

Minutes for the July 25, 2010 Informational Meeting

**Re: Forming an SAA Affiliate Chapter for Indiana or Midwest**

The meeting was held at the home of Liz Efroymsen, 6071 Riverview Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46208 at 1:30 p.m. In attendance were Liz Efroymsen, Dawn Evans, Jillian Chrisman and Chin Mi Kim

Liz presented information from Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) that provides procedural steps towards forming an SAA Chapter Affiliate. Steps 1-12 were discussed.

Discussion regarding the name of the chapter took place. Possible names such as Midwest and Indiana were mentioned. It was generally decided to first determine if the state of Indiana has enough interested teachers (30 are needed) to form a chapter before involving neighboring states.

Benefits of Affiliation were also discussed. It was agreed that having an affiliation through SAA would bring a more professional status to the chapter locally.

Benefits (activities) discussed for the chapter were (1) Shop talks – a time for teachers to meet informally to exchange teaching ideas and mentor new teachers. (2) Play-Ins – a time for Suzuki students to gather informally and play the Suzuki repertoire as a large group. (3) E-Newsletter – to keep members informed with articles, schedule of activities and teacher/studio news. (4) Book Review/Club to provide Suzuki education.

Other ideas discussed were graduation recitals, teacher retreats, developing a website or facebook page, teacher recitals, and piano ensemble experiences.

Once formed, the chapter is interested in providing activities for all Suzuki instruments, and in rotating activity locations around the state. It was also agreed that we should better define the chapter by providing bylaws, thus incorporating standards of professionalism within the chapter.

It was generally agreed that it is the philosophy of the Suzuki Method that is most distinguishable when comparing the Suzuki Method to other teaching methods. The Suzuki Method philosophy includes nurturing the whole child and approaching each child in a child friendly (game playing, imaginative) manner that suites the child's sense of wonder and 'play' learning.

Dues were considered and a possible annual fee of \$25.00 was discussed. Dawn is to research fees of other affiliate chapters. Further investigation will determine if the chapter will have these fees go through SAA in full or in partial. Discussion revealed that we will incur expenses and will need a system to pay for accompanists, room rental, etc.

In closing, Jillian agreed to continue developing an e-mail list for the state and to write the minutes for today's meeting. Dawn is to research other affiliate chapters. Liz is to contact SAA with more questions. Chin Mi is to contact the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) to possibly schedule an enrichment program for the Suzuki students this fall and to also coordinate our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jillian Chrisman