



Arizona Suzuki Association Fall 2008 Newsletter

Special Points of Interest
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Message from ASA Past President Mary Wilkening

Have you ever wanted a "Time Telescope" so you could see how your children are going to turn out? I used to wonder how those little personality quirks and childhood experiences of my children would affect their adult lives. As parents, we give them all the advantages we can and stand back and watch them blossom.

So it is with music experiences. We want to give

our children activities they can use and enjoy throughout their lives. When the whole family participates in a musical activity, the family is bonding and modeling musical behavior. When you attend music lessons, workshops, play-ins, Suzuki Institutes, concerts you are saying to your children that this is something we value, something that is important to our family. My

own mother was my model for the love of music. My daughter is now sharing Suzuki experiences with her children. I now see the view at the other end of the "Time Telescope", and it has been worth the effort.

Please read the article by Sanford Selznick about his experience at the Ithaca Suzuki Institute with his 6 year old daughter. I hope to see you at the Dr. Suzuki 110th Birthday Celebration on October 18!



Ithaca Story, by Sanford Selznick

Advertising Rates

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Full Page\$66

Half Page\$50

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Size

Full Page\$33

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(The Selznick family attended their first Suzuki Institute during the summer. The daughter, Lily, is the 6 year old student of Laura Tagwa in Tucson.)

There we were. My wife, son, daughter and I secretly carrying two rather heavy beds from one dorm room to another. That would give us four in one room. "Is this allowed?" I asked innocently. "Sure, why not?" my wife asked (Rearranging

our furniture has somehow become a ritual at the beginning of every vacation.)

The dorm rooms of Ithaca College were a lot nicer than my first apartment: full-sized refrigerator, full-sized oven, modern facilities. Not bad as a temporary home for six nights. And Ithaca certainly had an ample supply of excellent cuisine and things to do.

We made our way to the

registration desk and received a packet of schedules and instructions reminiscent of the very first conference I attended as a scientist. But this packet, complete with name badge, was for my 6-year-old daughter at the Suzuki Institute at Ithaca College.

We'd practiced all her Book 1 songs, right through Minuet 1, for two weeks leading up to the institute. Violin in hand, rosin gone to the wind, we showed up lost and maybe a



little late for our first class.

Lots of others were late too, so no big deal. Plus there was a long line of students waiting to be tuned. Having no musical ability myself, I'm forever amazed at how quickly someone with talent can tune a 1/8 sized violin.

About 20 children, all around the same height, lined up in 3 straight rows. The instructor at the front of the class introduced herself, positioned her bow on her violin, played a preview, and then something magical happened: all 20 students started playing Twinkle the same way. All of them carefully watching their strings. All of them working their instruments with poise and confidence. And then silliness ensued.

It wasn't long before all the kids were laughing at something or other the instructor did. And then laughed some more. Between the idle threats of charging the children \$5 if they dropped their bows more than three times and having them jump up and down in time with their circle bows in Song of the Wind, I saw that these comedians were really teach-

ing. And all the kids were eating it up. My daughter had a smile plastered on her face for 45 minutes.

The group classes were just the beginning. We signed up for a dance class where we (Dad and daughter) learned the European dances inspired by the songs in Book 1. We learned how rhythm and controlled body movements lead to a better overall understanding of the songs my daughter had played so many times. And, again with the smiles. My daughter - along with some of her new friends - even learned how to skip rope (a great tool for teaching rhythm). Who knew!

Then things got (relatively) serious. It was time for our daily semi-private lesson. An hour-long class was broken up into four 15-minute lessons for four children. Three watched while the fourth received instruction. My daughter learned how to play slow bows ree-aaaalllyyyy sllllllloooooowwwwwly, how to keep better time, how to perfect her bow hold, and my favorite: how dad gets

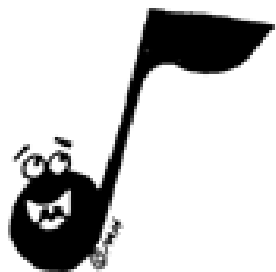
1 point when her violin ends up in the wrong place on her shoulder, and how she gets 1 point when she holds the violin correctly. I only won the first two days.

The last class of the day was a play-in. The play-in was shocking because it was even sillier than the first class of the day. You haven't seen anything until you've seen 20 kids playing hotter-colder to guide a fellow student towards a hidden prize. The play-in had another benefit: it allowed the parents to sneak away to Parent Talks.

The Parent Talks were amazing. They covered a variety of topics from tonalization (tona-what?) to teaching techniques to the speakers' own stories about teaching their children violin.

After the play-ins we returned to the dorm room and had some time to kill before dinner. Each day we did something different: a walk around the grounds of the beautiful Ithaca College campus, a dip in the pool, or shopping downtown. And then there

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*Dr. Suzuki 110 Birthday Celebration,
October 18 at Orangewood Church,
7321 N. 10th St, Phoenix MAP p. 7*

Student Registration by October 1 is \$15 per child, after that date, \$20.

Student Registration

(Must be a member of ASA to participate)

Child's Name _____

Age _____ Instrument _____

Polished Piece _____ Vol. _____

Second Child's Name _____

Age _____ Instrument _____

Polished Piece _____ Vol. _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Teacher _____

Teacher's phone _____

Before October 1, 2008 \$15 _____

After October 1, 2008 \$20 _____

ASA Family Membership fee* \$10 _____

Lunch per person \$5 _____

Total payable to ASA \$ _____

No Refunds

Please keep the Repertoire list. Cut this column and mail it, with the check made out to ASA to:

Mary Wilkening

1157 E Acacia Circle, Litchfield Park AZ 85340

Email: marywilkening@cox.net

*Notice the Studio/Group Policy of ASA : 10 or more members of a studio/group such as VSSA, NAU etc. registering together pay \$5 each for ASA membership. Teachers, please find the group registration form on our website www.azsuzuki.org

Repertoire list is also available at our website azsuzuki.org

Repertoire is to be Memorized

Dress is dark pants or skirts and white shirts or blouses



*Arizona Suzuki Association Dr. Suzuki Birthday
Celebration Schedule*

9:30 Registration

10:00—11:30 Repertoire class

11:30—12:30 Lunch and Origami Workshop

12:30—2:30 Dr. Suzuki Birthday Celebration Performance

Repertoire List for Violin (V)

Bk1: Twinkles (Key of D), Go Tell Aunt Rhody (Key of A major and A minor), O Come Little Children (Key of D), Minuet 3 (with minor part added from Bk 3)

Bk2: Musette, Bourree (V, A, C)

Bk3: Humoresque

Bk4: Seitz Concerto #5, 1st Movement

Bk5: Eccles Sonata in G minor, Movement 1 & 2 (No Repeats)

Repertoire List for Viola (A)

Bk1: Twinkles, French Folk Song (A and C), May Song (A and C), Go Tell Aunt Rhody (In Arabia, Play F#-Eb-D), O Come Little Children V, A, C), Bohemian Folk Song, Minuet 1 (A and C), Minuet 2

Bk2: Bouree (V, A and C)

Bk3: Bach Gavotte (No repeats, Yes D.C.)

Repertoire List for Cello (C)

Bk1: Twinkles, French Folk Song (A and C), May Song (A and C), Go Tell Aunt Rhody (Key of D major and D minor), O Come Little Children V, A, C), Rigadon, Minuet 1(A and C)

Bk2: Bourree (V, A and C)

Bk3: Scherzo

Bk4: Breval Sonata in C, Allegro (No Repeats)

Bk 6: The Swan

Repertoire List for Flute:

Bk 1: Mary Had a Little Lamb, Twinkles, Bourree

Bk 2: Gluck Minuet, Telemann Minuet

Bk 3: Dvorak, Humorsque

Repertoire List for Guitar-See our website azsuzuki.org

Piano repertoire according to Teacher preference.

*All Participants will perform or sing "Wishing" by Dr. Suzuki.
The music is available on the ASA Website:
azsuzuki.org*

Teacher's Column

Would you like to be listed on the
Arizona Suzuki Association
Website as a registered
Suzuki Teacher?

Just register today and send in
your \$10 dues* for 2008—2009

Name _____

Instrument _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send this Form and \$10 to Mary Wilkening, 1157 E. Acacia
Circle, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340.

www.azsuzuki.org

*Teachers, Please go to our
website at www.azsuzuki.org to
download a group application
form for your studio. Group rates
are only \$5/family for 10 applica-
tions and fees sent in at the
same time.

Free Scholarships!

Your Festival registration form
will be placed in a box for a
drawing for \$200 toward music
lessons. Two prize winners
will be chosen after the Birth-
day Celebration Concert. You
must be present to claim your
prize.

**Dr. Suzuki's Story, from the Su-
zuki Association of the America's
Website, www.suzukiassociation.org**

Shinichi Suzuki, the man who developed the Suzuki
Method, died on January 26, 1998, at his home in Ma-
tsumoto, Japan. Though he lived to be 99 years old,
Dr. Suzuki always seemed young. He was full of en-
ergy, and was cheerful and loving to everyone he met.

Shinichi Suzuki was born on October 17, 1898, in Na-
goya, Japan. He was one of twelve children and his fa-
ther owned a violin factory. Shinichi and his brothers
and sisters played near the factory and saw instruments
being made, but the children never realized what beau-
tiful sounds could come from a violin. When he was
seventeen, Shinichi heard a recording of Schubert's *Ave
Maria*, played by a famous violinist named Mischa El-
man. He was amazed that a violin could make such a
beautiful tone because he had thought it was just a toy!

After this, Shinichi brought a violin home from the fac-
tory and taught himself to play. He would listen to a
recording and try to imitate what he heard. A few years

The Arizuki Stars have room for you!



Announcing auditions for Arizuki Stars, October 18th, starting at 9:00 am at Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N 10th St, Phoenix. This will precede the Dr. Suzuki Birthday Celebration.



Arizuki Stars is ASA's premier student performance group. It is open to students of teachers who are members of ASA and whose families are members of ASA, by audition. Check out our website at azsuzuki.org for more information and an application. If you have additional questions, please call Connie Jahrmarkt at 480-970-8807, or email her at thebandeuropa@cox.net

Ellen Rutter says the best thing about being in Arizuki Stars is the friends she has in the group.

Arial Bathazar says the best part is playing cool music from different parts of the world and being able to play with friends.

Mother Pearl Mahar says: It is great that Arizuki Stars plays music that is not only fun to play but fun to listen to....as a parent. Every audience that the Arizuki Stars has performed for has gained as much pleasure from the performance as was gained by performing. It is great to see children develop musical skills while they are having fun. Seeing the pleasure on the faces of those that they perform for helps to make "practice" worth it, without which they can not continue to grow and develop more advanced skills on their instruments.

Daughter Pearl Mahar says: I like being in the Arizuki Stars because I get to play with other good musicians. The music that we play is very fun and I always look forward to playing again. We have a fabulous director, Connie Jahrmarkt. We have preformed in many different places from somewhat formal gatherings to Fiddler's Dream, a small & informal acoustic music venue.

Alyssa Majar says: One of the things I like best about our group, the Arizuki Stars, is that I get to play wonderful music with lots of my friends. I love that when new players come, we get to make new friends. But the best part is that we all get to give our music to other people, and make people happy by playing. I think that is the absolute best part of being in the Arizuki Stars

Dr. Suzuki's Story (Continued from page 4)


later he took violin lessons from a teacher in Tokyo. Then, when he was 22 years old, he went to Germany and studied with a famous teacher named Karl Klingler. Shinichi also met his wife Waltraud in Germany. They married and moved back to Japan, where he began to teach violin and play string quartet concerts with his brothers.

Shinichi had always loved children and became very interested in teaching them. He thought that children could learn music just as they learned to speak—starting when they were very young and hearing music all around them. He believed that all children have the talent to learn if they are taught well by loving parents and teachers. These were very unusual ideas at that time. If children did play an instrument, they started learning when they were ten or eleven. Also, most people thought that musical talent was a special thing that only a few people had.

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VSSA Schedule for 08-09

VSSA group classes:



August 23	January 10
September 6	January 24
September 20	February 7
October 1 Book Promotion tape submission deadline	February 21
October 4	March 7
October 18—ASA Dr. Suzuki Birthday	March 28
November 8	April 18 – Workshop, all day
November 22– Winter Concert and Book	

Classes will be held at the Center for Educational Excellence on the NW Corner of McClintock and Elliot. The school is located on the west end of the strip mall.

Suzuki Piano of Arizona

Our Suzuki Piano of Arizona events include:

Oct. 18 Playathon at AZ Piano 10am-2pm

Oct. 24-25 Workshop with Dr. Karen Hagberg at AZ Piano 10am-6pm

November 14 Fall Graduation Recital, ASU Music Building, 7:30pm

Spring Workshop with Dr. Karen Hagberg dates will be announced.

March 28 Duet Recital (time will be announced) followed by the Spring Graduation Recital at 4pm, ASU Music Building

Contact Vicki Seil, SPA President for more information: vpiano@webtv.net or 480-234-9003



Would you like to advertise in this Newsletter?

See the cover for prices.

Contact Mary Wilkening

at marywilkening@cox.net

to be included in the January

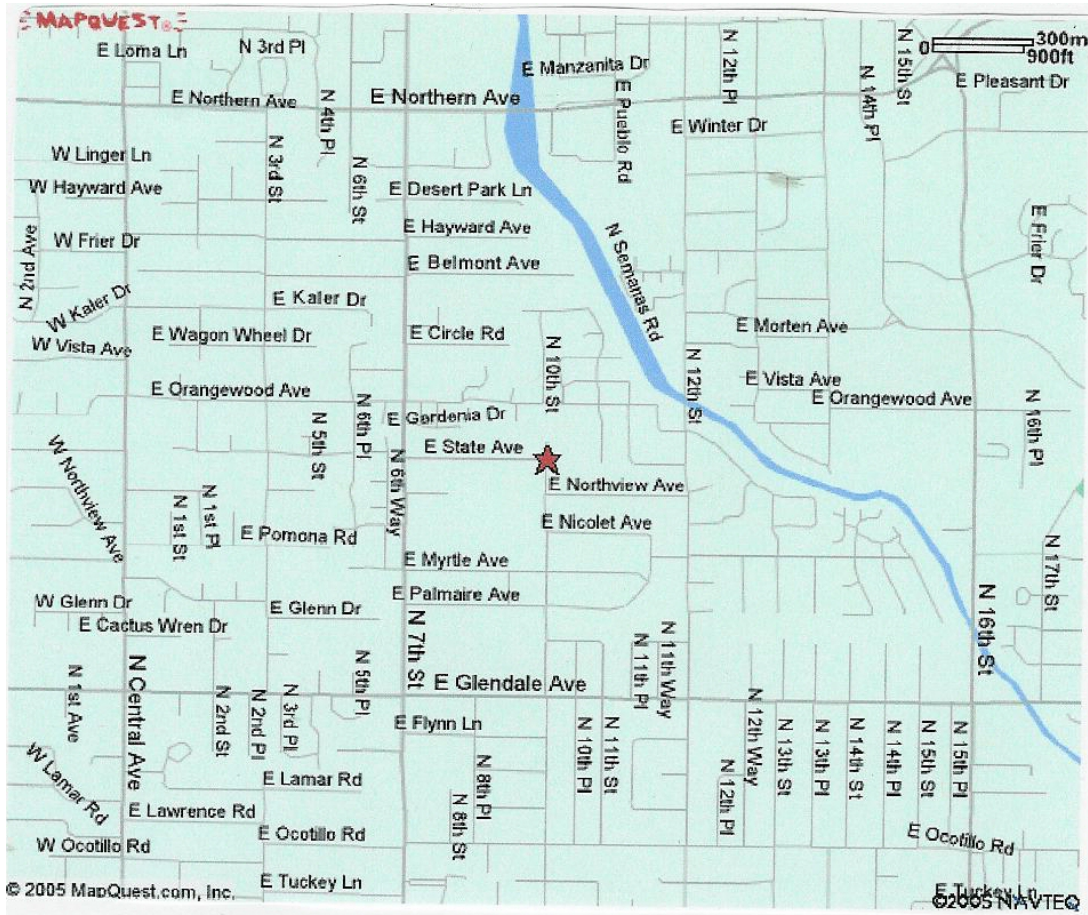
Newsletter

Newsletter

Music and Dance Academy Plans Winter Workshop

The Music and Dance Academy will host a Winter Workshop in January in Tucson. The workshop will feature guest clinicians on violin, flute and piano. Go to www.maoft.com for more details.

Map to Orangewood Church



7321 N. 10th St, Phoenix

From 51, the Piestewa Parkway, heading north, take the Glendale/Lincoln exit left (west). Then take a right (north) on 12th St. and go about 1/2 mile to Northview. Go left (west) until the street T-stops at 10th. Take a right (north) and it is right there.

Going south on 51, take the Northern exit going west (right). Go to 12th St. Take a left (south) to Northview, then a right (west) and follow the instructions above.

From I-17, take Glendale exit east (right). Go to 7th St. Take a left (north) to State, take a right (east) and the street stops at the church.

Please post this page

Arizona Suzuki Association presents
Dr. Suzuki's 110th Birthday Celebration
Saturday, October 18, 2008



Dr. Sinichi Suzuki was born October 17, 1898 and died January 26, 1998. Read his story on Page 4 of this Newsletter.

Orangewood Presbyterian Church,
7321 N. 10th St., Phoenix AZ

Come celebrate Dr. Suzuki's Life and Work

9:30 Registration

10:00—11:30 Repertoire Class

11:30—12:30 Lunch and Origami Workshop

12:30—2:30 Dr. Suzuki's Birthday Concert

Mail Registration to
Mary Wilkening
1157 E Acacia Circle
Litchfield Park AZ 85340

Phone: 623-935-5313
Email: marywilkening@cox.net

Ithaca Story (Continued from page 2)

were the stunning moments my daughter would grab her violin and **ask** to practice what she'd learned that day. Without any prompting. For five days the classes continued. No day better than any other. They were all great.

The last day was the student concert. First two symphony orchestras played. Then a choir. And then the students who were studying Suzuki Book 32,765 took the stage. (When you're on Book 1, it does feel like there are that many books, doesn't it?) As the songs on the program got progressively easier, more and more kids joined the ones already on stage. By the time Minuet 1 was played I half expected the kids at the rear of the stage to fall off as new kids joined in. But they didn't. Everyone just moved over and made more room.

What struck me most profoundly as over a hundred violinists played on stage, was the sheer dedication of the most experienced students focusing their skills... on Twinkle. And then I realized what it's all about. All the silliness. All the games. I get it now. It's all about the fun of being part of a community and about dedicated instructors teaching others to play violin so that they can selflessly bring joy to everybody else.

Over the course of the week my daughter made great friends and learned a lot about violin... She was inspired by others who played more advanced songs and some who quite honestly played better than she did. But no intimidation here. Only inspiration.

(And yes, we put the beds back before we left.)

Dr. Suzuki's Story (Continued from page 5)

Dr. Suzuki's young students learned to play very well and everyone was amazed when they performed. No one had ever seen so many young children playing music so beautifully. At first people thought all the students were musical geniuses. They did not understand Suzuki's idea that all children can learn if they are taught in the right way.

For many years Dr. Suzuki continued to work on his teaching method. He chose music that would help children learn to play. He even wrote some pieces himself (like the Twinkle Variations, Allegro, Perpetual Motion, and Etude). Teachers from many countries came to Japan to learn about his method of teaching, and Dr. Suzuki and his students traveled to play in other countries. Over the years, more and more teachers and parents became interested in Suzuki's ideas and began to teach children with his method. Now there are thousands of children around the world who have learned to play instruments through the Suzuki Method.

Through his teaching, Dr. Suzuki showed teachers and parents everywhere what children could do. He also believed that hearing and playing great music helped children become good people with beautiful, peaceful hearts. Dr. Suzuki hoped that these children would help bring peace and understanding to the world.



ASA
1157 E. Acacia Circle
Litchfield Park 85340



Dr. Suzuki Birthday Celebration at Orangewood Church on
October 18. See details inside!
Drawing for free music lessons. See p. 4 !



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Violins

