

**Suzuki Association of Indiana
News**
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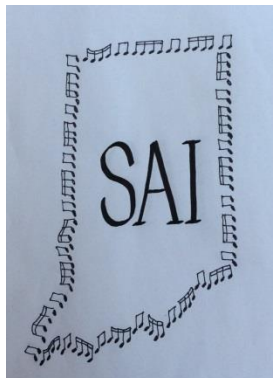
Suzuki Violin Workshop at University of Evansville

The University of Evansville Suzuki program, under the direction of Carol Dallinger, is hosting a Suzuki Violin Workshop on March 6-7 for Suzuki students and their families. Guest clinicians will be Lamar Blum, Teri Einfeldt, Wayne Krigger and Rebecca White. The full brochure with registration details is attached with this newsletter. The guest clinicians will be teaching masterclasses from 4:00-9:00 pm on March 6, and there will be a full day of group lessons, classes, and a play-in on March 7. Students can sign up for both days, or Saturday only, and the registration deadline is February 16 for non-UE students.

On Sunday, March 8, Teri Einfeldt, nationally known teacher trainer and chair of the Teacher Development Committee will do a 4 hour lecture for teachers. We will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. (Central Time). Fee for attending the teacher development day is \$25.00. You may contact Carol Dallinger at cd23@evansville.edu if you want to attend for this special teacher day.

Logo Contest Winner: Peggy Mastropaolo

We are happy to announce our new logo for the Suzuki Association of Indiana. The logo (preliminary photo below) was created by Peggy Mastropaolo, Maria Mastropaolo's mother and a skilled artist. Thank you to all who participated, and to Peggy for her amazing work!



Do You Miss It?

by Elizabeth Efroymsen-Brooks

This might be a familiar scenario: it's December about mid-month. You can't wait to finish your last gig, to see the last student to close the door. You can't wait for that first morning you can sleep in late - no phone calls to make - no schedule to keep. You can't wait until Christmas is over and the last Jingle Bells is played and your Christmas music tucked away. If you've been fighting that cold or the flu, you might be running on your last drops of energy.

Fast forward to the beginning of January - you've gotten your rest and trees, packages and decorations are put away. Your lessons are due to start up again the next week. How are you feeling? Do you miss your students? Do you miss your teaching? Do you miss playing with fellow musicians?

If you answered yes to the above scenario and the questions, I think you are a true teacher and musician - in your heart and soul. Yes, teaching and freelancing is exhausting (especially at certain times of the year like Christmas). Sometimes we can barely make it to the end of the day. But then.....we miss it when we're away from it.

I like to joke that my students and their families are my social life. That's not wholly true, but I very much feel a connection to my young charges and their Moms and Dads. Right before the winter break, we had parent conferences. This is something new that we are trying at the Indianapolis Suzuki Academy and I feel it was very successful. I was struck with the diversity of issues brought up at these talks. Many conversations involved the personalities of the students and how lessons, groups and practicing fit into their temperaments. The gist of every discussion was "how can we help this young person become the best person they could be?" What a responsibility and what a challenge.

So this is what the Suzuki philosophy is all about. It's not just about notes and rhythms. It's not just about holding and playing the instrument correctly with good tone. We are creating beautiful hearts and that involves personal connections and involvement. Yes, teaching is exhausting and requires deep commitment. But that is what makes it so interesting and rewarding. And why I miss it - after I get that needed rest.

New Year Practicing Challenge from the Chrisman Violin Studio

At the beginning of each New Year the students pick a review song with the goal of playing it 100 times. I found a chart I really liked this year on thepracticeshoppe.com and wanted to share it with you! (*Editor: Jillian's choice "You can do it 100 times" and other charts are available on <http://downloads.thepracticeshoppe.com/downloadable-practice-charts/100-times-charts>*)

This is a great way to emphasize review. It gives me the opportunity to improve their ability with a piece they can play. I give them more refined information than usual and play it up by

saying "Oh my, now you are learning something that I only show book 6 students!" It is a fun time and they love getting to 100. For book 3 students I ask that they isolate for the same number of minutes it takes to play the whole song and to do this one third of the time.

For book 4 & up students I tell them that every 3 minutes of practice counts as 1 time on their chart. I ask them to isolate 6 - 12 minutes (or more) per practice. I like the emphasis on isolations for book 3 & up students and will often have them isolate for 3 - 6 minutes in the lesson. This makes a great example and they see how much it helps. I have found it is too overwhelming, underproductive and time consuming to play longer pieces straight through 100X.

I also like that the students can start practicing their 100X song in the New Year before lessons begin. In late February we have a 100X recital. Some students save their 100th time to be at the recital! It's a great time and is relaxed enough that the parents clap, hoot and holler not only for their child but for other children too as they can readily see the improvements made. 100 times certificates are available at Young Musicians. The younger ones really like those.

Happy New Year and Happy Practicing and Teaching!

~Jillian

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Website: <http://www.indianasuzuki.org/>

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