

Suzuki Association of Indiana News

Volume 1, Issue 3

Editor: Emily J. Thompson

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SAI Update

Thank you for your vote to approve the SAI application for the SAA. Our board members have worked over a long period of time to get the paperwork and organizational structure built for us, and we will continue to keep you informed throughout this process. The next step for the board is to revise bylaw wording as suggested by the SAA, and the board will be meeting by Skype on February 3. After this meeting, the members will be asked to vote to approve the revised bylaws. ~Emily J. Thompson

Suzuki Events Around the State

1. Indianapolis Suzuki Academy: Recital and Masterclass this Weekend!

ISA Benefit Concert featuring viola soloist Michael Strauss

Sunday, January 13 at 4:00

Unitarian Universalist Church (615 West 43rd, Indianapolis, IN)

Tickets are \$10 adult, \$5 for children under 12

Wine and cheese reception immediately following the concert.

The day begins with Master Classes led by William Grubb, cello at 1:30 and Philip Palermo, violin at 2:30. All concert attendees are welcome to come and observe the Master Classes.

This concert will feature Britten's Lachrymae and the Rebecca Clark Sonata for Viola and Piano. Please invite your students and friends. Michael Strauss is the soloist, and he will be performing with other Indianapolis musicians - Davis Brooks (violin), Kurt Fowler (cello), R. Kent Cook (piano), and Roger Roe (oboe). Proceeds will benefit the ISA Scholarship Fund.

2. Evansville Suzuki workshop in March:

Evansville Suzuki Program, directed by Carol Dallinger, is announcing their annual March Workshop, March 1 and 2. As part of their 40th anniversary celebration they will be featuring University of Evansville Suzuki Pedagogy degree alumni who have gone on to distinguished careers. Frank Auer,

Nashville, TN; Colleen Fitzgerald, Milwaukee, WI; Beth Hoorelbek Zielinski, Chicago, IL, and guest clinician, Timothy Durbin, Louisville, KY

Workshop begins Friday at 4:00 p.m. with an evening of masterclasses. Saturday begins at 8:30 for a day of group classes and a play down as well as a parent panel by the clinicians.

For more information contact Maria Mastropaolo at mm9@evansville.edu.

3. **State wide Suzuki Play-In in April:**

On April 20, 2013, at 2:00 PM, at the Timbercrest Retirement Community in North Manchester, Indiana, the studio of Linda Kummernuss will hold its annual Spring Concert. Traditionally it combines students from North Manchester and Auburn. This year we are extending an invitation to other studios to join us. The repertoire will be selected around February. Teachers can create their own dress rehearsals for students attending the play-in style performance, so only one trip to North Manchester needs to be made. For more information you may contact Linda Kummernuss at: violinlinda@juno.com or at [260.402.2851](tel:260.402.2851).

If you are planning a Suzuki event, please let us know! We will send out updates as new events are announced.

Teacher Talk

Ideas for Group—and thoughts on Becker Gavotte

By Jillian Chrisman (Indianapolis, IN)

Our Teacher Talk columnist, Jillian Chrisman, maintains a Suzuki studio on the east side of Indianapolis. She has a bachelor's degree in violin performance from the University of Kentucky and has received Suzuki Teacher Training through book seven. She plays professionally in regional orchestras and is often hired as soloist for weddings and church services.

I would like to share a fun group lesson idea.

Make a staff on the floor with masking tape spacing the lines about a foot apart and make the lines long enough for all students to stand on one line.

Have students choose to stand on a line or space (you can limit this to just A string, or expand the note knowledge further) and say what note they are.

The teacher plays the lines of notes/students and then asks the students to change to a new note and do the note naming and playing again. Repeat as much as you wish.

Lastly, ask the group to make a song (early book one for starters). This definitely takes group effort and discussion. If there is an error, go ahead and play it so they can hear that somebody is standing in the wrong place. Since it is a group effort, the wrong note (hopefully) will not be embarrassed. Eighth note people can stretch their arms over

each other's shoulders to resemble the bar that connects 8th notes. Half notes can put their hands on their hips.

This staff can also be used for dictation purposes too!

Handling Becker Gavotte fingering choices

I have really enjoyed the new editions of the Suzuki books! But some students have struggled with the Becker Gavotte fingerings [in Volume 3 rev. ed.] until I made the realization that the new fingerings are not ideal for every student. An older student can handle more of the shifts than a younger, less experienced student. So I have learned to make adjustments accordingly. I have tried on several occasions to make third position work in measure 33 and haven't had success yet. I would love suggestions on that measure if you have been successful with third position in this measure. Also, I enjoy introducing a bit of second position in measure 25 (playing the two B's prior as a 1, then 2,) then shifting to 1st finger on the C (beat one of measure 25) and ending the phrase remaining in 2nd position.

Coming up in February's issue:

Let's read a book together in February! Follow us on Facebook to participate in the discussion. We'll start with *Nurtured by Love* led by Jillian Chrisman. If you would like to lead a book discussion please let Jillian know.

Share a group lesson idea, a teaching point or experience!

With the New Year, what will you try differently to impact/improve your students?

Connect with the SAI

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SuzukiAssociationIndiana>

Blog: <http://suzukiassociationindiana.blogspot.com/>

Send comments, events, and articles to Emily J. Thompson: emilythompsonviolin@gmail.com