

2015 SAI Fourth Annual Meeting Minutes

Held at the Indianapolis Suzuki Academy
3959 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46205

In Attendance were:

Sharon Neufeld - Artistic Director of ISA – Greenfield. ISA has existed for 30 years as a general music academy. In 2011 it became Suzuki only. Sharon came in 2013. At that time, she focused on strengthening the infrastructure so that it more closely reflect Dr. Suzuki's goals. Sharon grew up as a Suzuki kid. She started teaching Suzuki right out of graduate school and began teaching more seriously in 2009. Sharon also breeds Golden Retrievers.

Meghan King - Violin – Carmel. She has a private studio of about 15 students and is currently in graduate school at Butler. She is actively playing in area orchestras.

Diana Hummel - Violin - Richmond - SAI treasurer. She has been there one year since moving from Bloomington. Previously she has taught in the public schools and at U. of Evansville. Her daughter, Amanda, currently teaches in the Evansville U. Suzuki violin program.

Maria Mastropaolo - Violin – Evansville - SAI board member. She teaches in the U. of Evansville string program. She has taught for U. of E. for 18 years and has a five year old son studying violin. She currently teaches 25 students and plays in the Evansville Philharmonic.

Carol Dallinger - Violin – Evansville - SAI Honorary Board Member. She has taught at the University of Evansville since 1972 and coordinates the U. of E. Suzuki Program . She is a teacher trainer and teaches every year at Stevens Point Institute. She represented SAI at the leadership meeting over Memorial Day weekend in Ohio and she was our guest speaker at last year's annual meeting.

Jeni Cecil - Viola - Indianapolis. She has been here one year having moved here from the Chicago area. She previously taught the Strings program for K-5th in Winnetka, IL. She has received training violin books 1-4 and has also taught viola and cello. She has an almost 4 year old son, who's going to start lessons at ISA.

Martha Nyatawa - Violin-Terre Haute. She also teaches piano, viola and cello. She is a member of the Terre Haute Symphony and is also concert mistress of the Terra Haute Sinfonietta Pops. She accompanies professionally.

Ann Sloan - Piano & Theory - Indianapolis - SAI board member. She is co-director of Indy Arts and Music Festival which begins July 18th, 2015 for its sixth year. She has taught at the Hastens Hebrew Academy for 25 years as the General Music Specialist and Cultural Arts Coordinator.

Sarah Beck - Violin - Greenfield – Indianapolis Suzuki Academy instructor and business manager of ISA

Liz Efroymsen-Brooks - cello – Indianapolis - SAI president. She is a freelance musician. She has been a cello teacher with the ISA (formerly known as the Children's String Academy and the Indianapolis Academy of Music) for over 30 years. She also teaches the Early Childhood classes at ISA (called "Suzuki Steps"). Her daughter and son were both Suzuki cello students.

Candida Wiley - Violin & Viola - Indianapolis. She has lots of students, about 50. She also teaches at Broad Ripple High School.

Karen Walls – Violin – Indianapolis. She has one viola student and 18 violin students. She has been an ISA instructor for two years. She has two daughters that studied with Candida. She taught privately for 15 years prior to joining ISA. She has a wonderful husband of 28 years and an iPod-listening 15 year old son (his only musical influence at this time).

Stephanie Hall - Harp – Zionsville. She is the newest addition to the ISA faculty.

Jillian Chrisman – Violin – Indianapolis - SAI Secretary. She maintains a home studio of 30 students and has taught in Indianapolis for 25 years. She enjoys freelancing, especially with her pianist friend, and playing in churches. She and her husband reside on the east side of town.

Emilie Grondin – Cello - Mishawaka - SAI Board Member. She is a chamber music coach and conducts the SBYSO. Her husband, Jim (also an SAI teacher member), teaches flute. Her daughter, Elizabeth, studied with Carol Dallinger and is now in Shreveport teaching violin in the Suzuki program at the Centenary College Suzuki School. Her other daughter, Michelle, has studied flute as an undergraduate student and has her masters in Instrumental Conducting. Emilie's former student, Austin Huntington, is now officially first chair cellist with the ISO!!! Congratulations Emilie!!

Dawn Evans – Piano - Bloomington - Vice President of SAI. She maintains a private studio of about 25 students. Her husband, Michael has a violin shop, Evans Violins. Michael is a violinist and luthier and was raised Suzuki. They have a daughter, Sadie, who will be starting violin (formally) in the near future.

After introductions, Liz presented a framed original of SAI's logo that was made by artist, Peggy Mastropaolo to Maria Mastropaolo (daughter of Peggy) to show our appreciation. We are sincerely grateful to Peggy for her wonderful contribution to SAI.

Business Meeting:

Logo: A vote was taken and approved to include words, "Suzuki Association of Indiana" underneath the logo design. [Dawn will gather all logo info from Emily and send it to drop box and Jillian](#)

T-shirts: Ann mentioned that Emily Thompson started a t-shirt selling project for SAI. Cost will be \$10 a shirt. Ann suggested white print with your choice color of shirt to give a rainbow effect. Liz suggested that anyone interested may email Ann Sloan and give her your size and color choice. [Jillian will contact everyone regarding this and ask that everyone places their order.](#) Make checks payable to Ann Sloan. A deadline of Sept. 30 was chosen for taking t-shirt orders. Meghan suggested, that parents might consider ordering one size larger, so their child can wear the t-shirt for a longer period of time.

Media Secretary: We are extremely thankful to Emily Thompson for having filled this position. We will split the media secretary into two positions (1) newsletter & (2) website manager.

Rachel Gries volunteered to do the newsletter. A motion was made and a vote was taken and it was approved that Rachel was to take over the newsletter.

Sharon volunteered to manage the website. This was voted on and approved.

During this discussion, Candida asked if someone can start (3) a blog and manage the face book page? At first, **Sharon** suggests she'll do only the web site but after further thought and discussion she agreed to keep the face book posts going and do some blogging. Jillian suggested parents/association members could be useful in filling some of these positions.

Website content: We then discussed what items are desired for the SAI Website. Items mentioned were: Member names & directory, board, current officers, SAI events in general, divide teachers by region, then divide by city area & instrument. Pic, short bio, contact info (email, web, phone, whatever) and include a more in depth content regard your studio.

Rachel Gries was voted in as newsletter manager

Facebook/blogger – **Sharon will research what is involved**. It may be a very streamlined kind of job that is easier than realized. Sarah B. suggested a blog or facebook is also a great way to tell stories or lesson points. Jillian suggested we could put a shout out to associate membership to recruit bloggers. Weebly is being used by SAI & ISA. Meghan mentioned that a blog can be password protected. This should cover any privacy issues. **Liz, suggested that within our studios should have a contract to allow picture and/or name**. It was discussed that the Photo agreement should specify or have the option for the parent to approve (1) any pics or (2) no pics; and if pics are approved, then get the approval of (1)first name only or (2) no name

Carol said that from the legal perspective this is necessary and that this was stressed at the leadership retreat. Jillian added that the fall is a great time to put this paperwork into place as we start the school year.

Treasurer's Report was given by Diana– Beginning Balance 1063.75, ending balance is 2688.09.

Budget: Carol says we need to **form a budget committee (Emilie, Liz, Diana)** to propose/develop annual expenses and set up money amounts toward development of SAI. Discussion regarding helping to fund annual play-ins and to help an SAI representative attend the leadership retreat took place.

Funds for Leadership retreat: It is every other year in Ohio, so it is feasible to send someone and help cover some of the expenses.

Funds for Play-ins: It was suggested by Diana to provide funds up to 150\$ for each region provided that receipts for expenses are turned in to her for reimbursement. (It was at this point that Carol suggested we form a budget committee – see above blue print)

Newsletter: Our goal is to have a balanced input from all three regions of the state.

Two or three teachers should guide/give input to the editor regarding choice of articles.

Use the month of publication (the next month of publication is September) put together the newsletter.

We need to encourage teachers to write articles and keep them handy or send them on in to Rachel to be used at a later date. Liz suggested stories of students who had a neat lesson point

Sarah B. suggested a blog or facebook is also a great way to tell stories or lesson points.

Play-Ins: Carol is planning a mall appearance for Oct. 17th

Central Indiana's date is Nov 1st 2:00 p.m. at the Arts Garden (1:30 call/arrival time)

By-law revision

To develop strength of leadership, it has been proposed to consider a president elect. The president elect is two years and will cycle into president for another two years.

Dawn researched the SAA by-laws

Section 6:4 vacancies – new addition to help us fill unexpired positions

Question: Should exiting president remain as board member or cut ties? Carol suggested we should put in clause that exiting president does not continue as board member. This gives the exiting president a break and also allows room for others to express their ideas and direction for the future.

Emilie made a motion at the fulfillment term of office go off the board for one year. This was voted on and approved.

Vote: A vote was taken and approved to take media secretary off of list of officers in the by-laws.

Respectfully submitted,
Jillian Chrisman
SAI Secretary

GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE DAY

Glen Kwok – Guest Speaker
SAI Annual Meeting, July 11, 2015

Executive Director of the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis,
Former Head of the International Federation of Music Competitions
Indiana University Graduate of the School of Music

Mr. Kwok grew up in the Suzuki tradition studying violin. His mother was the administrator of the large Suzuki program with which he was involved. He benefitted from the fine teachers in this program.

Glen spoke of his years as a violin student at I.U. He attended there at the same time as Joshua Bell and he had aspirations of being a concert violinist. It was at a time when other fields of music, such as music administration were not available, although they were just beginning to make an appearance. Even if a degree in music business/administration was available, Glen admitted he would not have gravitated toward such a degree. He was going to be a concert artist!

But while at I.U., he realized that the other violinists of higher caliber could pull off feats of learning that he just couldn't. He once played the same concerto for the second lesson in a row. The teacher asked him why he played the concerto twice, and sent him away to learn a very difficult concerto in a week – which Glen knew wasn't going to happen. That's when he began to realize (and I think we all have moments such as this) that although he was a very good player, he was not able to pull off learning at the rate of some of those around him.

He graduated and found a teaching position and was also administrator of that school's string program.

He enjoyed his work there but eventually came across an ad for executive director for the newly formed International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI). As Glen put it, "It had my name all over it." He wondered if he was too young to be considered. But his friends and family told him to go for it. So he did and he got the job! He enjoys his work tremendously and still wonders how he could not have considered this type of work before.

Mr. Kwok had just recently returned from Geneva, Switzerland. He had just stepped down as president of the International Federation of Music Competitions. So he is on the cutting edge of the latest developments, and has helped to form some of these developments.

Glen spoke fondly of "The Indianapolis" as it is commonly referred. At first, some founding parties desired to name the competition after Joseph Gingold, a beloved violin teacher from I.U. But there was concern that this name would not be remembered in future years. Eli Lilly, being the major sponsor, wanted to use Indianapolis in the title of the competition. This was a great decision, as now the city of Indianapolis is known in the upper echelons of the music world. It has given Lilly and Indianapolis a place on the world stage.

The competition is known for having one the best and most fair judging processes, which Gingold himself helped to form. And also, "The Indianapolis" nurtures the winners' careers after they have competed by providing them with venues in which to concertize. Mr. Kwok also noted that the winner gets the use of a Stradivari violin and, he added, IVCI pays the insurance on this instrument, which is in the 1,000s of dollars. Glen feels the IVCI is geared more kindly to its competitors.

At the end of his talk, Jillian presented a large gift bag to Glen. He and his wife, Chi Yi, had a new baby son at home. The attending teachers had brought a baby gift to put in the bag. Glen also had gifts for us, official programs from the last IVCI competition!

In ending, Glen gave us an inside view of IVCI from its formation to its current status. It is certainly something that sets Indianapolis apart from other major U.S. cities. Glen's humor and candor were enjoyed as it is evident that he truly has a Suzuki heart of humanity and kindness. We are thankful to Glen for talking to us today. He was very generous to donate his time to SAI's fourth annual meeting.