



North Carolina Suzuki Association Play-In

The highlight of our Suzuki Violin instruction season will be the State-Wide Play-In on the East Duke Campus in Durham March 17, 18, 2006.

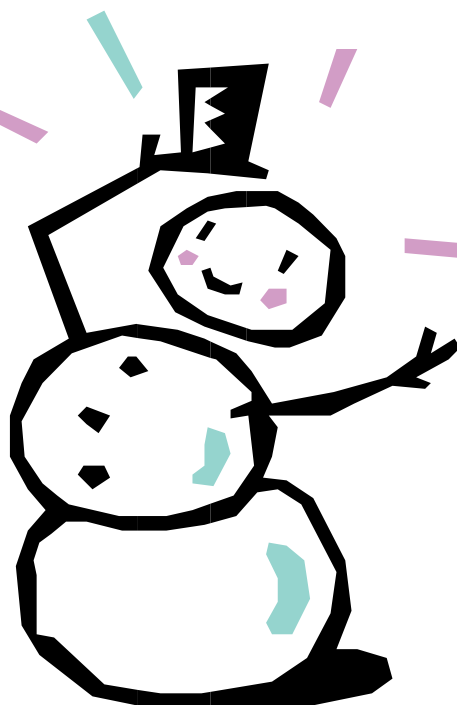
A Bi-Annual Event, this Play-In is a Celebration of Music featuring cello, guitar, flute, violin and viola students from around the State. Teachers and families from the Triangle will host this event and I want every one of my students to attend. The weekend will begin with check-in and informal play-ins on Friday afternoon, and a very special concert on Friday evening. On Saturday, students will enjoy classes with old and new friends taught by the excellent teachers from our area. Advanced students will have a class with Duke University Faculty member, Eric Pritchard. And a grand finale concert will take place in Baldwin Auditorium. Complete information will be available on-

line www.ncsuzukiteachers.org . I will have brochures in my studio.

I hope that some of you will be interested in helping out with registration, set-up-clean up crew or hosting a student and parent at your home. This is a very special opportunity for students, families and teachers in our community. Let's make it the best!

A planning meeting will be held at Falconbridge Clubhouse January 7 at noon. All are welcome. Karen

- Violin Repertoire
- Bartok Rumanian Folk Dances
- Vol. 8 Eccles Sonata I
- Vol. 6 Fiocco Allegro
- Vol. 5 Country Dance
- Vol. 5 Vivaldi A Min., mvt 2
- Vol. 4 Seitz no. 5, mvt 3
- Vol. 3 Humoresque & Gavotte in G Minor
- Vol. 2 Lully Gavotte
- Vol. 2 Handel Chorus



HAPPY NEW YEAR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Graduation Recitals January 21, 22, 2006

STEAD's 3rd annual graduation recitals will take place on —January 21, 22, 2006. The recitals will take place at Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill.
Vol. 1,2,3 Saturday/ 10:00 A.
Vol. 4,5 Sunday/ 2:00 P

This is a high level performance and very special event. Please dress up!
ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO COME!

Students who are performing should plan to attend rehearsals on January 7 at Falconbridge. Volume 1 graduates will rehearse at 10:00 AM; Volume 2,3 at 10:30 and Volume 4, 5 at 11:15 AM.

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Review: The Heart of the Suzuki Method

Suzuki often said to his teacher trainees and students, “Raise Your Ability with a Piece that You Can Play.” In contrast to traditional methods of instruction, Suzuki returned to well-learned pieces to teach technique, to refine skills and help students develop fine listening. Listen to an artist play “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and you know in a moment to what he refers. Similar to the “repertoire approach” to teaching, students learn through pieces of beautiful music instead of those monotonous finger exercises and etudes made popular in the 19th century, Suzuki takes one step further.

Developing a repertoire that stays with us requires us to consistently review. I once spoke with a parent during my early days of teaching. I wondered why this little girl was making almost no progress. While speaking about this on the phone, the father admitted that, because their schedule was so busy, they only practiced on weekends. His complete honesty unlocked the mystery. I asked him, “What would happen if you only practiced Chinese on Saturday and Sunday?”

In order to become fluent in any language (music, math, Chinese or Italian), one must practice daily. During our everyday

conversations, we practice, not only our new vocabulary words, but many, many familiar ones.

For the sake of your child, please make review a part of your daily practice. In this way, your student will become fluent and find that instead of getting harder, violin playing becomes as natural as speaking ones native tongue.

The graduating Vol. 1 students will demonstrate the beauty of Suzuki’s approach to teaching and learning on January 21. Please come and “hear for yourself!”

Reading Made Easy

American Suzuki Teachers “ate crow pie” after their early students failed in the reading department! William Starr actually apologized to his son for not teaching him to read well. You will be happy to know that teachers are much better at including reading from the start! You might also like to know that Bill’s son responded humbly to his

father, “Anyone can learn to read, Dad.” The truth be told—those little black splotches on the page are built on simple algorithms and are easy to learn.

First developing the ear makes pedagogical sense. Compare this to learning to read language. Children who live in a family who converse learn to read and write easily. Similarly, elementary math teachers report that measuring with

manipulatives and blocks enable students to make the leap to abstract mathematical concepts later.

Beginning with “Tap, Clap and Sing,” students develop steady beat and inner rhythm. We map the violin—connecting sound with touch. Finally, we connect the eye—encoding those black splotches. Over time, children build connections in the brain. And like everything else, daily practice makes it easy!

“ . . . like everything else, daily practice makes it easy.”

Pennies for Practice . . . postscript

A round of applause for students who participated in the “Pennies for Practice” Hurricane Relief Effort.

This project, taken on by STEAD students, was a grand success. Thank you, especially, to Wesley Lo, who performed at the Fortune Garden, collecting \$ 40 of pennies which filled the basket! We mailed a check (\$ 194.84) to the SAA office for a collective effort by students throughout

the country.

Those families who missed out on the project may send individual checks to SAA P.O. Box 17310, Boulder, CO 80308

Please visit the SAA website to see how your money is being put to work.



Thank you, students—
Happy Holidays!

www.suzukiassociation.org



Who's Doing What ...

As the semester flew by, I was pleased to see students participate in many performances. Here is a recap!

The following students participated in the Chapel Hill Annual Fall Suzuki Workshop Calum, Dagny, Faith, Jane, Mia, Reed and Wesley.

Carla, Chardonay, Dagny, Jane and Wesley performed for one another and families at the Electric Violin Shop for our studio class. Valerie Elvers McFalls accompanied on piano. Thanks to Candida Yoshikai for loaning us her Clavinova for

the event!

Grace, Chardonay, and Erica performed on 2 DUSS orchestra concerts; Chardonay performed with the Triangle Youth Symphony at Meymandi Hall; Wesley performed with the Piedmont Junior Orchestra under the baton of Leslie Alperin; Caitlin and Reed performed with the Durham Youth Orchestra; Carla performed the Soli part with her stand partner on the Chapel Hill High School concert.



Hats off to all the students!

Wesley Lo participated in the Leanne Darling fiddle workshop at the Electric Violin Shop.

STEAD participants who played on the Holiday Performance at Alterra: Connor, Erica, Angeline, Landon, Warren, Mia, Jane, Andrew, Calum and Wesley. STEAD performers will submit a DVD featuring students auditioning for the Durham Bulls!

To all our hard-working students "Bravo!"

Practice Tips for Busy Students

During the early years in post-WWII in Japan, Suzuki reported that many students practiced by the hour. There were few competing activities for children during those times. Our lives are so very different and many children do not have the luxury of large chunks of time to leisurely practice. We can optimize practice time to make our student's efforts efficient. First, create a

Chunk Down, Play Slowly and Give Good Directions to your bow and fingers, repeat.

William Starr, Professor of Music at Colorado State Un.

sacred time for daily practice and stick to it if at all possible. Second, have a review plan to keep the repertoire fresh—Third, learn new material in small chunks (4-6 notes) with repetitions done slowly and with careful intonation. If

your teacher has assigned special pre-view spots for pieces, play them every day.

Use counters, stickers, incentives if necessary. It has been my experience, however, that most students are eager to learn a chunk correctly—the reward being successful execution of an attainable goal. If you have difficulty chunking down new material, please ask—A well-focused practice can be twice as effective by following these tips.

Viewing Progress From the Big Picture

Doctor Suzuki's goal was to contribute to the development of his students. "Man's ultimate direction in life . . . is to look for love, truth, virtue and beauty" (Nurtured By Love). And though many of his students became professional musicians and teachers, that was not his aim. Likewise, most must teachers view their vocation similarly. Some of my students have gone on to become music majors in college, and I teach every one of my stu-

dents with the idea that they will have the skills to do so if they are so motivated. The process in which students learn and the spirit of the environment is much more important. What drew me to Suzuki's approach was the cooperative spirit, the energy of the teachers, the



excellent approach to teaching and learning and the positive relationships between parents, teachers, students and their peers. Yes, the discipline of learning to play an instrument is a valuable tool in the quest for scholastic achievement. More importantly, students learn to recognize & appreciate beauty.

Moorman Suzuki Violin Studio

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STEAD Website
www.durhamsuzuki.org

Violin Repertoire for North Carolina Suzuki Teachers Association Play-In 2006

(Continued)

Vol. 1

Gossec, Gavotte Song of the Wind

Happy Farmer Lightly Row

Minuet 1 Twinkles

Perpetual Motion

Long, Long Ago

Go Tell Aunt Rhody

2006 Calendar

MOORMAN SUZUKI VIOLIN STUDIO CALENDAR 2006

January 7	STEAD group lessons
January 7	NCSTA planning mtg
January 9	Lessons begin
January 21, 22	Graduation Recitals
January 28, 29	Snow Make-up for Graduation Recitals
February 11	STEAD Performance
February 25	STEAD Workshop
March 11	STEAD group lessons
March 13-16	NO LESSONS
March 17, 18	NCSTA Play-In/ Duke
April 8	STEAD group lessons
April 14	Studio Class 4:30-6:00
April 22*	STEAD recitals
May 13	STEAD Awards Day/ Play-In
May 16-18	Make-up Lessons

SPRING RECITAL

STEAD teachers invite everyone to play on the April 22 solo recitals. So regardless of your level of participation in STEAD, plan to perform your polished piece.

Students are invited to practice for one another at the Spring Studio Class Friday, April 14 from 4:30-6:00 PM.

SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS . . .

SUMMER CAMPS AND INSTITUTE INFORMATION WILL BEGIN ARRIVING IN MARCH!

SUMMER CAMPS ARE EXCITING, WONDERFUL, INSPIRATIONAL, SOMETIMES LIFE-CHANGING AND ALWAYS FUN!

DON'T MISS OUT—SIGN UP EARLY.

SUMMER LESSONS

June—Lessons “a la carte”
Call for lessons.

July 5-August 4—Summer Session