

Suzuki Association of Indiana News
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In this issue:

- **The Annual Meeting**
- **Suzuki Birthday Play-ins around the state**
- **New Suzuki Programs Launched this Fall**
- **Suzuki Principles in Action (SPA) in Indianapolis!**
- **SAI Online Resources and Contributions**
- **Concerts and Competitions for students**
- **Chamber Music: SAI Session and resources**
- **Performing Group for SAI Students**

The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on July 13, in South Bend, IN. We had 13 members present for the meeting. The morning was spent in a very productive session, getting to know each other, sharing about our teaching and professional lives, and discussing and brainstorming new ideas and goals for the SAI.

Jillian Chrisman, the SAI Secretary, recorded the meeting minutes and has a detailed, very informative write-up that will be emailed and uploaded to all members with this newsletter. This newsletter also includes an article below written by Emilie Grondin, who organized and hosted the afternoon session on chamber music, featuring performances by her students and by Nic Orbovich.

Suzuki Events Around the State

The big news for SAI events this fall is our planned Suzuki's Birthday Play-Ins around the state. Members of the SAI have scheduled play-ins for the week of Dr. Suzuki's birthday (October 17, 1898), and all teachers and students are invited to come together in one of these three locations. After each location and date, I am listing the contact email for the organizer, so that you can contact her directly for repertoire lists.

Central Indiana: Sunday, October 13, 3:00 p.m. (Doors open at 2:45.)
Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy, 10029 E. 126th St, Suite D, Fishers IN 46038
Instruments: Violin, Cello, Piano
Reception following.
Email: j2chrisman@comcast.net

Southern Indiana: Tuesday, October 15, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
University of Evansville, Evansville, IN
Email: mm9@evansville.edu

Northern Indiana: Sunday, October 13, 3:00 p.m.
Waterford at Edison Lakes Retirement Home, 1025 Park Pl, Mishawaka, IN
Reception following: each student bring 1 dozen items for refreshments.
Email: joycedavis2@comcast.net

New Suzuki Programs Launched this Fall

Two new Suzuki Violin programs have been started this fall at universities in our state. Taylor University in Upland now has a Suzuki Violin Division in their Community Music Division, offering lessons from age 4 to adult. Christina Brandle, Suzuki violin teacher in Upland, is the Suzuki Coordinator and Instructor in the Taylor University program.

Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion has opened the IWU Suzuki Violin Program in conjunction with the IWU Music Academy. The IWU Suzuki program offers group and private lessons to ages 3 through high school. Three of the teachers are SAA trained university students: Lillian Mui, Anna Uecker, and Angelica Huffman. The program is directed by Emily Thompson, an adjunct violin professor at IWU, and she is the instructor for the group class (ages 3-6) and advanced students.

The brochures for these two new programs have been added to our Dropbox folder.

Suzuki Principles in Action

The Indianapolis Suzuki Academy will host “Suzuki Principles in Action” (SPA) on March 28-29, 2014! Nancy Jackson, Assistant Director of the Western Springs School of Talent Education in Chicago, will be our Facilitator.

You can find out more about SPA, and specifically register for this course offering, by following this link: <http://suzukiassociation.org/spa/signup/32358/>.

Please feel free to email me for more information, and please forward this email to other Suzuki teachers (any instrument) that you know! ~Sharon Neufeld, Indianapolis Suzuki Academy, Artistic Director

SAI Online Resources and Contributions

The Suzuki Association of Indiana now has an online folder of documents for our members to access at any time. These documents include an up-to-date membership directory, complete archives of the SAI Newsletter, and other files being shared by our members.

This resource was inspired by our discussion in the annual meeting of sharing information from our individual programs and studios, such as policies, registration forms, etc. so that our members have the opportunity to learn from each other. All of us have are constantly working on running the business side and organization of our students and our teaching schedules, and seeing each other's practices is valuable, especially for members who may be starting larger programs for the first time. So, you will see those documents being uploaded by various members as well.

The program we are using for this online folder is called Dropbox. Dropbox is a free service to upload, save, and share files online that can be synced with your own computer for easy access to these files at any time. I have personally started using Dropbox for all of my work documents so that I can access them from my laptop and work computer, print them off from anywhere, and have an immediate online back-up of my files in case anything happens with my hard drive.

I've sent the link to all the current members that are in my email list. If you haven't received it, or need me to send it again, let me know. Once you set it up, you will be automatically getting in the most up-to-date documents for our membership as soon as they come in. You will be able to access information without constantly searching through your inbox, and you will be able to share your own documents to the membership. Finally, you will be able to read a number of attachments and flyers that I have received to go along with the newsletter articles (I have a particularly high volume of material for this month's newsletter).

I would like to make 3 suggestions that I'm sure we all agree on regarding this file sharing:

1. Don't use other people's writing without asking permission and crediting them.
2. Don't edit anything that is in the folder unless you download and save it and edit it in your own computer documents.
3. If you submit something that I'm going to edit for the newsletter, I may move it in my computer folder while editing it for publication.

Please feel free to send me any questions about this program. ~Emily Thompson, SAI News Editor

Concerts and Competitions for Students

My name is Rachel Gries, and in addition to being a Suzuki violin and viola teacher on the south side of Indianapolis, I am a performer and part of the education committee of Indianapolis Baroque Music, Inc. We have a concert coming up which would be fun for Suzuki violin students to attend, and I would love to convince my colleagues that there is a high demand to hear the literature found in the Suzuki books. In addition, we are looking for ideas to help you and your students understand the music of the Baroque time period. What would you find most helpful? Workshops on dance, master classes, opportunities for students to use period instruments? We would love to hear your ideas. I am currently talking to orchestras with similar programs, but I would love your input as well. Below is something you can forward to your own studios regarding the concert. Contact information for me is also below if you have ideas to share. We appreciate your input!

The Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra is presenting a concert featuring the works of Bach and Italian composers who influenced him. This concert will include the famous “Bach double” violin concerto and a flute concerto by Vivaldi. Students will have the opportunity to hear these pieces in a new way, performed on historical instruments.

The concerts will take place in the following locations:

Saturday, October 19, 7:30 First United Church, Bloomington, IN

Sunday, October 20, 7:30 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Indianapolis

Monday, October 21, 7:30 at Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center, University of Indianapolis

Tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for general admission. Group discounts are available. Please contact Rachel Gries at [317-691-7529](tel:317-691-7529) or BRQVLA@aol.com for more information. We would love to have a large group of Suzuki students attend these concerts.

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra announces their 33rd Annual Young Artists Competition (see flyer attached with newsletter and on Dropbox) to be held on December 1. The entry deadline (which includes a high quality audition CD) is November 1, and the finalists will be notified on November 18.

Chamber Music for Students: July 13 Session and Resources

The second half of the SAI Annual meeting was devoted to chamber music. The afternoon began with a performance by four ensembles that had participated in the Stanley Clark School Summer Chamber Music Camp directed by Emilie Grondin. This demonstration showed what young students could accomplish in three hours per day for one week of coached rehearsals.

Then Nicholas Orbovich, the founder and director of the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, Principal 2nd Violin of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and member of the SBSO String Quintet, spoke on incorporating chamber music into ones studio. He began with the elements of music that chamber music develops in students: rhythm, note reading and intonation. He pointed out that chamber music aids in human development by teaching social skills and building relationships. Students need to be taught how to rehearse and then rehearse on their own. Through this they learn to interact with others and to compromise.

Listening is another component of chamber music. Students should attend chamber music concerts as well as listen to recordings. There are good recordings on YouTube of well-known string quartets.

Nic spoke of finding music for student quartets. He mentioned the IMSLP Petrucci Music Library which has free downloads of music in the public domain. Teachers received handouts of lists compiled by Emilie Grondin of Suzuki Repertoire and General Repertoire for student quartets ensembles.

Instead of the traditional “play-in” to end the afternoon, we had a chamber music play-in. Students of SAI members in the South Bend area joined us, playing the Suzuki repertoire while the teachers played the accompaniments. Joyce Davis (SAI Board member and music director of the Suzuki Music School of Granger), Emilie Grondin and some of the other teachers provided the chamber music accompaniments for repertoire in the violin, cello, flute and piano books.

There are three handouts included with this article that have been uploaded to Dropbox:

Chamber Music Repertoire: Suzuki Repertoire

Chamber Music Repertoire: General Repertoire

Nic Orbovich outline and music recommendations

SAI Performing Group for Students

At the annual meeting on July 13, Jillian Chrisman proposed the idea of an advanced performing ensemble for our students in the SAI. Here are her beginning thoughts for developing this group:

Developing a performance group through SAI would give the students who practice well and play at a higher level of ability the opportunity to play with other similar students in a larger group setting. With that being the first goal, the second goal would be to provide the group with performance experiences and eventually travel.

Each studio has students such as these in varying numbers. I only have a handful and would enjoy giving these students an experience that is more on their level.

I've given this idea quite a lot of thought since the annual meeting last July. I realized the development process would need to start from within my studio. How to begin?

I knew my students were weak on review and that this was becoming a stumbling stone in their overall process of development and in especially in our studio performances. We all know the beauty of a review song well played!

I decided (and it has worked beautifully so far) to assign each student three review songs and I would grade them an A or a B. I told them that as their teacher I saw a need for everyone to be stronger on review songs for our group performances. I also told them that no one would ever get a C because they were definitely not C students! This statement helped put them at ease as well as serving to keep their egos intact.

So far it has been surprising just how weak the review songs are. Sometimes I felt like I was plugging up many small holes in a listing ship! The first week only three A's were earned. The second week, a few more were earned. It was a surprising joy to see how excited they were when they moved a B song to an A. That was all the reward they needed. When a student got a B, I would ask them what the song needed to get an A. They pretty much knew what needed to be done. If not, I complimented their thought and then added mine.

The students did not take me seriously at first. But I have continued to start each lesson with the assigned review songs. I am determined to keep this going.

From there, my plan is that next semester, students join in a performance on A review songs only. B review songs can still be played at informal settings such as group lessons and play-ins. So I'll need to keep track of that somehow.

I hope that by beginning to denote the level of the review songs and of their playing that this will bring an awareness of A players and B players. Then, perhaps, next fall the A players can get together with other excelling students to enjoy their music together.

If you have ideas or interest in working with Jillian on organizing an advanced performing group for SAI students, please contact her at j2chrisman@comcast.net.

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