



# Newsletter



*Palouse Suzuki Strings*

*November 2008*

## **My Four Weeks in Mexico:**

### **What the teacher learned about being a student**

by Janet DeTemple

From July 21 until August 15 my husband Duane and I were enrolled in a language school in Cuernavaca, Mexico. For five hours a day, five days a week we worked to learn the intricacies of the Spanish language. Being a student again was instructive in itself. This is what I noticed:

1) Positive feedback from our teachers was like currency. Each time I got something right and the teacher acknowledged my progress I felt empowered to learn more. Whatever the class was doing one teacher in particular always gave everyone immediate feedback and a simple, sincere, bueno if a response was correct. Those bueno, Janet moments really recharged my enthusiasm and my energy.

2) When corrections were necessary (and believe me, I needed plenty!) teachers were gentle and careful to see the nuggets of correctness in mistakes everyone was making. From the beginning we were reminded that mistakes are a necessary and valuable process. More times than I can count we laughed together at our mistakes. Allowing ourselves to take risks publically enhanced learning.

3) Sharing the learning experience made hard work seem like fun. Seeing and hearing others struggle with the same concepts and sharing each others progress helped to keep the processes fresh and interesting.

4) Here is the hard one. I had to suppress an urge to measure my own progress by the progress of others. The school measures proficiency not just with what a person knows, but by how well he or she uses knowledge. Because of that its easy to be disappointed with initial class placements. As the weeks progressed I kept worrying about what manual we were working in, where our class was in the general hierarchy of the groups etc.etc. When I allowed myself to think in these comparative and hierarchical terms I got nervous and frustrated way more easily.

I had to learn to trust my rate of progress and to understand that my rate of learning reflected my individual style and pace. I learned to be satisfied with what I could do with reasonable effort day to day. I cycled through this internal debate at least three times in four weeks.

5) Learning seemed faster and more permanent when teachers used the following formula: a)introduction of new material b) supervised practice with the material using immediate feedback and c) manipulation of the material in different and creative activities. I found that using information in these ways resulted in remembering better and understanding concepts more fully.

6) A measure of the quality of instruction at Instituto Chac-Mool was the frequent

### *December PSS Calendar*

1	Rep/Read	Moscow
8	Rep/Read	Pullman
15	Winter Concert-4:30	Pullman
22	Winter Break	
29	Winter Break	

### *January PSS Calendar*

5	Rep/Read	Moscow
12	Rep/Read	Pullman
19	No Classes	Martin Luther King Day
26	Solo Day	Moscow

laughter I heard every day. Relaxed, happy students learn better.

7) The facility itself was pleasant and comfortable. Classes were held outside under beautiful palapas in a lovely garden. While ambient noise sometimes interfered, I loved learning where the sun shined.

When I think over my experiences I am reminded about what is effective in the learning process. I recognize a number of Suzuki Method principals at work. What a coincidence!

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## PSS HAPPENINGS

### Applebee's fundraiser:

In an effort to keep tuition low we have booked Applebee's for a pancake breakfast **December 6<sup>th</sup>. The breakfast occurs from 8-10 am.**

Everyone is encouraged to tell their friends to attend. We are selling tickets ahead, however, people can buy at the door. The cost is \$6.50 per person. The price includes a short stack of pancakes, drink, and two slices of bacon. PSS gets to keep \$5 for every breakfast sold.

Applebee's is doing all the cooking and we will help serve!

### Book Recitals

Alexis Ahn	Book 1	November 8
JiYoon Shin	Book 5	November 15
Armondo Guzman	Book 2	November 23

Congratulations!!

### Winter Concert:

The Winter concert is fast approaching! Make sure you mark your calendars and invite family and friends to this annual celebration of music by our students. This year we will again have a potluck following the concert. The concert is at **Simpson United Methodist Church in Pullman on December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 pm.** **You will be asked to arrive at 3:45 (regular class time)** dressed in your white top and black pants/skirt. Please bring your instrument and music! We will not be hiring a videographer for this concert. Those of you that want to tape the concert with your own cameras can do so in the balcony for the best view. We will give you more details about the food and fun when we get into December.

### PSS Registration for Winter/Spring Semester:

Yes, you do need to register again second semester! **Second semester begins January 5<sup>th</sup>.** We will have forms made available at the final concert as well as when we return for second semester. Tuition will not change except Beginning Cello and Pretwinkle class tuition will decrease. The board is meeting early December and will be deciding the amount of this tuition.

### Performathon:

Every other year PSS has a "Performathon" at the Palouse Empire Mall. We will be having this on **February 21, 2009.** In the Performathon, we have students and groups playing all day long. The kids seem to have a lot of fun playing in the mall. We will solicit cash donations before the performance as well as having a collection jar for folks at the mall.

## MUSIC COMMUNITY EVENTS

### ♪GPYO Winter Concert ♪

Yes!! Winter has arrived and just in time for the Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra's performance of Vivaldi's Winter with Ferenc Cseszko. Antonio Vivaldi wrote a violin concerto describing frozen, icy snow, howling winds and teeth chattering. Of course he gives us a chance to warm up by the fireside and listen to raindrops fall outside and then he sends us back outside slipping and falling on the ice. Can you imagine what the orchestra and the violinist must do to create these sounds? If you come I promise the performance to be trilling and it won't disaponticello you!

Also on the program will be a battle between two orchestras during Gabrielli's Canzona for double string orchestra. Don't worry – no one gets hurt and we stay friends in the end. We will also perform a Joke (Scherzo) that Felix Mendelssohn wrote when he was 12 years old. The Scherzo has Swiss Folk song, a melody from a traditional Hebrew song and a surprise ending. You will then get to dance during Antonin Dvorak's (composer of Humoresque) Two Waltzes and Frolic home after hearing part of Sir Hubert Parry's English Suite

Did I forget to mention this exciting evening is free of charge? Yes, a "kid friendly" concert at no charge - cake and punch to boot! All audience members are invited to stay for cake and punch after the concert. You **don't** want to miss the Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra in concert on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Lionel Hampton School of Music's Recital Hall at the University of Idaho. You will see many former and current PSS members performing and one of the fastest violinists on the Palouse! Wow -- all totaled an evening of great music, cake and punch and a chance to earn a special PSS pencil too! Hope to see you all there.

Sheila Kilcoyne and GPYO members

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS!!**



#### Other Community Events

Tuesday, December 2, 2008  
Auditorium Chamber Music Series: Fountain Ensemble  
7:30 p.m. UI University Auditorium

Saturday, December 6, 2008  
Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra  
7:30 p.m. Lionel Hampton Recital Hall **FREE!**

Washington Idaho Symphony Concert III  
Saturday, December 13, 2008 8:00 p.m. Gladish Auditorium  
Sunday December 13, 2008 3:00 p.m. Lewiston High School

Tuesday, January 27, 2009  
Auditorium Chamber Music Series: Biava Quartet  
7:30 p.m. UI University Auditorium

## ***STRING SHOPPE***

**Otto Ernst Fischer 1/4 size violin**, \$379, payments possible. Contact Claudia Guzman at 509-334-1956

**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

**Suzuki Books**, Cello Volume I and Volume II, \$4.00 each. [jeeheeheo@hotmail.com](mailto:jeeheeheo@hotmail.com) 509-334-0234

**1/2 size cello** \$350, call Lynette Rawlings 208-476-5520

**1/2 size violin outfit**, \$125, call Lynette Rawlings 208-476-5520

**1/2 size Suzuki Cello** made in 1990. \$425. Contact Jessica Kirkland at 883-0530

**1/2 size Becker violin**, Excellent condition \$300. Contact Carla Bennett at 509-334-5603

**Full size violin**, Antonius Strad. Crem. Faiebat Anno 17. With nice case and 2 bows. Appraised at \$650 but asking \$600. Ann Saberi 509-432-3335

**1/10 size violin Franz Hoffmann Etude Violin with bow/case** (2008), good condition, \$200, contact Jung Song 208-596-9039, or [Jungeun0919@gmail.com](mailto:Jungeun0919@gmail.com)

