



Check out the New Look for the Suzuki Gavotte Newsletter

Welcome to our 2019 Suzuki Gavotte Newsletter New Look! Moving forward the MacPhail Suzuki Department will use Mailchimp, an online newsletter template, to send the Gavotte Newsletter to current Suzuki families to share Suzuki philosophy and approach articles, upcoming events, program wide news, accolades and updates.

Back to Basics, What Every Teacher Wants You to Know: Some Points to Ponder Over Practicing and Review

By Lucy Shaw (continued from previous Gavotte Newsletters)

Let's ponder some points regarding practicing. Here is that all important questions. How much should you practice? We have all heard about the 10,000 hours. But, those hours need to be quality hours. I love this quote from Leopold Auer to his student Nathan Millstein "If you practice with your fingers, no amount is enough, but if you practice with your head, two hours is plenty." It is not the amount of practice, but the type of practice that you do. Mindless practice is a waste of time. It makes you less confident, and it is tedious and boring. Practicing is dangerous. I love this quote from Paul Cantor "The measure of an artist is in the number of notes he cares about, you should care about each and every single note." I love the example of French Folk Song has 50 bows. Each and every one of those bows needs to be absolutely beautiful. If you play 50 crooked bows every day or 50 bows without beautiful tone, imagine what you are practicing.

Let's talk about Review. Why review? The following is a list from Winifred Crock, one of my colleagues and a wonderful teacher. And I love this, A musician reviews:

- To develop technical ease,
- To prepare a technical or musical concept for a new piece,
- To develop a new technique or musical concept in a comfortable setting.
- You review to maintain a basic technical foundation.
- You review to develop tone and tone quality, musicality, expression and to maintain a performance repertoire.

We actually get to practice performing the steps to mastery. There are four steps to mastery. Level one is to learn and memorize notes, rhythms, fingerings and bowings. Often times parents think "Wow, we are done" and so may children, but there is so much more. That is just the first level.

The next level we continue to develop our notes and fingerings and rhythms and bowings, but we also add tone and intonation, dynamics, bow distribution or any special techniques the piece requires.

At level three, we continue to develop these and add style and phrasing and ensemble skills.

At level four, what we do is practice all of these skills in performance situations, not just once, but many times.

Remember the stages of learning. First cognitive. We have to understand what to do. Second is associative. The skills are smoothed out, but still under voluntary control. The last is autonomous. This is the slowest to develop and needs many repetitions. Only when a piece can be played intuitively do you really have the freedom to play artistically. Repetition is the road to mastery. The initial stages of learning are critical. The initial learning should be as close as possible to the finished product. For example, if you are playing something very slowly, make sure how much bow you are using reflects how much you will be using when you play it faster. Or perhaps the weight of string crossing. Even if you are playing in a slow tempo, your string crossing needs to be very fast, as it will be when you speed up.

Success. The definition of success is the accomplishment of an aim or a purpose. Hopefully, some of these basic ideas will help you to clarify your aim and purpose during practice and inspire or re-inspire you to get the most out of time spent in the practice room.

Viola for Violinists Class
Spring Semester
9:00-9:50 am Saturday mornings at De LaSalle

During Spring Semester we will be offering a Viola for Violinist Class!!!!

This is a great opportunity for violinists to explore the viola. There is often the need for an extra violist in chamber music groups and orchestras. This is a chance for your student to test the waters and see if they might want to add the viola to their repertoire.

The instructor will be Linda Trygstad, viola faculty in our Suzuki department. You can contact her for more information about the course at trygstad.linda@macphail.org. Or discuss it with your teacher.

Cost of viola rental is included in tuition and will be provided for each student.

Students do NOT need to acquire their own instruments.

Where: De LaSalle High School, Saturdays 9:00-9:50 am

When: February 2, 23; March 9, 23; April 6, 13

Tuition: \$188

Requirements: Students should at least be in Bk 3 and have a recommendation from their teacher. Please talk to your teacher if you think this would be a good course for your student.



Congratulations to **Anna Rosen**, 1000 days of practice in a row, and
Hannah Lynn, 100 days of practice in a row!



Congratulations to **Elsa Artemiuk**, 700 days of practice in a row, and
Emily Lei, Suzuki Piano Book Two Graduation!



Congratulations to **Oskar Colon** for 1500 days of practice in a row, and **Paloma Petersen** for 800 days of practice in a row!



Suzuki Piano and Guitar students performed for residents at the Abiitan on Sunday, December 2nd.



Suzuki Violin students performed for the Annual Dinner on Thursday, December 6th. Thank you performers: Maia Ark, Juliette Ark, Lily Ark, Arianna Xu, Audrey Weber, Claire Kinzley, Dominic Keller, Ellie Schimming, Emery Phillips, Frances McDonald, Isabella Hoffman, Manas Penkar, Molly Hanson Hilton, Natasha LaRusso, Oliver Hickey, Sean Barker, Eira Lindberg. The students performed for one hour, and then feasted on a pizza party!

UPCOMING SUZUKI DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Friday, December 14, 2018

Suzuki All Instrument Department Recital

6:00 pm, Antonello Hall

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Diana Voit Suzuki Piano Studio Recital

1:00 pm and 2:00 pm, Gary Sipes Performance Stage

Buddy Program Holiday Recital and Party!

4:00-5:00 pm, Room 126

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Joe Kaiser Suzuki Cello Studio Recitals

4:30 pm and 6:00 pm, Antonello Hall

Friday, December 21, 2018

Suzuki Department Advanced Ensemble Recital

6:00 pm, Antonello Hall

