

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

The Suzuki Association of Indiana will hold its annual meeting on July 9, 2016 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (437 E Dragoon Trail Mishawaka, IN 46544) from 9-3. More details will arrive closer to that date. We hope that many will be able to attend.

TEACHERS, in preparation for the annual meeting, could you please start a dialogue with your studio parents as to how they envision SAI benefitting them. This would be a great topic to clarify at the state meeting and help us define a definite list of activities to encourage associate memberships. Here's an idea from Jillian Chrisman: put a large poster sized piece of paper on my waiting room door for parents to scribble their ideas upon. Bring your poster to the meeting or take a photo of it and send it if you can't attend.

The Third Annual Suzuki Family Orchestra Invitational will take place on June 4, 2016 in Indianapolis. Please see this note from Jillian Chrisman.

Dear Suzuki Teachers and their students,

This year we will be playing all three mvts of the Vivaldi Violin Concerto in A Minor, and of course the Bach Double (first mvt). Last year we had a great group and it was such a blast. Come join us if you can!

All teachers are invited to play along in the orchestra and will be paid \$25.00. Any student may come and join in as a soloist (we often have more than one player per solo) or as an orchestral musician. Email Jillian Chrisman at j2chrisman@comcast.net to receive music and get signed up to participate.

Time of Performance on Saturday, June 4th is 11:30 ish a.m.

Dress: nice, semi formal, or black bottom white top

Indiana's Suzuki Institute Celebrates 7 Years!

The opportunity to benefit from a weeklong experience right here in Indy, has been available since 2010. The original goal of the Indy Arts and Music Festival was to provide the institute experience for Indianapolis and Indiana students without the expense of traveling out of state. However, the quality of instruction has attracted attendance not only from around the country, but even around the world. Students and teacher trainees have traveled from states as far away as Utah, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Texas, and California, and the territory of Puerto Rico. There have been attendees from Peru, France and Malaysia. Don't miss the opportunity that many travel miles to have. The Indiana Suzuki Institute is right here in Indianapolis and is open to students of all disciplines and ability levels.

The IAM Festival was co-founded by Indianapolis native and Suzuki piano teacher Ann Sloan and her administrative collaborator, Scott Kolman-Keen. It is the only Suzuki Institute in Indiana, and one of the most affordable institutes in the nation! The IAM Festival offers all students a daily semi-private lesson, plus a wide range of elective choices including group lessons, music theory, orchestra (early-reading and advanced), chamber music, fiddling, jazz, handbells, guitar, gymnastics, martial arts, and visual

arts. Faculty includes notable Suzuki teachers, collegiate professors, and studio musicians from Indiana and across the country. Suzuki Teacher Training is offered for Units 1 and 2 in both Violin and Piano as well as the informative *Every Child Can!* course open to both teacher trainees and Suzuki families.

The IAM Festival is situated in the modern Arts Center facility on the campus of Hasten Hebrew Academy in Indianapolis. Families attend an informational meeting on Sunday evening, July 17 followed by a week of classes July 18-23. Festival day begins at 8:30 each morning, with flexible scheduling for families. There are family friendly activities most evenings. Childcare is available. The Festival concludes with a public student performance downtown at the Indy Artsgarden on Saturday, July 23 at 11AM.

What: The IAM Festival - Suzuki Student Institute and Teacher Training
When: July 17 (evening) - July 23 (Morning)
Where: Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis
Price: As low as \$195 dependent on number of courses taken.
More info: www.indyAMFest.org
Contact: Ann Sloan, 317-299-3590

STUDIO/TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Written by Liz Efroymsen-Brooks

The Indianapolis Suzuki Academy started off over 35 years ago as a violin program for young children in a community music school program at the University of Indianapolis. The Academy has undergone many transformations over the years. The identity of the Academy through those years was as a Suzuki-based program, but with modifications.

About 5 years ago, the ISA board voted to become a full Suzuki-based program. With the addition of its present director, Sharon Neufeld, the ISA has set its sights to becoming the Premier Suzuki music school in Central Indiana. Today the ISA offers lessons in violin, viola, piano, cello, harp and baby toddler classes (called Suzuki Steps) There are mandatory group lessons for all instruments. The academy also has an advanced performing group called Con Brio and there are plans to expand the performing group plus add a chamber group in the fall. In addition, the ISA has three Suzuki in the School programs - that's a lot of growth for five years!

After years of drifting from one rental facility to another, two years ago, our director found a "home" for the ISA. The current location is at 3959 North Central in a converted three story brick building, which used to be the switching station for Indiana Bell. The ISA occupies the first floor of the building, which is located in the heart of the historic Meridian Kessler area - centrally located in Indianapolis.

The ISA has three graduation recitals per year and several regular recitals. In addition to a big group concert in the spring, the ISA also has monthly community concerts on a smaller scale.

There currently are 7 faculty members, with a new staff member starting in the fall. Sharon Neufeld, the director, also is a violin and viola instructor . She also leads Con Brio. Sarah Beck, the business director, also teaches violin. Sarah has three sons in the ISA. Karen Walls, teaches violin, Suzuki in the School and is a co teacher for Suzuki Steps. Karen is also the coordinator of our Music Mind Games program. The ISA has monthly music theory classes during the Fall and Spring semesters, which utilizes

Music Mind Games. The Music Theory classes meet at the the same time as our monthly Parent Discussion classes. Parents are such an important part of ISA and the academy strives to keep them involved through discussion groups and weekly e newsletters.

The cello program is headed by Liz Efroymsen Brook. Liz is also the Director and a co teacher of Suzuki Steps. Leilah Smith joined the ISA faculty last year. She teaches not only cello, but piano and violin as well. She is also a co-teacher in Suzuki Steps. Ruth Marshall is an adjunct teacher of cello in the program.

The piano program is headed up by Kyoko Tano, who also directs the accompaniment program. An interesting fact about Kyoko is that she studied in Japan. Her daughter is also an advanced student in the ISA.

Stephanie Hall joined the faculty last year as a Harp instructor. The ISA raised funds last year to buy its very own harp! Stephanie also is a co-teacher for Suzuki Steps.

The faculty at ISA is passionate about the Suzuki method! Every teacher participates in professional training every year. The goal of “ building beautiful hearts” is what joins the faculty in purpose and strength.

Quarterly Topic:

How do you motivate parents and students to take the time to attend a Suzuki Institute or other music camp?

NEXT NEWSLETTER TOPIC (July): What do you do to help to organize your studio for the upcoming year? What organizational tricks can parents use to get organized and stay organized with their lesson assignments and practicing at home? Send your thoughts to Rachel Gries at BRQVLA@aol.com

While no one answered this quarter’s question directly, I think that what you read below will be inspiring and can be shared with your studio. Included is an article followed by some parent feedback about institutes.

25 Reasons You Will Want to Attend a Summer Suzuki Institute

Adapted from the May 2015 issue of the *Ambassador*, a publication of the Aber Suzuki Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

1. Discover fresh insights and new approaches to your instrument and music through study with expert clinicians.
2. Work with teachers of national and international reputation.
3. Continue to hear the inspiration of the Suzuki message “every child can learn” given the proper environment.
4. Realize substantial improvement and confidence on your instrument in a short period of time for all students, from pre-twinklers to advanced level players.
5. Experience the balance between time spent playing your instrument and play (free) time.
6. Make friends who are kindred spirits.
7. Meet families and teachers from many states and foreign countries. Last year, one institute had 32 states and 6 foreign countries represented!
8. Receive fresh motivation and renewed excitement about playing and practicing.
9. Be immersed in a nurturing, positive atmosphere where individual value and potential is recognized.
10. Attend inspiring performances by faculty and fellow students.

11. Feel the exhilaration of playing in an orchestra or chamber music.
12. Develop the essential skills of ensemble playing through chamber music.
13. Learn and be inspired by hearing a wide variety of levels of playing on your instrument.
14. Perform in final concerts of 50-200 performers, depending upon the institute.
15. Be surrounded in a nurturing, positive atmosphere where individual value and potential is recognized.
16. Institutes with teen options often include teen dorm opportunities and special advanced student offerings.
17. Hear fresh ideas of how to practice and motivate!
18. Take advantage of quality time with your child or grandchild. Create lifetime memories in an environment free from the stress and distractions of home and work.
19. Find support and new solutions in helping your child through attending outstanding parent talks offered throughout the week.
20. Explore the area surrounding the institute itself—whether a metropolitan setting or mountainous location.
21. Be exposed to different events—from Fun Night to Concerto Night! Some institutes even have pajama play-ins and BBQ nights around the pool! Others may have faculty skits as well as serious performances.

22. Build camaraderie and connections within your teaching studio by having your students attend an institute together. Some studios even reserve a dorm wing to build community!

23. Be re-inspired by attending one of the many teacher training classes offered.

24. Visit the "Suzuki Institute Store". Some institutes have resources onsite, such as an "institute store" of Suzuki materials. Others may have a luthier, where you can try out instruments and secure basic services to keep your instrument sounding its best.

25. Experience a well-organized and planned event. Did you know that most institute staff spend twelve months getting ready for your summer experience?

The very first summer institute I attended was about 30 years ago (let's see.... that would be about 1986). I went with my little 4 year old son, Alex, who had just started cello that year. I actually went for the main purpose of getting my Book 1 Cello Training and I was able to bring Alex along because one of my cello families (I was just starting to teach then) was going too and they helped watch him and shepherd him along.

From the very first session with Dr. Tanya Carey, I was hooked! And so was Alex, who loved getting food from the vending machine in the dorms and made friends. It was exciting, exhausting and enlightening. In fact, the very first thing Alex did when we got home was take out his cello and play for his Dad!

After that summer there was a bit of a break because I had my daughter, who also plays cello. When she got old enough, we three drove the beautiful Blue Star Highway up to Michigan to attend Blue Lake Suzuki Camp. Hooked! I got to do my teacher training. We had several other families from our area attend, so we all watched out for each other. We loved playing outdoors, camping, the fun teachers, swimming in the lake nearby - and I got to do my teacher training!

And so we went back for many years - probably about 10 - until my kids got a little old for the Suzuki camp. Alex even went back for the teen camp a few years. I went back to Chicago with Anna, who was in the advanced group and I got to do my advanced book training.

Every year we all came back renewed and excited about cello! I would not trade those memories for the world. In fact, Blue Lake was one of the highlights of our year - even the year Anna fell off her bunk and broke her cello. Or when Alex lost a shoe. Or the year it was unseasonably cold. Especially because we loved the drive up along the lake shore and seeing the friends we had made the year before.

I can't recommend the Summer Institutes enough. Make it a priority!
(Liz Efrogmson-Brooks)

Suzuki Institute has always been a wonderful experience for our children. The lessons, master classes, technique classes, ensembles, orchestra, and recitals, were all excellent. I especially enjoyed watching the lessons and master classes. The teachers were always able to help each child improve. The small ensembles gave them the opportunity to rely on their own counting ability, and to listen carefully to the other parts to stay together. Our children soaked up the music, learned new skills, and loved the music environment. They came home inspired to continue to move forward in their musical endeavors.

Marilyn (parent from the studio of Jillian Chrisman)

Attending Blue Lake summer camp has become our June family tradition. We all look forward to seeing friends with whom we spend a few days once a year, have some fun time in the art barn, enjoy walks in the woods, joining in the play-ins, polishing up chosen music pieces, doing solo recitals, playing in group ensembles and lots of free evening concerts. During our stay at the camp, practicing violin is much more fun and easier. It is wonderful to see how much our two daughters' interest in playing the violin is fully recharged during the camp stay. As parents, we learn new ways of encouraging our girls to enjoy playing the violin until the next summer camp. It is a worthwhile vacation.

Amelia (parent from the studio of Joyce Davis)

We had a great time at Blue Lake last summer. Although it was challenging to keep Quinn focused (as a 6 year old in the middle of Book 1) for 3 hours of playing each day, the instructors were all really understanding of his limitations. Although he seemed at the end of his rope at times, when I asked him if he wanted to come back next year, the answer was a definite "yes"! I felt like by the time he came back to groups in the fall, he was much better at playing in an ensemble. We also loved the beautiful surroundings in the woods, and he enjoyed the art barn, playing tag with the other ISA students, and playing gaga ball with the older students.

Hilary (parent from the studio of Liz Efroymsen)

We went to the week-long Louisville Suzuki String Institute in 2015. It was a quick 2 hour interstate ride away, and presented a lot of opportunities for my daughter to grow her playing skills.

Each student gets a class with Dr. Timothy Durbin, which is an experience not to be missed!

The small semi-private lessons grouped by current mastered song meant I could learn things for my daughter to try in songs she had just learned or songs she was going to be learning soon.

It was wonderful for both my daughter (age 9) and myself to see her playing new, non-Suzuki pieces in a student orchestra. She learned a lot about playing in a large group with several different parts being played at the same time...and how important counting rests has been, is now, and will be in the future.

During down time, the kids got to know each other, horse around, and eat lunch on the steps together. It was great to be with a bunch of families who were as dedicated to music as some other families are to sports.

We did do some of the enrichment activities, including a beginning guitar class, and a boat cruise along the Ohio River, including a buffet dinner, play-in, and dance party! There were several other options; this year we are thinking about the fiddling class!

I strongly recommend that you try an institute, at least once. Start with a short weekend one (a workshop), to see how your child takes to it. We went to Cincinnati a couple of years ago, and went to Evansville for the first time this year, and really enjoyed them both! Especially for younger children, I feel weekend workshops are a great option.

Jen (parent from the studio of Jillian Chrisman)

My son (cello) and daughter (violin) love the institute at Otterbein University in Columbus, Ohio. The daily schedule provides adequate breaks, lots of class options, and Wednesday afternoon the entire camp gets together for an informal performance, a Suzuki Kazoo band, and a fiddle competition. We have enjoyed all of the teachers we have worked with and the good family time we share while at camp. My son loves staying in the dorms because he has a special closet hideout. There is also a park nearby and Graeter's Ice Cream. The kids always come back recharged and excited about all of the things they learned.

Rachel (parent from the studio of Liz Efroymsen)

We have really enjoyed the IAM camp. It is amazing how much growth can happen in such a short time. The direction given during the camp is helpful all year, not to mention, the connections he has made with kids from all over the country.

Gretchen (parent from the studio of Liz Efroymsen)

We love Suzuki summer camps! It's a family vacation with a purpose. :)

We have been to 4 camps (New England, Columbus, Ann Arbor). Exposure to great teachers, communicating with other parents and lots of family time is what we liked best about them.

Can highly recommend NESI (New England) and would recommend Columbus as well.
Christiana (parent from the studio of Liz Efroymsen)