



# Newsletter



*Palouse Suzuki Strings*

*September 2007*

## **Beginning Cello Class Up and Running**

By Jonathan Cheskin

This semester at the Palouse Suzuki Strings, you are likely to run into some children carrying very small cellos. A new Beginning Cello class has started, comprised of six girls—Kira Vierling, Linnea Sheneman, Annie Sheneman, Terra Sullivan, Annalie Reed from Moscow, and Milena Johnson from Pullman. All of the students are in my studio, ranging in age from four to seven years.

### ***PSS October Calendar***

1 <sup>st</sup>	Rep/Read and Parent forum 1 <sup>st</sup> hour	Moscow
8 <sup>th</sup>	Rep/Read	Pullman
15 <sup>th</sup>	Rep/Read	Moscow
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rep/Read	Pullman
29 <sup>th</sup>	Solo Day	Moscow

The class was able to start at slightly higher than absolute beginner level, since all of the kids had some prior experience. Four students—Kira, Terra, Annalie, and Milena—started the cello outside of private lessons, at classes that I have been teaching at two of the local preschool/day cares in Moscow: the Moscow Day School and UI Children’s Center. These classes allow students to experiment with the cello and see if they want to pursue more serious study. Linnea and Annie, on the other hand, started with me in the private studio this summer.

On our first day, I met with parents only and went over rudiments of Suzuki philosophy and cello technique. In the second class, however, the cellists were raring to go with their instruments, and we were off and running with a very spirited group lesson. The class was an eye-opener for the cellists and parents, none of whom had never experienced anything quite like it. In addition to our technical study this semester, culminating hopefully in fingered twinkle variations and beyond, we will be dabbling into classics of the pre-twinkle cello repertoire such as “Old McCello” and “The Spooky Story.” Please help welcome our intrepid beginning cellists and their families to the Palouse Suzuki Strings.

## **Pretwinkle Violin Class**

The pretwinkle violin class also started out with parents only for the first classes. Becky Miller is teaching the littlest violinists this year. The class consists of nine students. The families are a nice mixture of younger siblings of current string players and completely new families. As part of the class parents are asked about their motivation for pursuing music lessons for their children. Becky was kind enough to share some quotes from the pretwinkle parents:

*“Music is a real blessing in life. Knowing how to play an instrument allows us to share that with others.”*

*“Aside from these [intellectual] arguments, nothing outweighs the sheer joy that I feel in playing beautiful melodies on my own instrument, the flute. Pushing myself to excel, to reach beyond my own*

*limitations, to soar with the music is an experience I desire to share with my daughter.”*

*“I believe playing the piano taught me a lot about the discipline and a sense of accomplishment, and just a calming mechanism in later adolescence.”*

*“I believe that music can be a life long friend...I want to provide her with the opportunity to learn, love, and appreciate music.”*

*“I want her to develop and have good character...every day she will practice with a violin over and over again. She will develop her patience as well as endurance. Furthermore, she will learn how to focus on one thing rather than exploring many distracted activities at the same time.”*

Thank you Pretwinkle parents for reminding us why we are doing this and welcome to all new families!

## Parent Forum

Want to stay motivated? The first Monday of every month the parent board will be hosting a parent forum during the first hour of classes. Holding it 1<sup>st</sup> hour allows pretwinkle and beginning cello parents to attend. We welcome both experienced families and new families to share ideas with each other. Jennifer Safe, our Vice-President, usually comes armed with discussion topics. We hope you will consider coming to some of these discussions—the more the better! It can be a great way to meet other families and glean some practice tips. **Our next parent forum will be October 1<sup>st</sup> in Moscow, at 3:45 P.M.**

## Childcare

Childcare is available to parents who wish to use it. Parents will pay the sitter directly when the child/children are dropped off. The cost is \$5 for a single child, \$8 for 2 children, and \$10 for 3 children. We would like to find a regular sitter at both locations. **If you have an older sibling that would like to earn some money or if you have questions about childcare please contact Jennifer Safe, our Vice President. Her phone number is 883-0758.**

## Website Manager

Do you want to be more involved in PSS? Do you want to earn a little pocket money? Would you like to know what is going on before everyone else? We need a website manager. This person will help design the web page and post new articles that the secretary gives you. Our current web manager says it takes about 1-2 hours a month. He is quite willing to orient the new person. If you are interested or have questions about this position contact me, Allison Willoughby at 882-0656 or [alwillow@moscow.com](mailto:alwillow@moscow.com)

## Book Recitals

Terry Yeh	Book 2	July 30
Emma Browse	Book 4	August 14
Armando Guzman	Book 1	August 15
Elizabeth Guzman	Book 5	August 15
Madison Vanderwall	Book 3	September 16

**Congratulations!!!**

## Church Etiquette/Safety

We appreciate our churches! We do pay rent at these facilities. However, we recognize that the primary purpose of both churches are not for housing Palouse Suzuki Strings. Please treat these facilities with respect. If some sort of mess or accident happens that you aren't sure how to handle please inform a Parent Board member or Diane Worthey (Teacher Coordinator).

Here is the annual safety reminder....as the days get shorter, please take care in the parking lots as you are leaving. We have a lot of little people carrying black instrument cases (some the same size as them). The kids can be hard to see and they are often excited and distracted. Take it slow.

## Solo Day

Solo days are for everyone! Your child should be scheduled to perform a solo once a semester. The exception might be a pretwinkler, who might not know a song. Families are encouraged to attend solo days even when your child is not performing. Children can learn to be good audience members, see their friends play, and be exposed to higher levels of music. If children watch other children perform solos it will help them see what a friendly atmosphere it is. They learn that solos are a fun way to share music! Following the solo performances there will be a fun "play-in" that the teachers take turns leading.

**Pretwinklers and Beg. Cello parents take note: Solo day starts at 3:45 and generally ends around 5 P.M.**

**Don't miss Mrs. Spiderwoman in October!**

### STRING SHOPPE

1996 *A. Rohde* ¼ size violin with wooden horsehair bow. Zippered case and ¼ size KUN rest included. Very good tone, excellent condition. \$400.00 Call Kathleen or Tom Rodgers, 332-4298 or [rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com](mailto:rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com)

2001 *Klaus Mueller Prelude, Model 105*, ½ size violin with wooden horsehair bow. Zippered case and ½ size collapsible KUN included. Good tone and condition. Nice set up for beginner student. \$200.00, Call Kathleen or Tom Rodgers, 332-4298 or [rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com](mailto:rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com)

1962 *Karl Hofner* ¾ size violin with wooden horsehair bow and new hard-sided case. Violin looks a bit rustic but has a nice sound. Good for beginner student. \$100.00, Call Kathleen or Tom Rodgers, 332-4298 or [rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com](mailto:rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com)

Beginner Violin Outfit for Sale: Very nice, bought new online in 2006, used only a few times, **Franz Hoffmann Etude 1/8 size**, includes case, bow, tuner, rosin, and Suzuki beginner instruction book Volume 1. All for only \$200. Contact Laura at 208-310-6521 or email [lbrock@turbonet.com](mailto:lbrock@turbonet.com)

**Becker 3/4 size violin.** New strings. \$350.00. Call Jill Schneider 338-9593