

Minutes for the May 1, 2011 Third and Final Informational Meeting

Re: Meet and Greet with northern Indiana Teachers, introduce by-laws and promote Board of Trustee Membership

Our main goals in the beginning will be to establish an in depth teacher directory and to start an e newsletter. Perhaps some more ideas will come out of the first annual meeting (and teacher retreat) so we are looking forward to hearing those!

The meeting was held at 1234 North Eddy Street, South Bend, Indiana 46617 in the Old Nat'l Bank Building at 2:00 p.m.

In attendance were Liz Efroymsen-Brooks, Jillian Chrisman, Joyce Davis, Priscilla Filos, Jean Stucky, Lydia Franks, Lois Burns, Joe Kalisman and Martha Bradburry

****IDEA EXCHANGE!**** – We ask all teachers to send me information on (1) How do you handle graduation recitals and (2) who is getting training and where this summer? Perhaps some of you will be at the same institute and can get to know each other! I will compile this information and pass it along to everyone.

Introductions were made and each teacher present described their background, training and current teaching activities. Following is an introduction from some of the teachers, sent later via e-mail.

LIZ EFROYMSON-BROOKS - has been a director and cello instructor with the Indianapolis Academy of Music (a Suzuki Academy) for over 20 years. She has received training in 9 out of 10 Suzuki books and will be doing her Practicum this summer. She does freelance work in Indianapolis and has two children, both of whom played Suzuki cello.

JOYCE DAVIS - Music director (violin teacher) of the Suzuki Music School of Granger. Teaches through book 10 and beyond. Has received teacher training through Book 7. The Suzuki Music School of Granger currently enlists 12 teachers - about 120 students (15 Music & movement, 10 celli, 2 violas, 2 flute, 25 piano, 65 violins) . Our program has weekly group classes. Each child has 2 group classes (back to back) 1 repertoire and 1 theory/reading or chamber

PRISCILLA FILOS - I am semi-retired - My class is so far 7 students. I do Suzuki piano with the beginners and now that the repertoire in Books 4 - 7 has been expanded, I might use them more with the advanced students. I really like the pieces that have been selected and the replacements of some of the older ones. My students play well. Most of them classify in Hoosier Auditions, Stickley (a local piano competition) , the Chopin competition and all of them play in the National Guild Auditions. In addition, we have two recitals a year in my studio, two other recitals are offered by the local South Bend Music Teachers Association (associated with MTNA)

and a student workshop AIM in the Fall. We stay very busy during the school year, preparing for all these events.

In regards to theory, all of them have a theory book, in which the student gets short assignments each week. I do not offer group classes. They all seem to enjoy what we do. I am a straight Suzuki teacher with the beginners. I have felt the need to train them in music reading (before the recommended time), and to introduce them to standard repertoire as soon as possible because of the surrounding (more traditional) environment.

LYDIA FRANKS - I teach cello at the Suzuki Music School of Granger. We're working on building up the cello program there, and currently have nine cello students. I'm getting Book 5 teacher training this summer, and am committed to the Suzuki method as a general educational philosophy as well as the best way for any child to learn to play a string instrument.

JILLIAN CHRISMAN – I've received teacher training through Book 7 and run a private studio at my home on the east side of Indianapolis. I currently have about 30 students. Group lessons are held only once a month but I do supplement this with play-ins, recitals and performances totaling about 6 each semester.

IDEAS EXCHANGED

Board Member Qualifications and the legalities/power of their actions/decisions

Graduation Recitals – We all do them differently!

Performance Group Apparel – uniforms/colorful tie belts make a better more professional Appearance AND a better performance from the students.

Group class attendance – getting good attendance

Annual Meeting date for Indiana Suzuki Association including an informal time to meet each other or to play with each other, leading possibly to a teacher retreat

Selling the idea of membership to SAI to our studio families (what's in it for them?)

IDEAS ANNOUNCED

Indiana Suzuki Association By-Laws

I AM FEST in Indianapolis is July 31st – Aug 5th (indyamfest.org)

In closing, I'd like to end with an insightful paragraph from Lydia's e-mail.

“Being relatively new to the area, I did not realize how many Suzuki programs there are just here in northern Indiana. Joyce and Jean gave us some history of the various programs here, as well as some tips about school-organization (boards, uniforms, location). Meeting other teachers from the area reminded me how important it is for teachers to be connected. And even more importantly, that parents and teachers be connected. We teachers are already committed to Suzuki philosophy and have vision of what it takes to make learning happen. And yet getting together gives us a boost. That boost must be tremendous for parents and kids when they see the efforts of other Suzuki communities and feel connected to strangers through music. Hopefully this new Indiana

Suzuki Association can help facilitate regional camaraderie among Suzuki schools and families.”

Well said, Lydia!