

## **Suzuki Association of Indiana News**

*Volume 2, Issue 4: April 2014*

Editor: Emily J. Thompson

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### **From the President**

It's been a long winter, without a doubt. There have been many challenges of dealing with the snow and cold: cancellations, instrument cracks, sickness, travel problems, etc. *How we deal with these challenges* might be compared to how we deal with our students as Suzuki Teachers.

One of the units in the SPA course I took a few weeks ago talks about achieving our vision through Concept, Technique and Persistence. If we deal with winter's woes with the vision that spring will come (it always does) and we use good "techniques" for dealing with the cold and snow (wear proper clothing, drive carefully) attitude) and we are persistent (keep a positive attitude and don't let winter keep you down) , we will arrive at our goal, proud that we have been mastered adversity and survived.

It's hard to watch a student struggle, say for instance, with a shift. The student can get frustrated during the lesson, and truthfully so might the teacher. The temptation might be to rush the process and assign the passage for home practice. Or, to physically take the students hand or hands and move it for them. If we keep our vision (that student WILL master the shift and be able to apply it to future pieces), use good technique (identify the type of shift and breakdown the physical aspects needed to do it) and are persistent ( student does the shift with knowledge of proper technique, teacher and student evaluate and adjust if needed and repeat until student shows understanding), the student will arrive at the goal and feel proud. The struggling and frustration might just be necessary to that feeling of mastery.

I was very much enriched by the SPA course and many thanks to Nancy Jackson for her hard work and sensitive presentation. I was also very glad to see fellow SAI members – this *vision* of connecting and learning from other Suzuki Teachers in Indiana is starting to happen! Our *technique* will be the e newsletter and Facebook Page (please contribute all your ideas, stories and pictures - so important) and our annual meeting, which is coming up in July. Our *persistence* will be the hard work we do as

teachers and making the time to write articles, come to annual meeting and sharing your experiences.

It's all part of the larger vision of Dr. Suzuki - to build beautiful hearts through music. Thanks for all the good work you do.

Liz Efroymsen-Brooks  
President SAI

### **Newsletter Schedule and Submissions**

As you may have noticed, the SAI newsletter has come out rather less than monthly this year. Part of this is the social media coordinator's level of over-commitment---but also, between the January issue and this one, all the new material for the newsletter came in around the beginning of April. At the most recent board meeting, it was decided to change the schedule to quarterly, with publication in January, April, July, and October. Important SAI events will be communicated directly to our members in a timely fashion (annual meeting schedule for July, play-ins in October) will be sent out separately, as well as other time-sensitive announcements that will be forwarded to the list immediately.

Here is the tentative plan for the issues, with ideas for submissions and themes:

January issue: Members may submit news with photos of special accomplishments or activities from fall semester or Christmas, and announcements of all spring semester events. Suggested feature article about practicing strategies (New Year's resolutions!).

April issue: Members may submit news/photos from events in Jan-March (like the FW Suzuki Workshop, the SPA course we had this year, etc), and all announcements for summer programs. Feature articles may include ideas about connecting with other teachers (inspiration for summer get-togethers), or any other subject contributed.

July issue: This issue will feature a full report on annual meeting with photos. We will introduce any new ideas for feedback that arose in the meeting. Submit announcements about fall events.

October issue: Members submit news/photos from summer programs, announcements for winter events. If this is an October 1 publication, we can list details for the Suzuki play-ins. Other info about things that are being worked on based on the annual meeting (I can then request updates from specific people about specific projects). Feature articles about. . . performance issues? Parent/teacher relationships? something we deal with in the thick of the year.

I am not in any way limiting submissions to those mentioned, and you can send me articles or reviews on any topic any time. The deadline for submissions is the first of the month (January, April, July and October), and the issues will go out, with my usual

flexibility, in the first half of the month. Thank you very much for your understanding, and the excellent submissions I have received since the beginning of this publication.  
*Emily Thompson*

### **Annual Meeting in July**

The Suzuki Association of Indiana's annual meeting this year will be held at the University of Evansville in Evansville, IN. The meeting will be hosted by the University of Evansville Suzuki Violin Program from 9:00am (CDT) to 4:00pm on Saturday July 14. Carol Dallinger, founder and director of the University of Evansville Suzuki Violin Program for the past 41 years, will speak about directing a Suzuki Program. A tentative schedule is as follows: meet and greet with snacks followed by a board meeting; lunch (on your own off campus); guest speaker (Carol Dallinger); ending with a pot luck play in with all participants--so bring your instruments and favorite music arrangements.  
~*Maria Mastropaolo*

### **Suzuki Principles in Action**



Suzuki Principles in Action (SPA) course, hosted by the Indianapolis Suzuki Academy, was a great success with clinician Nancy Jackson from the Western Springs School of Talent Education in IL. SAI member participants from left to right: Amy McKinnis (Lafayette), Jillian Chrisman (Indianapolis), Dawn Evans (Bloomington), Kyoko Tanno (Fishers), Liz Efroymsen-Brooks (Indianapolis), Nancy Jackson, Stephanie Hall (Zionsville). Not pictured: Aubrey Gray (South Carolina), Shu-Yi Scott (Texas), and Pam Weest-Carrasco (Iowa).

## **Suzuki Summer Camps in Indiana**

### **WHITE RIVER STRINGS CAMP**

June 23-27, 2014

Muncie, IN

Violin, Viola, and Cello for Suzuki and Traditional students.

Each day of the camp, the student will receive an individual lesson in master class style, attend a group repertoire class, participate in an ensemble rehearsal, and may choose to attend an elective class in chamber music or expression/movement/drumming. Faculty will include Mary Kothman, Karin Hendricks, and Tiffany Arnold. Contact us at [whiteriverstringscamp@gmail.com](mailto:whiteriverstringscamp@gmail.com) or 765-215-0548, or visit [whiteriverstrings.com](http://whiteriverstrings.com) for more information.

### **IAM FESTIVAL 2014**

Student Institute, July 21-25; Suzuki Teacher Training: Every Child Can!, July 19; What Every Musician Needs To Know About the Body, July 20; Violin/Piano 1, July 20-27; Violin/Piano 2, July 19-23; Violin/Piano 3, July 23-27.

The IAM Festival was founded in 2010 to give violin, viola, cello, and piano students the opportunity to learn, play and perform in a fun and unique summer camp setting! Every day, students attend lessons and classes. Morning classes are devoted to core music classes - semi-private lessons, orchestra, music theory, and repertoire study. In the afternoon, students have the opportunity to take electives - family chorus, fiddling, jazz, gymnastics, martial arts, and visual arts are all available.

During the week, well-prepared students may be selected to perform in the afternoon recital series. IAM will also offer a field trip to a nearby park for a performance by local professional musicians. On Thursday evening, students, faculty, and families participate in the Talent Show and Skit Night! Fiddling classes are also featured. Friday, all of the ensembles (Orchestra, Jazz, Handbells, and martial arts) perform in the final concert. The festival ends with a traditional Suzuki play-in featuring the string students. This year, the play-in will be held at the Artsgarden in Indianapolis on Saturday, July 27.

### **Allegro!!! Performs in Marion**

*From Christina Brandle (violin) in Upland, IN:* My daughter, Anna, has been studying with Nancy Jackson at the Western Springs School of Talent Education in the Chicago area, and last fall she auditioned for their intermediate group called Allegro!!! Kids (students are in books 6&7 and are 11-15 years old).

Well, since I know the director of the WSSTE program, Ed Kreitman (I actually did my books 2-4 teacher training with him), I asked whether the group would come to Marion to do a benefit concert for the CSA (Community School of the Arts) so that my students and other Suzuki kids in the area could be inspired.

The upshot is that they are coming! We finalized it last week, and I am SO excited!  
There are 2 concerts/shows:

**Friday, May 2nd 6pm** at the Meshingamesha Country Club, Marion, IN. \$25/ticket  
(dinner included)

**Saturday, May 3rd 1:30pm** at Indiana Wesleyan University's Baker Recital Hall,  
Marion, IN. \$5/ticket.

You are welcome to watch the promo video, and let me know (cbrandle@cse.taylor.edu)  
how many tickets to reserve for your students and families. My guess is that it will sell  
out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZXfHTLUqtM>

**Allegro!!!** is an elite string performance ensemble of the Western Springs School of Talent Education and the Naperville Suzuki School. An inventive and eclectic mix of music, dance, and multimedia, **Allegro!!!** has been dazzling audiences in Chicago and beyond for nearly 20 years. **Allegro!!!** has performed at countless local events and also participated by invitation in recent performances for the National Suzuki Association of the Americas Biennial Conference in Minneapolis, MN and the American String Teachers Association National Conference in Atlanta, GA. This past summer, **Allegro!!!** was invited on a concert tour across China, performing at the country's most prestigious venues to sold out crowds.

### **Reflections from the Advanced Group Class at UE**

It is amazing to think that it all began with a foot chart, a cardboard violin, and a deep bow. The advanced group class at the University of Evansville Suzuki Violin Program has fond memories of bow bunnies, bow hold exercises such as "Up Like a Rocket," and funny names like "no pancake" (to avoid a collapsed left wrist). The class remembered, as younger violinists, admiring the advanced group at the time. They literally looked up to the older students at play-ins who stood up to play every piece. To them, the advanced group seemed flawless.

Years later, those same kids make up the current advanced group. They now see they are not as flawless as they perceived the top group to be in the past. While these older students are the most advanced group, they recognize that they still have room for improvement and are still learning, which is why they continue to come to group class. Being the most advanced group, they have more opportunities to learn advanced repertoire to perform in a more formal setting. In addition, they learn how to work

collectively as an ensemble, which includes leading the ensemble, blending their sound, and being aware of melodic importance.

As previously mentioned, the students in the advanced group often serve as role models for the younger students. Old review pieces keep the students humbled at play-ins and motivate them to maintain those pieces while reminding them of their past. On top of that, playing the old review pieces causes the students to realize how far they have progressed. For instance, on some of the old review pieces, they are able to play harmony parts rather than the original melodies. This reinstalls the excitement of playing pieces from their youth.

The students are thankful that the Suzuki Program in Evansville provides the opportunity for advanced students to have a group class that challenges them. It allows them to have a better group class experience and motivates them to keep coming. The seniors expressed that they are sad to leave but know that other students will be stepping in to fill their shoes and keep the tradition going.

University of Evansville Suzuki Violin Program Advanced Group Class,

Maria Mastropaolo—instructor, Alyssa Blankenberger, Philip Blankenberger, Rachel Brockman, Leila Grossman, Emily Magary, Xiaoli Magary, Myranda Moye, Kylee Moye, Quinta Noland, Grace Pritchett, Cameron Vaughn



### Connect with the SAI

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

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

**Send comments, events, and articles to Emily J. Thompson:**  
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