



Suzuki Association of Indiana News

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Editor: Emily J. Thompson

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From the Secretary

by Emily J. Thompson

Welcome to the sixth year of membership in the SAI! This first issue features all the important news from our annual meeting on July 8th, including new officers and board members, updates to the by-laws, and plans for the organization to continue improving and expanding our work. This year's meeting was very productive in assessing where we have come from, where we are, and where we want to go.

I would like to credit Jillian Chrisman for her amazing term of service as our one and only secretary these past several years. In addition to running all the member records, she has personally organized many key events for the SAI. She has also been instrumental in all of the newsletters that I have put together, and my number one cheerleader while I worked through building a new website. As I have been working on all things digital in collaboration with her and the other officers, I am honored to have been elected to follow in her steps as the secretary. I will also be continuing my media secretary duties on the newsletter and website.

There are four newsletter issues every year. These issues are basically quarterly: the first issue in July or August (new membership year, back-to-school), the second in November (pre-holidays), the third in February (New Year, spring activities), and the fourth in May (leading into the annual meeting). I will continue to give you information about what submissions we are looking for throughout the year. Thanks again to everyone who has helped with the newsletter this far. I think that everyone has something to offer, and I look forward to hearing from you.

This issue is unusually shaped, in that we have two shorter articles followed by a lengthy report from the annual meeting. Although all of our minutes and notes will be posted on the website under Member Content, there were so many key points covered in our July meeting that I felt everyone would appreciate reading them through in this edition rather than adding more separate attachments. There is, however, one attachment I am including, which is Jillian Chrisman's review of Edmund Sprunger's *Helping Parents Practice*. She presented copies of these handouts to the teachers at the afternoon session of our meeting, and the formatting she made is integral to the insights she drew from this remarkable book. I know you will enjoy this as much as we did.

All the best,

Emily Thompson
SAI Secretary and Media Secretary

Upcoming Events

The Central Indiana Annual SAI Play In in honor of Dr. Suzuki's Birthday will be Sunday, November 29 at 4:00 pm (arrive at 3:00) at the Indianapolis Artsgarden. The Artsgarden is located in the Circle Center Mall in downtown Indianapolis.

This great event is open to all Suzuki instruments! It is open to all students and families all over Indiana. It is a fun way to see downtown Indianapolis and go shopping at the amazing downtown mall! The event will last just over an hour and there will be treats afterwards.

Parking is easy - the mall has underground parking for only \$2.00. We really hope that many Suzuki students and teachers take advantage of this opportunity to connect with other Suzuki players and teachers from all over Indiana.

A play list for each instrument will be sent out the first week in October.
See you there! ~Liz Efroymsen

Feature Article: Words to Suzuki Songs

Stephanie Hall: I often have students create their own lyrics for a piece. Often they come up with versions that are so creative! For example, students have created lyrics about cookies, swimming, snowflakes, and even their favorite store- Target! Being able to sing a melody helps them self-correct when they are learning a piece, and often makes my job much easier.

This semester, one of my studio goals is to create a book of lyrics for Suzuki Harp Book 1, including illustrations- all done by my students. I hope to make it into a photo book for them for their Christmas present.

As a parent, I love helping my daughter create lyrics. It is an easy thing to do in the car- we seem to spend a lot of time driving! And it is a great way to talk about the form of a piece, phrasing, and rhythm.

Emilie Grondin: Here are two of my favorite words to Book 1 songs that I use with my students:

French Folk Song (cello) - Pussy Cat

(Words are from Mother Goose - I have a little Mother Goose book from when I was a child that has fuzzy pictures of the animals in it. I loan it to the student/parent for a week so they can read the book and sing the song when they get to it - it's the last poem in the book.)

Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been
I've been to London to look at the queen.
Pussy cat, pussy cat what did you there?
Frightened a little mouse under her chair.
Pussy cat, pussy cat where have you been?

Allegro - Popcorn (credit to Linda Wickes)

1st, 2nd and 4th lines: Popcorn, popcorn, have a little popcorn
Popcorn, popcorn, eat it all the time.
3rd line: Pour on butter, pour on butter,
Butter makes it taste so good.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

*Taken from the minutes of the Sixth Annual Meeting on July 8, 2017, University of Evansville
(Jillian Chrisman, secretary)*

Those Present:*

Officers

Liz Efrogmson (President): Indianapolis, cello, Indianapolis Suzuki Academy;

Emilie Grondin (President-Elect): Mishawaka, cello, teaches privately and coaches chamber music;

Jillian Chrisman (Secretary): Indianapolis, violin, private studio;

Maria Mastropaolo (Co-Treasurer): University of Evansville (UE) Suzuki Program, violin, was a Suzuki kid, now a teacher and Mom;

Sarah Pearce (Co-Treasurer): teaches in the UE Suzuki program, violin, trained under Carol Dallinger.

Other Board Members present:

Carol Dallinger: Honorary board member, University of Evansville faculty and director of Suzuki Violin Program, started Suzuki program at the University in 1972, SAA teacher trainer;

Joyce Davis: (Present via Skype) Granger, violin, Director of the Music School of Granger;

Emily Thompson: Media Secretary (email newsletter and website), Fort Wayne, Violin, founder and teacher of the IWU Suzuki Violin Program in Marion.

Teacher Members

Meghan King: Carmel, violin, teaches privately at Purdue, private studio (Appassionato Strings);

Rachel Gries: Greenwood, violin and viola, teaches modified Suzuki lessons at Center Grove Middle & High Schools, also teaches in Franklin in an after school program;

Sarah Yingst: Greenwood, violin, newest member to Suzuki and SAI.

*Teacher **Amanda Hummel** (UE Suzuki Violin teacher) and honorary board member **Diane Schroeder** (former president of the SAA) attended during the afternoon session.

Secretary Report: Jillian read the minutes from the 2016 annual. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The fiscal year for the SAI is July 1 – June 31. For a detailed report of the checking and saving account activity during the 2016-17 fiscal year, please look online at <https://www.indianasuzuki.org/member-content/minutes-from-annual-meetings/>. We opened a savings account following the 2016 meeting, and transferred \$1000 from checking as the starting balance. Following discussion, a motion was made to transfer an additional \$500 per year into savings. All voted yes. There was also discussion of putting money into a CD: Maria and Sarah will research this during the upcoming year and make a decision at the next annual meeting.

Sarah Pearce is setting up a PayPal account for online payments. Sarah and Emily Thompson will work together on the details and making online payments available for membership, donations, and other payments.

Media Secretary's Report:

This year, Emily Thompson focused on building out the SAI website at indianasuzuki.org. In addition to featuring information about the organization, teachers, events, and contact forms, the website now includes a members-only content page where members can find the complete directory, by-laws and links to all the past meeting minutes and newsletter archives. Emily asked members to send news, events listings, and photographs to indianasuzuki@gmail.com to be featured on the website. [A media waiver form is available on the Member Content page to be signed by all of your studio families before submitting photos and videos. No names of students will be published online.]

Emily Thompson then gave a screen presentation and showed us around the website. If you would like to send invitations to your studio families to join the SAI, you can direct them to indianasuzuki.org/join.

The password for the Member Content page is **mySAI2012**. You can go to <https://www.indianasuzuki.org/member-content/> or click on “Member Content” on the main menu.

One very important element of the website is the Teacher Listing page at <https://www.indianasuzuki.org/teacher-listing/>. This page has a table of all the SAI teacher members organized by area (North, Central and South) showing name, city, and instrument. Each member’s name is a link to their individual page. Emily Thompson also showed an example of an individual teacher page complete with photo, bio and information about studio offerings. Teachers in the SAI can send all this material to indianasuzuki.org to be included on their profiles, which also have a secure contact form which will go to the individual’s email without having to have any personal contact info listed publicly. A list of the SAI officers will also be added at the top of the main listing page. The teacher listings will be updated to reflect the current year’s members starting in August, but can be revised at any time to add new members or edit out members that have moved away.

The SAI now offers advertising for relevant products (including used instruments) and services, but this is only for the newsletter and possibly Facebook (TBD), not for the website. Any advertiser must be a SAI member (the appropriate people may join as Associate members for \$11).

There are three categories of expenses for the website: domain name, hosting and miscellaneous add-ons (such as security certificates). Because Emily works on the website as a volunteer, we don’t pay for any design or maintenance services. The website expenses for the past year were about \$70.00, but Emily Thompson suggested that we keep the current budgeted amount at \$150 in case of future changes.

There was no action to be voted on regarding the website or newsletter.

Old Business: Liz Efroymson brought up interest in making another order of SAI logo t-shirts. Members can give her their requests and Ann Sloan will order them from the company that makes the IAM fest t-shirts.

New Business:

President-Elect Emilie Grondin gave a short report about the SAA Leadership Retreat she attended in the spring. At the retreat, the affiliate chapter session was about maintaining membership: what are the benefits of being a member? These were the benefits discussed at the leadership retreat:

1. Feeding into the larger community
2. Publishing newsletters on a quarterly basis. These varied in quality—Emilie showed a copy of the Utah chapter’s print publication with high quality printing and advertisers that is more article oriented. Most chapters, however, are going with electronic newsletters.
3. Sending out a monthly email update – more activity oriented.
4. Some have business memberships.
5. Activities – graduations, honor recital, auditions, institutes, festival, workshops, regional events.
6. Scholarships for teacher and/or students

A common feature of the chapter affiliates is that teachers are expected to have all students be a member of the association – they have a family rate and are expected to help with the organization.

Elections for Secretary, Treasurer and Board Members:

There were two officer positions to be elected this year: secretary and treasurer.

There were three nominations for secretary:

Rachel Osterhouse
Elisabeth Ohly-Davis
Emily Thompson

As this was the first election held for secretary since Jillian Chrisman was elected in 2012, there was some discussion of qualifications for board officers. Several members felt strongly that officers should have already served on the board for some time. As Emily was the only nominee who had been on the board (she was elected in 2015, and has served for several years as media secretary, which is not currently an officer position), she was voted in unanimously as secretary of the SAI. She will continue to serve as media secretary, working on the email newsletter and website.

Sarah Pearce and Maria Mastropaolo were nominated to be co-treasurers. They were elected in 2016 to serve for one year to complete the existing term vacated by Diana Hummel. They agreed to continue serving for the new two-year term (2017–2019) and were voted in unanimously by those present.

The current board members going into the meeting were Liz Efroymsen, Jillian Chrisman, Maria Mastropaolo, Sarah Pearce, Emily Thompson, Ann Sloan, Joyce Davis, Diana Hummel, Dawn Evans, and Emilie Grondin.

Following the conclusion of her term as secretary, Jillian Chrisman retired from the board. However, the members who had expressed their interest in serving the SAI during the secretary nomination effort were nominated to become members of the board to widen the expertise and efforts of the board as well as to provide a base for future officer elections. Also, Rachel Gries has experience serving on the board for multiple other music organizations and was nominated to provide her input on good practices for the board and organizational planning.

Vote: the new board members voted in were Rachel Osterhouse, Elisabeth Ohly-Davis, and Rachel Gries.

By-laws Discussion: There were several issues discussed that the board is to undertake in amending the by-laws. First, it was suggested the by-laws be amended to require that incoming officers should be on the board for two years before being taking office. It was also suggested that there should be a defining range of number of board members, a minimum to a maximum number of persons on the board. It was noted that the term of board members at large is currently open ended. [For follow-up on this, please read the 2017 July Board Minutes posted online at <https://www.indianasuzuki.org/member-content/board-meeting-minutes/>]

Second, there was a question during the election of officers whether we had a quorum present to conduct voting. Because not all the members of the SAI are present at the annual meeting, we happened to have just enough members present (by 1 person) to pass new votes (all motions were approved unanimously). It was suggested [but not voted on] that we need to change the by-laws in the future so that voting at the annual election is simple majority of those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Chrisman
Outgoing SAI Secretary

From the Afternoon Session: Planning for the Future

The afternoon session at the Annual Meeting on July 8th featured a presentation by Emilie Grondin of the notes she had from attending the SAA Leadership Retreat in May. She had an extensive set of notes that she summarized by category [these will be posted online].

The primary focus of the afternoon session was a discussion of our goals for the SAI and providing input on concrete ideas for implementing those goals.

One area of discussion was increasing membership. Carol Dallinger suggested that the more teachers join the SAI, the more they will enroll their students [as associate members]. We can draw in more teachers by offering something that makes their membership valuable, with the main suggestion being workshops.

Workshops

Our strongest advocates for workshops and institutes are parents who have done it.

We can attract teachers to join when we have something to offer them, for instance, teacher workshops. UE has brought in guest speakers with their March workshop and tacked on an extra teacher training session on Sunday. The Nashville workshop also does this. SAI could help sponsor the cost of the guest presenter as a benefit to teachers.

For student workshops, having an attractive teacher can motivate teachers to bring their students a several hour drive. Making it a group trip for studio families is also a fun way to attend a workshop. For example, the UE Suzuki workshop in March is attended by a large number of students from Nashville whose families rent a hotel together and have pizza and pool parties every night.

The choice of presenters was also discussed, specifically having more than just a violin clinic. There were several ideas that the board is going to continue to pursue in planning these events.

Yearly Events

We need get the yearly round of Suzuki events in Indiana out on SAI member publicity well in advance so that we can encourage more participation and interaction. There are currently several happening consistently:

- March: workshops hosted by the Evansville and Fort Wayne Suzuki programs
- June: invitational family orchestra hosted by the Chrisman studio in east Indy
- July: SAI Annual Meeting
- July: IAM Fest in Indianapolis (SAA Institute)
- October/November: Dr. Suzuki play-ins, main play-in at Indianapolis Artsgarden, events in Granger and Evansville for Dr. Suzuki's birthday

Having these events publicized can help facilitate planning to add or expand events in the future, as well as bring in participation from more teachers and students.

All of these details can be publicized in more detail on the website by sending them to Emily Thompson at indianasuzuki@gmail.com.

Book Review

The second part of the session was a discussion of Edmund Sprunger's advice for parents and teachers from his book *Helping Parents Practice*, led by Jillian Chrisman. Jillian brought extensive handouts with quotes from the book and she organized selections into two parts, the first for parents, the second the teachers. This extremely insightful selection and commentary by Jillian is attached to this newsletter email [see "Sprunger Book Review"]. She also had a 1-page handout printed on colorful paper of short quotes she had typed out to be framed. [see "Sprunger Quotes"]

Finally, she shared her strategy for teaching (and memorizing) Etude, which led to a discussion of memorization strategies for difficult pieces like Etude using made-up lyrics. This was suggested as a possible topic for the next newsletter. [See below.]

Many thanks for this session go to Emilie Grondin and Jillian Chrisman, who spent many hours working towards this meeting and led a valuable time of conversation for everyone present.

Emily Thompson

Coming up next in SAI News Volume 6, Issue 2—What to submit by the end of October:

- Events and announcements. This is when I need to have all your winter/spring workshop information submitted. Also, if you have any professional concerts in your area that would be especially beneficial to Suzuki students, please let us know. I can send out event announcements by email in between newsletters as needed.
- News articles about any events that have happened so far in your area. Include photos and video if you have any, along with your signed General Media Release Forms (let me know if you need the file, which is available on our Member Content page on the website, password **mySAI2012**).
- Other articles, including book reviews, studio spotlights and other topics of interest.

- Feature article submissions—**Special Topic: *What are some of your most creative and effective ideas you've tried for studio recitals? Do you have different recital formats for different times throughout the year?***
- We also offer advertisement opportunities for members and associate members who have items (including used instruments) for sale or special services for the Suzuki community. Vendors interested in advertising must join as associate members before being published.

Connect with the SAI

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

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

Send comments, events, photos and articles to:
indianasuzuki@gmail.com