



# Arizona Suzuki Association Spring 2007 Newsletter

## Special Points of Interest

Karin Hallberg's Message	Page 1
Brian Wicklund	Page 2
ASA Festival Hoedown	Page 2
Parent's Column	Page 3
ASA Teacher List	Page 4
Tour Group News	Page 4
NAU News	Page 4
American's for the Arts	Page 5
John Kendall	Page 6

## Guest Column from Karin Halberg, String Professor, NAU

### *String Teaching in America: Strategies for a Diverse Society*

#### *From Mississippi Hot-dog to Arizona Cactus*

*By Karin Hallberg, M.A., M.Ed.*

In March of 2007, the American String Teacher's Association held the annual conference in Detroit, MI. I attended and was part of a panel discussion on teaching strings in a diverse society. I was the only participant from the Southwest. The majority of teachers on the panel lived and worked in urban environments, cities with a population of over a million. From that perspective, it was interesting that the demographics of the small school environment, where I teach, had a higher percentage of diversity in cultures and socio-economic status than the majority of cities represented. Though this felt like I earned a gold star as the educator with the most diversity, what does that really mean? I realized that it is more about the big picture of the role

of music education in today's society. Advocacy groups speak of the rise of test scores of students who play instruments; or that students who play instruments are less likely to become involved in drugs or alcohol; or that playing music enhances development in certain areas in the brain. Research, in time, will or will not support these concepts. However, as our societal population grows, ultimately, people have to collaborate and live with each other. That is exactly what makes it beautiful when the K-2 children at the elementary school perform-----they become "one". For a brief moment, in the spectrum of time, the children perform as a unit, and there is no division by race, culture, or socio-economic status.

Flagstaff Arizona, the home of the Marshall School, has a population of 60,000. It is isolated from the rest of the state by the National Forest and Navajo Reservation. The school is a Title I, English Language Limited, Inclusionary School.

The student Population is 460 and is 1% Asian, 4% Afro-American, 17% Hispanic, 27% Native American, and 51% Caucasian. There 69 English Language Learner students. Of the 460 students, 120 qualify for special education, 35 are identified as "homeless", and 53% are eligible for free/reduced meals.

The Suzuki String Program has 220 students in grades K-2. It has been completely Grant Funded since 2001. The instructors are NAU faculty, graduate assistants, and string education majors. The students have two 40 minute session of group instruction weekly. Each classroom is divided into two or three groups, depending on the student's prior knowledge and ability. All instructors follow the same curriculum. The primary classroom teachers participate by playing the Suzuki CD's in the classroom. Each student has his own instrument. The majority of students play violin, but cellos have recently been donated and are incorporated into the program. Each grade performs for the parents each semester. The students perform for special community events, and at a "town square" for a lunch concert every spring.



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## Save the Date! Brian Wicklund is Bringing a Hoedown to the ASA 2007 Fall Festival, November 17, 2007



Brian Wicklund is a master fiddler, mandolin player, and teacher based out of the Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota area. He has been playing the fiddle and mandolin for thirty years. He has won many fiddling contests and has performed on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion."

Brian will work

with students and teach them the tricks of the trade in fiddling. Each student will come with four pieces memorized from Brian's books, The American Fiddle Method for violin, viola or cello. ASA will send out the music with registration in September. At the end of the Workshop, Brian and the students will

play for a Hoedown Dance with a Dance Caller.

We are hoping to have all levels of students attend this workshop. Brian has various levels of music and we need advanced players as well as Book 1 Students.

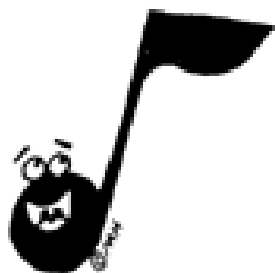
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## Learn Suzuki Parenting from the Experts!

At the Fall Festival, we will be using Newsletters from Jeanne Leudke's Parent Education program. Eunice Elie will be chairing a Parent Meeting in which ideas on Suzuki Parenting

are discussed. Come find answers to your questions about How to Handle Children who Won't Do What You Want, the importance of a Suzuki Experience in Today's World, Secrets to Be-

ing a Successful Suzuki Parent and more. These are topics we all want to learn more about. Don't miss out on this timely discussion!



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## Suzuki Rodeo is a Blast

The Suzuki Rodeo will feature lassoing lessons, relay races, and a music rodeo in the Western Tradition. More information in the September Newsletter.

PAGE 2

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Drawing for free music lessons! Plan to attend!

## A Suzuki Family, Second Time Around

by Leanne Austrins

When I was 8 years old I really understood that a person could sit at the piano and beautiful music could come out. I was enthralled by the idea that I could create these sounds that spoke to my heart so strongly. My parents were skeptical that an 8 year old would really be prepared to make a commitment to music and practice, but they were willing, and researched music lessons. My younger sisters did not understand at the time, but the decision had been made for them too. After researching piano lessons, my parents discovered the Suzuki Method. The premise that music could be learned like a language, through repetitious listening seemed so logical.

And so it began. We were blessed with a wonderfully talented piano teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Jones. Our household began to evolve into a Suzuki environment. Daily practice began, each of us got a tape recorder for our room to be listening while we did homework and at night falling asleep, a tape recorder took up permanent residence in the kitchen to play during meals (this was of course in the golden days before CD's ruled the music world!), the music in the car was replaced by the Suzuki tapes. Music lessons included arriving early to listen to the lesson before you and quarterly recitals at the local public library. We entered into a world where twinkle twinkle little star and its variations were the focus of life. A new motto had been added to our lives, "Every day, in every way, better than the day before." Closely followed by, "If you eat today, you practice today!" The legacy of listening from an early age began to quickly show its affect. My youngest sister was only 2 when Suzuki entered our home. She was easily the fastest of all of us to grasp concepts and had the most trained ear.

For myself, I had achieved my goal. I could now sit at the piano and play for myself and hear music that stirred my soul. I had gained friendships to another Suzuki family that remains near and dear to my heart. It started with practice. A Suzuki mother was having trouble practicing with her 9 year old son. Our teacher suggested that one of her teen students (meaning me) would be a good practice partner and change the routine. It worked. And not just for practice. I became a part of this family and they became a part of mine. The relationship that started as practice buddies turned into an extended family with two of the children playing all the music for my wedding. Suzuki had blessed my soul with the ability to make music and my heart with another family.

When I became a parent, it was a natural step to include listening as a part of my children's lives right from the first moments. The Suzuki way of life was so ingrained, it was a simple step. The same things happened. Our babies had CD players in their rooms. They fell asleep to twinkle twinkle little star and the variations. My husband had to learn this new language, but he was willing to give it a try, since he had seen how it positively impacted my life. Our first two children grew in the presence of music and it started to show. They could sing in tune before they could talk. Their sense of rhythm and tonality was great for two year olds. At four, they started violin lessons. We had moved to a new area, and the teacher was not used to having a child who had listened since birth! This was a new arena for her and she was excited to try new ideas in teaching that were possible because my children already had trained ears. They have never had tapes on their violin to show where to put their fingers; instead they continued to develop their ear to find the notes. They play together and with groups with ease. My daughter who has never had a piano lesson can sit at the piano and play her violin songs by ear.

Now their little brothers have come along and of course have had the added advantage to listening to their older siblings practice as well as having the ever present CD player in their room. At 18 months, they could sing along with the CD to various songs that their brother and sister were playing. They pick up songs amazingly quickly and were singing well before they could talk. At 2, they are very proud of their Suzuki bow and will sit still for long periods listening to their brother and sister play the violin. They all love music.

As a parent of 4, it has provided me with a way to organize my day so that I make sure I spend time with each child during practice. The hands on parent participation is so valuable to my children. I usually get requests from my son to "practice with you alone, Mommy." Children value our time and it is so insightful for Dr. Suzuki to structure a program where we as parents participate in giving our children ourselves and our time during practice. We daily affirm to them their value as we spend time practicing with them.

The goal with music in our family was never to create concert musicians, unless this becomes the passion of one of our children. My parents too just wanted to give us an appreciation for music. We want our children to enjoy music and use the talents God has blessed them with for their own joy and the joy of others as the opportunity presents itself. Music speaks to a person's soul and spirit. It can be a powerful expression and outlet. Suzuki is helping us provide this to our children. What a blessing!

## 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 2007—2008

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](http://www.azsuzuki.org) to download a group application form for your studio. Group rates are only \$5/family for 10 applications and fees sent in at the same time.

## Tour Group News

We are still on track to go to China in the summer of 2008. Stay tuned for details and start saving those pennies.

## NAU Happenings

There will not be a Suzuki Institute at NAU this summer . NAU will be hosting an Every Child Can! Course in June. All teachers registering additional courses with Suzuki Association of the Americas will need this course. Think about taking advantage of this opportunity in our state. Contact Karin Hallberg at [Karin.Hallberg@nau.edu](mailto:Karin.Hallberg@nau.edu) for more information.



Mary Wilkening

Music Together West  
Email: [musictogetherwest@cox.net](mailto:musictogetherwest@cox.net)

Music Together West  
1157 E. Acacia Circle  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340  
Phone: 623-935-5313  
Website: <http://members.cox.net/musictogetherwest>

A great activity for young children, babies—5 years old and the adults who love them. You and your child will learn to sing in tune and keep a beat in a fun-filled class. Get your toddlers ready for Suzuki instruction. For more classes go to [www.musictogether.com](http://www.musictogether.com).

## Did you Know?



Americans for the Arts announced on May 22 the results of the most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States. Entitled *Arts & Economic Prosperity III*, the report revealed that the nonprofit arts industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year, resulting in \$29.6 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues.

The nation's nonprofit arts and culture industry has grown steadily since the first analysis by Americans for the Arts in 1992, expanding at a rate greater than inflation. Between the second study conducted in 2000 and 2005, spending by organizations and their audiences grew 24 percent, revealing the nonprofit arts industry as a formidable business and economic driver for communities across the country.

"This study is a myth buster," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "Most Americans understand that the arts improve our quality of life. This study demonstrates that the arts are an industry that stimulates the economy in cities and towns across the country. A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive."

On May 22, Americans for the Arts presented the national findings of this study at a special briefing on Capitol Hill to Members and staffers of the Congressional Arts Caucus and Senate Cultural Caucus. The release of this study and the briefing came at a critical time in the FY2008 budget process with the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee markup, which sets the initial funding level for the National Endowment for the Arts, scheduled for May 23.



## A Tribute to John Kendall

This is a wonderful tribute to John Kendall who brought the first Suzuki Tour Group to The United States in 1964. He came to VSSA in the 1980's and presented a fabulous teacher workshop. If you remember that workshop or know him in any way, please respond.

Dear Friends and family far and wide,

He's our Dad, but we call him Grandfather because that's what he is to our children. Some of his grandchildren have kids of their own, and they have their own names for him. To many, though, he is still John Kendall, and on August 30, 2007, he'll turn 90.

Our plan is to present John with a volume of notes, reminiscences, appreciations and roasts from you, his family, his many, many friends, colleagues and students. We imagine you might like to contribute to this birthday present with your thoughts, and we know it will mean a great deal to him if you do.

We're thinking of something presentational that can accept 8.5X11 pages with writing on one side. You could email them as attachments to [ss.ck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ss.ck@sbcglobal.net), or send them by regular mail, preferably in big envelopes so they don't have to be folded. Pictures of you from any period, perhaps with him, would be great too. Please send things, preferably by June 1, to Christopher and Susan's address at 3435 Cottontail Lane, Ann Arbor MI 48103.

Thanks for keeping this a secret. It'll be a wonderful surprise.

The Kendall Family





## Election 2007

The ASA Board has nominated the following new members to join our Board for three-year terms beginning in June 2006:

Carol Routh graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education from Illinois Wesleyan University. She taught Suzuki Violin in the Preparatory Department of that college for 9 years. After moving to the Phoenix area in 1986, she taught strings in the Washington Elementary School District for 13 years and maintains a private studio in her home.

Kimberly Sullivan is the Director of the School of Music at NAU and coordinator of strings at the Marshall Preparatory School in Flagstaff.

Laura Tagawa completed long term Suzuki training in Violin Books 1-10 at Northern Arizona University with Dr. Louise Scott. She has taken additional Suzuki training courses with Ronda Cole, Daphne Hughes and Susan Kempter and attended Summer School in Matsumoto, Japan. Laura has more than 10 years teaching experience and currently teaches in Tucson.

Leslie Turner graduated from the Manhattan School of Music and studied with Louise Behrend at the NYC School for Strings. She studied in Japan with Dr. Suzuki in 1986. Leslie has been a member of Quartet Sabaku for 10 years and teaches violin in Scottsdale.

We welcome these new members to join our current board:

Richard Bersamin, Webmaster

Lindsay Durant, Violin

Eunice Elie, President, Violin

Karin Hallberg, Violin

Hisami Iijima, Violin

Chris Mahar, Treasurer, Parent

Deena Reedy, Flute

John Sanborn

Mary Wilkening, Newsletter, Cello

**Please insert the ballot below in the enclosed envelop and mail it by June 5.**

I vote for Carol Routh, Kimberly Sullivan, Laura Tagawa, Leslie Turner to be on the ASA Board.

**PAGE 7**

Yes

No



ASA  
1157 E. Acacia Circle  
Litchfield Park 85340



ASA Fall Festival in Phoenix on November 17. See details inside!

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The advertisement features a central image of a violin with its body cut away to reveal the internal structure, including the f-hole, bridge, and tailpiece. The violin is set against a black background with a pattern of small, light-colored squares scattered around it.