



Arizona Suzuki Association Spring 2008 Newsletter

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Message from ASA President Elect, Laura Tagawa

ASA Article

Summer Relaxation and Inspiration

By Laura Tagawa

As we enter the summer months many teachers, students and parents find themselves with more free time. Many families head off on vacations while others go to camps or stay close to home. While the summer is a great time to relax it can also be a time to progress. Having some free time is the perfect opportunity to work on those projects that may have been neglected or pushed aside during the year. For students this can include catching up on review pieces, working on music theory or learning something new. Every summer, teachers from across Japan and from countries around the world gather in Matsumoto to spend time at the Talent Education Research Institute. Suzuki would update the teachers on his latest developments and students would come together and perform as a part of the Institute's Summer School. After Suzuki passed away in 1998, Professor Koji Toyoda assumed the role of President of the Institute and contin-

ues to teach at the Summer School. During the year I spent in Japan, I had the honor of attending Summer School at the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto. It was so exciting to visit the place where Suzuki had lived and taught for fifty years. The Institute featured teachers and students from around the world and included violin, viola, cello, flute and piano. The highlight of Summer School was the "Farewell Concert" which took place on the last day. This concert featured solo and group performances including a performance of the *Twinkle Variations* in which thousands of students and teachers performed together on stage, throughout the hall and even in the balcony! This was definitely music in "surround sound."

What better place to find inspiration this summer than by attending a summer Suzuki Institute. Although it may not be possible to travel all the way to Matsumoto in Japan, there are wonderful Institutes across the United States. The Suzuki Association's web-page is a great place to start when looking for an Institute to attend. From their web-site (www.suzukiassociation.org) you can search by location, date, instrument, course or

summer institute name. Many families find it convenient to combine attending a summer institute with their vacation as many of the institutes are in vacation destinations where the weather is cool! Once at the Institute, teachers, students and parents will learn new skills, make new friends and come back refreshed and energized.

For those who prefer to stay closer to home or who may not be able to attend an Institute this summer, another great source of inspiration is the wealth of resources available on the internet. From listening to music theory, there are a number of great sites which offer free resources for Suzuki teachers, students and parents. Some sites worth checking out include:

www.practicespot.com

(This site is a general music site for all instruments, is has lots of free tools and games including: theory, rhythm, notes, musical terms, manuscript paper, sight reading, crosswords, chords and scales)

www.nurturedbylove.ca

(Miranda Hughes Canadian Suzuki site, featuring materials primarily for Suzuki violin, including: printable practice charts, review lists, alternate recordings for listening)

[Continued on page 2]



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Message from ASA President Elect, Laura Tagawa (continued)

www.parent-child-education.com

(Site for parents and teachers, although some areas require a subscription to view content, this site is a good resource for general info and includes a message board which you can view posts by age of student)



So wherever you find yourself this summer, it's a great time to enjoy relaxation and inspiration.

"If love is deep, much can be accomplished." ~Suzuki

Save the Date! The Arizona Suzuki Association will be Celebrating Dr. Suzuki's 110th Birthday on October 18.

The Fall Festival for The Arizona Suzuki Association will be a Play-in Birthday Bash for Suzuki Students from all over the State. We had a Centennial Play-in in 1998 to celebrate Dr. Suzuki's 100th Birthday. Over 200 Suzuki Students from all over the State came to Phoenix to celebrate Suzuki's dream of creating a better world though

making music. We hope to replicate this experience by asking students on all Suzuki instruments to come together. Each Student will receive a medal commemorating the occasion. The medal from the Centennial is pictured to the left.

We will publish a Play-in repertoire list for all Suzuki instruments soon on our website:
www.azsuzuki.org.

We hope to have violins, violas, cellos, basses, guitars, flutes, pianos.

The location is still to be determined, but the date is Saturday October 18, 2008 and the time is from 1—4. Put it on the calendar now and start practicing! There will also be a drawing for 2 prizes of \$100 each toward music lessons.



Drawing for free music lessons! Plan to attend!

We are looking for Viola, Guitar, Piano, Bass teachers to help with the Birthday Bash. Call Eunice Elie at 480-857-3130 if you have ideas for repertoire or if can help out.

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE

I just began reading *Nurtured by Love* by S. Suzuki, because it was recommended by my children's ASA violin instructor some time ago. I was pleased to find that many of the principles of this treasured book have already been instilled within and are practiced by our family, thanks to the many devoted Suzuki professionals and families that have preserved this timeless tradition. Many individuals (all the way from West VA. to our new home in AZ.) have educated, helped, supported and inspired our family in innumerable and immeasurable ways.

I have Dr. Suzuki to thank for his recognition of the innate ability within each child to access the spirit of music, and for his awakening this understanding and spirit within the Suzuki community which has awakened the spirit within my children. In turn, my children have now awakened this spirit within me and their father.

After 4 years of the Suzuki method and with 3 children now on strings, keeping the spirit alive is of central concern. Each day presents itself as a different mosaic of possibilities and distractions. Serious training is a long and arduous road requiring sacrifice and compromise by the entire family. I perceive my children's instructor as a touchstone for them amidst life's constant flux, or perhaps as a tuning fork, in whose steadfast ambiance I can retune my own intentions and regenerate my ideas for assisting the children's musical development and

character growth. Our participation in group lessons through VSSA (an ASA subsidiary group) and ASA/VSSA workshops have also been instrumental in helping us to realign and navigate our course amongst other families sharing open hearts and similar values.

The journey is circuitous and it is moments like these that make it all worthwhile: ...when I hear all 3 of my children playing on stage with their fellow musician-friends; when the instructor plays a beautiful duet with my child after they master a difficult song; when a moving passage during practice brings chills to my body or tears to my eyes; when a period of hard work and perseverance culminates in a recital well done; when a child references and recognizes different composers with ease and enjoys listening to other classical music on CD or tape. Through my children, I'm exposed to extraordinary music I would otherwise never hear. Our family watches DVDs on great musicians and appreciates the beauty of live symphonies together. Last year, my children played a devotional melody together at my mother's funeral that was inspiring and uplifting. When the children exercise their depth of musicality in myriad ways, I feel the pulsating spirit like the rhythmic breath of God and am then reassured that it is alive and well, inhaling and exhaling through Dr. Suzuki, the community, our instructor, my children and now through me.

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.

Arizuki Stars/Tour Group News

The Arizuki Stars, ASA Tour Group, have been very busy this spring. They performed at the Desert View Learning Center for the Kindergarten and 1st grade on April 24th. Pearl and Ellen of the Arizuki Stars played solos. Jared Mahar was a guest performer. They did a great job answering the students' questions about violins and violas.

They performed with Europa (Director, Connie Jahrmarkt's band) at Fiddler's Dream Coffee House on April 26th to a packed house. The Black Velvet Band (all female Celtic band played right after.)

Nancy and Arielle played solos and a duet at a student recital at the home of Dr. James and Laura Powers on April 13th.

For more information on Arizuki Stars or to find out how you can join, email Connie at the address below.

Connie Marie Jahrmarkt
thebandeuropa@cox.net
www.soundat45rpm.i12.com



Arizuki Stars performed at the Moon Valley Womens Club on December 13, 2007

We Discovered Joy in Playing with Other Instruments

Kazuno Ezaki and Julieanne Lamri from the Tucson Music and Dance Academy



Recently we had the great pleasure to watch a young performer in his debut with an orchestra at the Fox Theatre in Tucson. Taiko Ezaki, violin, 8yrs old and winner of the 2008 Tucson Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Competition (under 13yrs) was experiencing a great thrill! I asked his mom to tell me about how he came to be playing with an orchestra.

Kazuno tells me. "At first Taiko wanted to play the piano and I started looking for a place to do this in town. I heard about the Music Academy and went to speak with Nina Tishkevich, director of the school."

"She first recommended me to take the Suzuki Parent Ed class and observe every instrument with Taiko. We saw students playing with piano, violin, cello, flute and guitar. Meanwhile I learned strategies for good home practice in my class. He was immediately struck by the violin. I remember he said, "I want to do it". Nobody plays the violin in my family, I was very surprised!"

Taiko began studying violin at age 3 ½, at the same time as my own son, Zakaria. I first met Kazuno, his mom, at early morning lessons at the school. We soon became friends, sharing our trials and successes in this wonderful path of musical learning.

Taiko took to learning the violin (pardon me, "like a duck to water"). He gained a mastery of his instrument and an understanding not often seen in such a young person. But like all of his peers, his mother is quick to point out that Taiko listens always to his CDs in the car and at home, and has to be reminded to practice, and how to practice well (as in taking his time and not rushing).

So how did he go from solo home practice to learning how to play with other instruments? While in Suzuki Book 1, Taiko enrolled in ensemble class where players of all levels learned how fun it is to play together. Beginners hold a rhythm, intermediate players play the melody, and advanced players work on harmonies. But they all come together to make one voice. "It is very exciting and motivating." Kazuno adds, "From week to week we were always learning something new."

Around this time, his teacher recommended Taiko to play with another piano student at the Academy who was looking for a partner for an ensemble experience. "At first it was not easy to play with another instrument, but with practice and patience, they learned how to make one sound and harmonies together." Out teachers were also very supportive." Taiko and his partner performed at an Academy Ensemble Gala Concert together and from this point Taiko was hooked on playing with other instruments!

These shared experiences continue to motivate Taiko to practice and learn new repertoire. "He really enjoys how two instruments can become one; different sounds, and making harmonies." Said Kazuno. A year ago, Taiko teamed up with another Academy student, Keoni Bolding, to play a Bach Concerto for two violins at the ensemble concert. "It was REALLY hard. He was challenged to really learn to listen and play, sharing his playing with another instrument. They both learned about how important it is keeping time and not to rush certain parts. But this challenging experience also offered him a great opportunity to grow as a musician." adds Kazuno.

(Joy, continued on p.7)

News from NAU School of Music and NAU Community Dance and Music Academy

About our program

Five graduate students and ten undergraduate students were involved in the pedagogy program this past year. There are over one hundred pre-college students studying violin and viola through the NAU Community Dance and Music Academy. As well as attending private lessons during the week, the students attend groups on Thursday afternoons. Younger Suzuki teachers are mentored by more experienced teachers in the group lesson setting. Academy students attend repertoire class, reading groups, informal recitals, performance opportunities in the community and formal recitals on Ashurst Auditorium stage at the end of each semester.

About our teachers

Karin Hallberg has been a visiting professor of pedagogy and coordinator of the community Suzuki program at the University of Oregon this year. This fall she will return to NAU and the principal second position in the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra. This summer Karin will be teaching the Curry Summer Camp at NAU, the Black Hills String Retreat in South Dakota and the Montana Suzuki Institute.

Shelley Rich has been teaching violin and pedagogy this year at NAU. Shelley was the former Director of the Suzuki program at the University of Oregon. Shelley was recently elected President of the Arizona chapter of ASTA. She plays in the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and is an active performer and a busy Mom of two young girls. Shelley will be teaching at Institutes in Utah and Oregon this summer.

Dr. Jacquelyn Schwandt, Assistant Professor of Viola at NAU, also teaches violin, upper string technique class, chamber music and is the string coordinator for the School of Music. She is President of the Viola Society and is very involved in the upcoming Viola Congress at ASU. Jackie will perform “Krakow Variations” for Solo Viola by Joel Hoffman for the Viola Congress at ASU on Wednesday, June 4th at 3:00 pm. This summer Jackie will teach at the Black Hills String Retreat and the Curry Music Camp at NAU.

Dr. Louise Scott teaches applied violin and Suzuki pedagogy at NAU. She is the Concertmaster of the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and the Arizona Opera. She will travel to Oregon to present a workshop for the teachers and students at the University of Oregon in June. She will be teaching in the senior camp at the Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU.

Kimberly Sullivan, violist, is the Coordinator of the Suzuki program of the NAU Community Dance and Music Academy. She teaches the lower string technique class, teaching methods for the string students, private violin and chamber music. She is the Assistant Principal Violist of the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and is also a busy Mom of four children (three at home and one getting married this summer).

Graduate Violin students studying Suzuki pedagogy at NAU

Inga Zornes, from the state of Washington, has accepted a position teaching in a Suzuki program in Pullman, Washington. Inga taught in the NAU Academy, played in the Flagstaff Symphony and held a half assistant in the Academy and a half assistantship of the University Orchestra.

Kristina Lambert from the University of Memphis is working a Master of Music in Suzuki Pedagogy. She has a half assistantship teaching in the Academy. She also taught in the Marshall School Suzuki program during the year.

Kristen Mac Gorman earned a MM in flute, but as a former Suzuki violin student, was also involved in the Suzuki Violin Teacher Training program at NAU and taught in the Academy.

Jeong-Min Ryoo, from Michigan, graduated with a MM in Suzuki Pedagogy in May. Through a partnership with NAU and Marshall Arts Magnet Elementary School, she held an assistantship, sponsored by the NAU Adel Foundation. Jeong-Min taught Suzuki violin to students K – 2nd grade in small groups. Every student K-2 receives Suzuki lessons twice a week and has their own violin!

Kristina Beachell, from Sedona, will receive a Masters in Music Teaching from NAU this summer. She has been teaching Suzuki in the after school programs in several elementary schools and in the Suzuki program at Marshall School. Kristina will attend the national conference in Minneapolis in May.



Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! Curry Summer Music Camp at NAU!

Junior Camp is June 21-28: Senior Camp June 29 – July 12th.

Information www.nau.edu/musiccamp



ASA Board of Directors 2008-2009

The ASA Board will retain the same members for the next year

ASA Board of directors 2008-2009:

Richard Bersamin, Webmaster

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John Sanborn,

Laura Tagwa, Secretary, President Elect

Leslie Turner, Violin

Mary Wilkening, Newsletter, Cello

The ASA board has nominated Laura Tagwa as the new President Elect. Laura 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.

Please read Laura's article on Page 1 of this Newsletter.

If you would like to vote on this slate of ASA Officers, please go to our website www.azsuzuki.org. Follow the voting link on the home page.

We are looking for Viola, Guitar, Piano, Bass teachers to help with the Play-in Birthday Bash . Call Eunice Elie at 480-857-3130 if you have repertoire ideas or can help out.

(Joy, Continued from 5)

"At our church Taiko has struck up a friendship with other musicians to play at our Sunday mass. We are discovering more and more opportunities to enjoy playing with others and other instruments and other songs, too."

This fall he is looking forward to taking the Orff 3 "Think like a Composer" class at the Tucson Music & Dance Academy where he will learn more about listening, and how to compose his own musical ideas.

"I encourage other parents to enjoy music together, whether you only just clap your hands or play a drum, but play with your child." Kazuno said. Seek out other parents, teachers, and schools where you can share a musical experience. "Don't hesitate to reach out for fear of not being an advanced player. There is so much that students can do together with encouragement from parents and teachers."



ASA
1157 E. Acacia Circle
Litchfield Park 85340



Suzuki Birthday Bash in Phoenix on October 18.

See details inside!



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