

CELEBRATE DR. SUZUKI'S BIRTHDAY!

Regional Play-ins will take place on the following dates and at the following locations. Please contact the appropriate coordinator for more information (review lists- if not already attached, dress, etc.)

North Play-in (contact: Emilie Grondin egrondin@comcast.net)

Central Play-in November 1, Arts garden, 2:00 (call 1:30) information attached

South Play-in (contact: Maria Mastrolaolo mm9@evansville.edu and Sarah Pearce Sp42@evansville.edu)

SAI T-Shirts (from Ann Sloan)

Encourage your studio to purchase and wear the new SAI T-shirt. T-shirts for the state Suzuki association are now available for you and your students and their parents. A proof of the shirt can be found in the attachment. The shirt is shown in black, but the company has agreed to allow orders from any color you would like. All printing will be in white, but the shirts can be in your choice of color. **We need your order no later than MONDAY, October 19.** Please reply to Ann Sloan (annsloan1@comcast.net) with your order in the manner shown below indicating teacher name, sizes and colors. We hope every one of our teachers and the students order t-shirts. Sizes are available in youth small, medium, and large and adult small, medium, large, X large, and XX large. Thank you in advance for your order. It will be wonderful to see our rainbow of members and students when we get together.

SAI ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

Annual meeting notes submitted by Jillian Chrisman, SAI Secretary

The fourth annual meeting for the Suzuki Association of Indiana was held on July 11, 2015 at the Indianapolis Suzuki Academy, 3959 Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205
In Attendance were:

Sharon Neufeld – viola – Greenfield

Meghan King - violin – Carmel

Diana Hummel - violin - Richmond.

Maria Mastropaolo - violin - Evansville.

Carol Dallinger - honorary board member- violin –Evansville, Suzuki teacher trainer

Jeni Cecil - viola – Indianapolis

Martha Nyatawa - violin, piano, viola, cello - Terre Haute

Ann Sloan- piano - Indianapolis

Sarah Beck - violin - Greenfield

Liz Efroymsen-Brooks - cello - Indianapolis

Candida Wiley - violin & viola – Indianapolis

Karen Walls - violin & viola - Indianapolis

Stephanie Hall - harp - Zionsville

Emilie Grondin - cello – Mishawaka

Dawn Evans - piano - Bloomington.

Opening remarks and welcome were made by Sharon Neufeld. Liz Efroymsen-Brooks presented, on SAI's behalf, a framed original of SAI's logo to the artist, Peggy Mastropaolo. She gave it to Maria Mastropaolo (daughter of Peggy) to show our appreciation for her artistic logo design.

Logo: A vote was taken and approved to include the words, "Suzuki Association of Indiana" underneath the logo design.

SAI T-shirts: Cost will be \$10 a shirt. Ann suggested white print with your choice of shirt color to give a rainbow effect. Liz suggested that anyone interested may email Ann Sloan and give her your size and color choice. Make checks payable to Ann Sloan. A deadline of Sept. 30 was chosen for taking t-shirt orders. Meghan suggested that parents might want to order one size larger, so their child could wear the t-shirt for a longer period of time.

Rachel Gries volunteered to do the newsletter. A motion was made and a vote was taken. It was approved that Rachel was to take over the newsletter. Sharon volunteered to manage the website. This was also voted on and approved.

Sarah suggested a blog or using face book is a great way to tell stories or lesson points. Blog: Meghan mentioned that a blog can be password protected. This should cover any privacy issues. Liz, suggested that within our studios each teacher should have a contract/release form for parents to allow picture and/or name (first name only in most cases) to be used for SAI publications. Carol said that from a legal perspective this is legally necessary, 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.

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

Fall Play-Ins: Carol is planning a mall appearance for Oct. 17th
Central Indiana's date is Nov 1st at 3:00 p.m. location TBA (it is now scheduled for the Arts Garden)

Next year's annual meeting will be on July 9, 2016 in northern Indiana hosted by Emilie Grondin.

CARMEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

The Orchestra is expanding its competition and now players from all over the state are welcome. More information can be found at:

<http://www.carmelsymphony.org/education-community/young-artist-competition>

SAVE THE DATE

The next SAI meeting will take place on July 9 in Northern Indiana.

GLEN KWOK'S PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

SAI was honored to have Glen Kwok as our guest speaker at the annual meeting. Mr. Kwok is the Executive Director of the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI), Former Head of the International Federation of Music Competitions and an 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 greatly from the fine teachers in this program.

Mr. Kwok had 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 of music competitions, and has helped form some of these developments.

Glen spoke fondly of "The Indianapolis" as the competition 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 Indianapolis, is known in the upper echelons of the music world. It has given both Lilly and Indianapolis a place on the world's musical stage.

The competition is known for having one the best and most fair judging processes, which Mr. Gingold helped form. And also, "The Indianapolis" nurtures the winners after they have competed by providing them with venues in which to concertize. Mr. Kwok also noted that the winner acquires the use of a Stradivari violin and, he added, IVCI pays the insurance on this instrument, which is in the 1,000s of dollars annually. 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! We are MOST grateful to Glen for speaking to us as he donated his time. Please be sure to attend some of the IVCI sponsored events this fall. Just go to violin.org.

NEW ISO PRINCIPAL CELLIST

Congratulations to Austen Huntington, the new Principal Cellist of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. He was a student of Emilie Grondin.

<https://www.indianapolissymphony.org/about/musicians/austin-huntington>

NEXT NEWSLETTER TOPIC: FINDING TIME TO PRACTICE

How do you and your families find time to practice? Send thoughts about this subject and recommendations for other topics to Rachel Gries at BRQVLA@aol.com

CREATIVE WAYS TO REVIEW

We color code the table of contents with four colors. Each practice students are to play all the pieces of one color. Since we are pianists, they play the pieces marked in that color with right hand, left hand, and both hands. If there are any problems, they do a

piece more than once. Every fourth practice they have covered all of their review pieces. We use colors instead of days so if they miss a day it doesn't matter; they just do the next color no matter what.

Ann Sloan

I've recently discovered an app called "Decide Now" (you can find Apple/Android links on ISA's website: <http://www.indysuzukiacademy.org/resources--links.html>).

This app has helped to make review more fun in our lessons, and for families who have downloaded it themselves, it's made review more fun at home too! I'm sure it's because it's on a device! The app allows you to create spinning wheels, populated with whatever you want - chores, rewards, favorite restaurants... or review pieces! I've made wheels for each violin & viola book, plus one that has bunches of different bow techniques. So in lessons or group classes, the kids are now always asking me, "Can we spin the wheel?" So I choose (or let them choose) whether we will spin a wheel for a particular book, or if we will spin the bow technique wheel. If it's the book, they just play the piece that the wheel lands on. If it's a bow technique, then they play that technique first on Twinkle (i.e. Twinkle Theme all at the tip, or all with colle, or all up bow staccato, etc), then they have to think of a piece in their repertoire which has that bow technique in it. For instance, if they get "up bow staccato", but they're only on the Book 1 Minuets, then I show them how the "up-up" in the 2nd measure is a preview of up bow staccato that will come in later pieces like Minuet in G, Becker Gavotte, Country Dance, etc. Then they have to play Twinkle with up bow staccato, and then their Book 1 Minuet with the future pieces in mind.

They LOVE playing their early review/Twinkles with a "weird bowing", and it is definitely revolutionizing our review!

The other thing that has helped our review is the Review Challenge that ISA as a whole is doing this semester. Students have a list of review pieces for each day of the week. Every time they play a review song well, they earn a point. Every 10 points earns a link on a chain that is now decorating our space. For extra motivation, students have been divided into two teams who are competing for the longest paper chain.

Sharon Neufeld

Club 25

When I had a large studio and taught large groups of middle schoolers, I had a "practice club" called Club 25. I never assigned "review songs" per se, but rather we chose a "song of the week." Students had to play it five times a day on five different days of the week, thus achieving 25 repetitions of the song. The next lesson (or practice card turn in date) a sticker would be added to chart next to their name. For every 10 stickers students could pick a prize. The students could always choose to participate or complete this assignment, or not, giving students an out if they didn't have time or another situation came up. Many students were motivated by the prize, while others liked to have a friendly competition to see which student would have the longest

uninterrupted run of practicing the song of the week. At the very least, this club got reticent students to get their instrument out and to play at least five days a week.

(Prizes consisted of many items that people donated, cool pencils, candy or other food if it was OK with parents, etc)

Elisabeth Ohly-Davis

How I review with students is by using some fun dice I found on www.thepracticeshoppe.com! Students simply roll a dice filled with songs they have already learned to see which song they will review for the week. Each dice includes songs from parts of each Suzuki book; for example, there is a dice for the Twinkle Variations. To my knowledge, the dice go through Suzuki Book 4. Then, I add the song to their practice chart for that week; I simply ask students to play that song by memory once every day. :-)

Meghan King

We write the names of our Suzuki review songs on popsicle sticks, and then store them in empty Crystal Light containers. There are two containers, one marked "to do" and the other marked "done." Each practice, we pick two review songs to play. The kids seem to like the chance aspect, and I know that we're reviewing all of the pieces, not just our favorites.

Rachel Gries

In our program we have a week in Feb. that is called review week. Everyone participates (except those that are not far enough in like beginners or pre twinklers). The student's entire lesson that week is comprised of review. The teacher can call out any piece to be heard and the student tells the teacher the composer and then plays the piece. If there is any piece that needs some work, the teacher specifically tells the student a passage they need to hear again, or the whole piece, and then hears it the following week. Students are given about a 3 month heads up to the review week date. We decorate the waiting room in streamers and balloons during review week and try to make it somewhat festive.

Maria Mastropaolo

In my studio I have divided all the Suzuki repertoire through Book 5 into two groups. One group is the Fall Semester Review List. The other group is for Spring Semester Review List.

This list comes in handy as I always assign every student 2 or 3 songs from the list for their private lesson and I drill the same technique, if possible, on all assigned review songs. This way they are getting 5 - 15 minutes of concerted technique effort IF THEY REVIEW. For group lessons, I choose review songs from the list. The students feel more comfortable in group lesson since they have already been working on some of the same review songs in their private lesson. When the studio goes out to perform the group songs are chosen from the list.

Jillian Chrisman