



Suzuki Association of Indiana News

Volume 5, Issue 1

Editor: Rachel Gries

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STATE NEWS AND EVENTS

Teacher Talks

Jillian Chrisman has scheduled 4 teacher talks for the fall semester around Indianapolis. Please join us on any of the dates below for an informal chat and shop talk. ALL teachers are welcomed! Bring a teacher friend; members and non-members welcome! Contact j2crisman@comcast.net with any questions.

East of Indy Teacher Talk

Wednesday, September 14, 11:00 a.m.

Applebees, 1792 N State St, Greenfield, IN

Hosted by Diana Hummel, new member Marilyn Watkins, and Jillian Chrisman

South of Indy Teacher Talk

Wednesday, October 26, 8:30 a.m.

Yiayia's House of Pancakes 1694 West Main Street, Greenwood, IN

Hosted by Rachel Gries and Jillian Chrisman

West of Indy Teacher Talk

Friday, November 11, 12:30 p.m.

Smee's Place Bar & Grill, 1454 W 86th St. 46260

Hosted by Ann Sloan and Jillian Chrisman

North of Indy Teacher Talk

Sunday, December 10, 4:00 p.m.

Location TBA

Hosted by Liz Efroymsen and Jillian Chrisman

Dr. Suzuki Play-ins

Fall 2016 Regional Play-ins to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Suzuki:

Central Indiana Play-In

Sunday, November 13th, 5:00-6:00 pm (call time 4:30)

Indianapolis Artsgarden

33 North Capitol Avenue, Indianapolis, IN

Contact Jillian Chrisman, j2chrisman@comcast.net, for repertoire list

Northern Indiana Play-In

October 22

Suzuki Music School of Granger

Fall Workshop

Contact Joyce Davis, joycedavis2@comcast.net, for information

Southern Indiana Play-In

Dates vary

University of Evansville Suzuki Program

Dr. Suzuki celebrations in scheduled group classes

Contact Maria Mastropaolo, mm9@evansville.edu, for information

Concerts

Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra

“Growing Up Baroque”

Sunday, December 4, 4:00 pm

A period instrument performance of many baroque pieces featured in the Suzuki repertoire. Students may bring their instruments to perform in a surprise finale.

<http://indybaroque.org/growing.html>

Important SAI events

SAI Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 8, 2017

University of Evansville, Evansville, IN
Contact Maria Mastropaolo, mm9@evansville.edu, for information

July 16-21 (Teacher Training July 15-23)

IAM Festival, Indianapolis, IN
indyamfest.weebly.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



One of the highlights of my year as a Suzuki Teacher is the SAI annual meeting. This year the annual meeting was held up north in Mishawaka, Indiana. It was hosted by Emilie Grondin at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

There were 8 in attendance - a small but mighty group of passionate and experienced women: Jillian Chrisman, Emily Thompson, Diana Hummel, Debbie Barker, Emilie Grondin, Sarah Pearce and Maria Mastropaolo and myself. Some of these teachers drove several hours to attend. Some came right off their vacation to come and share their valuable presence.

To be honest, we could have spent the whole day sharing our ideas about teaching. We could have spent hours sharing our many wonderful stories about our students and studios. And we did do a lot of that - especially over lunch at a fabulous Mexican restaurant.

But we did have business to conduct, the most important of which was to choose a President-Elect. Every organization needs "new blood" in order to grow and we are extremely lucky to have Emilie Grondin as our new PE. She will succeed me in two years. During those two years I will share the duties of my job with her. We also had to elect a temporary treasurer because Diana Hummel has had to resign (we thank Diana for all her work). Fortunately, our "Southerners" Sarah and Maria have stepped in to fill Diana's shoes as co-treasurers for the next year. Thanks so very much ladies.

Also, Emily Thompson has agreed to take over our web site and social media. Our web address is indianasuzuki.org. Check it out - it's on the internet now. She is going to update and make improvements. Rachel Gries will continue to be our e-newsletter editor. Thanks and thanks again ladies.

Also, in addition to a regular Treasurer's report, Jillian Chrisman put together (it must have taken hours) a comprehensive 5 year report (it actually goes back 7 years to the very start) of the SAI. This report denotes all items discussed more than once since 2010. It has been a real growing experience. If you would like a copy, contact Jillian. Thanks Jillian for such a great job and beautifully written report.

Other orders of business:

- * Treasurer's Report - we currently have a balance of 3,462.31
- * Associate Memberships - we voted to keep this at \$10 per family.
- * Next annual meeting is set for July 8, 2017. It will be in Evansville.
- * We had a wonderful guest - Jim Grondin - who led us through various ways to teach and play improvisation to students. It was fun and fascinating.
- * We are working on ways to make SAI memberships more valuable for teachers and families. There are lots of ideas - giving discounts for workshops and events, scholarships, informal meetings, fundraising events. We welcome your ideas! The basic idea is to connect Suzuki teachers and families.

Looking forward to another year of spreading the love of music.

-Liz Efroymsen-Brooks

STUDIO/TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Emilie Grondin, our new SAI President Elect

Emilie will shadow current president Liz Efroymsen-Brooks and move up to President in 2018. She is a Suzuki Cello Instructor and Chamber Music Coach in the Mishawaka area.

Emilie Grondin is a first generation Suzuki student. She was introduced in Catholic grade school to the cello by Sister Karen Colin, who was part of a group of nuns who participated in the very early years of Suzuki Violin training in the United States.

Sister Karen used the early original John Kendall violin book version (John had added Russian Folk Song and other songs to the books) and made her own hand transcribed versions for cello.

She then mimeographed these transcribed Suzuki violin books and used these to train Emilie on cello.

Emilie also listened to the violin recordings. There were no cello books or recordings back then. Emilie then continued to play in her Suzuki program at the Catholic grade school.

In college in the early 70's, she linked up with Brenda Wickes, a violinist in the early Suzuki movement, who knew John Kendall. Brenda wrote an interesting book called "Genius of Simplicity." Emilie did her informal Book 1-3 training with Brenda in Eugene, Oregon and transferred that knowledge to the cello. Emilie went on to teach with Brenda at String Celebrations, which at that time was separate from the University of Oregon. Emilie worked hard to build that cello program up. Books 1-4 in cello just started to come out in the early 70's and Emily was able to use some of those books. She taught there for 10 years.

As she continued teaching, the upper cello books came out in the 1980's. Books 5-10 contained standard cello repertoire, so that was not such a tricky adjustment. Then, in the 1990's, the revised editions of the Suzuki Books were due to be published. Emilie still remembers going to the San Francisco SAA Conference, where groups of cellists went through each book, page by page. Then in 1992, the revised editions were published.

In the 1990s (lucky for SAI), Emilie moved to Indiana because of her husband's work (he is an instrumental music teacher in the South Bend schools). She hooked up with the Suzuki Talent Education of Mishawaka through a mutual friend. She built the cello program there and taught for 14 years until 2009.

In 2009, she went independent. She currently has about 25-30 private students. She also helps coordinate the chamber music for the South Bend Youth Symphony at the IU South Bend. One of her former students, Austin Huntington, was recently appointed principal cello of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra at the age of 21.

Emily has two daughters. Her older daughter is a Suzuki trained violinist with a BA and Masters in Suzuki pedagogy. Recently, she has been training in Suzuki cello because the Centenary Suzuki School in Shreveport, LA needed someone to teach beginning cellists. Her other daughter is a Suzuki trained flutist.

QUARTERLY TOPIC:

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?

Elise Massicote: I stay organized through Music Teacher's Helper. It's fantastic! It helps me and the parents keep track of lesson schedules and billing. www.musicteachershelper.com

Linda Kummernuss: In August, when my fall schedule begins, I pass out to each of my students a list of all of the lesson dates, the dress rehearsal, recital and concert dates, and the date of our holiday party. Then, as each event approaches, I hand out the details of the event. I do not send any of this via email. I give them paper that can be put on the refrigerator, or message board for easy reference. Some families just keep this info in the student's music bag.

Carol Dallinger: Being shared with this newsletter is something I got from Stephanie Judy, who wrote a wonderful book called Making Music for the Joy of It, which is sadly, out of print. See Parent's Daily Dozen.

Leilah Smith: Two things I do to get ready for the fall, that gear my brain up for full-time teaching and group classes, is to make sure all the dates and times for classes and concerts are put into my Google Calendar. This is super important, because if I don't show up, what kind of example am I setting?? One other thing I do to get ready for the fall is re-organize my work space. The more I know where things are, the less time I spend looking for things I need, taking up my students lesson times.

Two things related to actually teaching are playing through the books as much as possible to help my own memory. I also go through my old training manuals and re-read them. There is so much information in there, and as a second year teacher, it's hard to remember it all. It's so good to go back and say "oh yeah!! I forgot about that great idea (or teaching point)!!"

Liz Efrogmson-Brooks: To get ready for the fall, first and foremost, I tackle the daunting task of scheduling my students and group lessons. Since I am right brain by nature, this activity is not fun. But I have learned that doing the hard work ahead of time makes life so much easier when the actual semester starts.

Also, I try to finish my summer projects as much as I can so I can start the fall with a clean slate. My big project this year is to clean out the clutter in my office and refile my music and personal files into new folder units. Sadly, this project is only about a third completed. But I still have a week to go before the semester starts.

Sarah Beck: ISA just started using MyMusic staff online student management system. For a monthly subscription (\$12/mo - no contract required - pay month to month) you can manage student contact info, schedules of private lessons and group classes and special event registrations. You can also generate group messages and create your own message templates. Your studio parents can log in and see their calendar and accounts.

Using this platform also creates calendars that be synced with your and your parents calendars on Google Calendar or iCal. Visit www.MyMusicStaff.com to learn more and any ISA faculty member would be happy to share or experience with you about using this.

Other things I do include:

- reviewing any supplemental materials my private students need to start and ordering those items (scale and étude books)
- preparing students for upcoming honors recital (some are wrapping up book graduations)
- creating some new plans for group class, including some small ensemble work for students who are now in Book 4 (using Martha Yasuda's new arrangements for 4 violins and other duet and trio arrangements of Suzuki pieces)
- updating my calendars and sharing those dates and details as reminders for parents

Jillian Chrisman: The start of the school year usually brings a welcome return to routine for my studio families. I've learned that the fall semester is quite short compared to the spring semester. Students now have fall breaks, some of which are a week long. Then there is Thanksgiving too. So for the fall semester, I look ahead to the Christmas recital and work backwards. I choose the group songs for the Christmas recital and am sure to incorporate them into the individual practice sheets of students and at group lessons and also into any studio performances. I try to have a few outside pieces each semester as well—each specific for a different book level. I have them ready to hand out at the first lesson when enthusiasm is high. The best thing I learned (just last year!) is to play the recording of one selected group song at each private lesson. Then we imitate it. And play the recording again at group lesson, then play it as a group. For me, that has been the best way to get a uniform 'one big violin' sound in the group – as it ensures every student has listened and has the same idea of how the song should sound.

NEXT NEWSLETTER TOPIC (October): Building Success What experiences have helped improve your teaching? What attitudes and habits have you learned that make you a better student? Share successes, funny stories, and other wisdom you have learned from your experiences. Send your thoughts to Rachel Gries at BRQVLA@aol.com

Connect with the SAI

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

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

Send comments, events, photos and articles to Rachel Gries: brqvla@aol.com