509-878-1633 hooners@palouse.com

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!!