

Cheers to Our Suzuki Seniors!

By Beth Turco

Congratulations to our 20 Suzuki Seniors who all performed beautifully on the Seniors Concerts on January 27 and February 11. These recitals are certainly a milestone for all of us and a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of our Suzuki Seniors.

Make sure to read the seniors essays attached in this email and posted on our website; you'll notice some common themes about the students' musical journeys. Students say music has shaped who they are. That they learned perseverance through practicing challenging passages and staying with music study even during difficult times. That music provided opportunities for them, like playing in chamber groups and traveling on the tours to Europe in 2013 and 2016. Many say music has become an inseparable part of who they are. And most important, music has become a creative outlet for them and brings them calm or joy.

Of course, parents have been on the journey, too. Helping guide students when they were too young to know the importance of Suzuki lessons. Getting creative with charts, stickers and small (or sometimes big) rewards for goals achieved. Driving students to countless lessons, group classes and recitals. Listening to complaints of boredom or pleas to quit, but not giving in to them. Helping students become independent practicers and finally, letting go so students could find their own place for music in their lives.

The journey would not be possible without the teachers. Teachers are honored to be musical mentors for these students and to help them realize our vision for them. These long musical journeys are powerful experiences for us all. Deep bonds are created between students, teachers and parents. A community is formed that helps to pick up the slack when interest wanes.

This community can last a lifetime, far beyond our senior concert experience tonight. Evidence of that was seen at our Suzuki 50th Anniversary Celebration on January 6. Alumni students put on a spectacular showcase of performances to a sold-out crowd. Many students, parents and teachers were eager to be reunited with their Suzuki friends after many years.

Since we all share the common goal of not necessarily producing professional musicians, but of developing noble and kind human beings, through the vehicle of music, it's inevitable that we form a tight knit community and a connection with each other that will last for years to come.

Our entire program came together to support our seniors. A faculty orchestra accompanied the students on the January 27 program, led by conductor Julia Bartsch, who returns every year to help us out. Mischa Santora and the Suzuki Chamber Orchestra accompanied the students on February 11. Annette Lee accompanied other seniors, and spent countless hours coaching and rehearsing with them. Heather VanderLey was the mastermind who coordinated all the details. Many other Suzuki teachers assisted with the event. And the MacPhail Suzuki Association provided wonderful receptions after each concert.

How fortunate we are to be a part of a Suzuki community that supports our students on their musical journey; from the very beginning lessons to the poised, mature Suzuki Seniors' performances we heard at our recent concerts.

Congratulations to all!

SUZUKI STORIES FROM THE PAST

Memories below from **Timothy Dresselhaus**, a former Suzuki Violin student of Mark Bjork from 1967 - 1970:

I have distinct memories of the three years (1967 - 1970) that my sister (Ann Dresselhaus) and I studied with Mark Bjork before moving to San Diego in 1970. Mr. Bjork helped lay a very solid foundation for our lifelong enjoyment of the violin. In 1970, we continued our studies at a new Suzuki program at San Diego State University under Dr. Ted Brunson; by 1972 we were able to play a very solid duet of the Bach Double (I was 10 years old and Ann 7 years old at the time). Both Ann and I studied with Ted through high school. Though neither of us have pursued the violin vocationally, we have continued to play in various settings, particularly in our local church. Now my children (Noah 15 and Emma 12) are violin students also.

Presently, I am a physician (General Internist) and serve as the Chief, Primary Care Services, VA San Diego Healthcare System and Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Diego. Ann has worked as a Chief Operating Officer of a company that does historical renovations across Southern California; Ann has one daughter (Elise) and is now proudly a grandmother to 8-month-old Luke.

With gratitude for your decisive contribution to our musical futures, and with congratulations on this 50th anniversary celebration.

Memories from **Elise (Martin) Bushard**, a former student of Mark Bjork from 1970 – 1983:

I had the opportunity to travel to Japan with my teacher, Mr. Bjork, in the spring of 1975 with a group of MacPhail students and parents. We traveled around, played in a Suzuki "All Japan" concert in Budokan auditorium, then had private lessons for a week with Schinichi Suzuki. It opened my eyes to the world. Suzuki was a very kind man and we would have our individual lessons on a stage in an auditorium sometimes. It was hard for me to understand his accent sometimes because I was only 9 years old, but I enjoyed having him as a teacher.

Pictured left to right: Nancy Esslinger, Regan Kladstrup, Erik Anderson, Tim Reese, Dr. Suzuki, Andrea Reese, Suzie Newstrom, Elise (Martin) Bushard, Christine Anderson, Sheryl Newstrom.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following Suzuki students and their teachers for auditioning and being selected to perform on the **Junior Honors Recital**.

Come listen and support your friends:

Friday, March 2, 2018

7:30pm | Antonello Hall

Kevin Chen, piano student of Susan Sophocleus
Sonatina in C major, Op. 55, No. 1, Mvt. II: Vivace by Friedrich Kuhlau

William Feng, piano student of Susan Sophocleus
Gigue, from Partita No. 1 in B-flat major, BWV 825 by Johann Sebastian Bach

Natasha LaRusso, violin student of Katherine Wood
Concerto No. 5 in D major, Op. 22, Mvt. I: Allegretto Moderato by Friedrich Seitz

Eira Lindberg, violin student of Alison Fahy
Humoresque by Antonín Dvořák

Lukas Murdych, guitar student of Brent Weaver
Prelude No 3 by Heitor Villa-Lobos

Matthias Murdych, piano student of Annette Lee
Solfeggietto by Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach



Congratulations to **Paloma Peterson** for completing 500 consecutive days of practice!

Congratulations to **Oskar Colon** for completing 1200 consecutive days of practice!

Congratulations to **Jacob Peterson**, who was chosen to play the Schumann Piano Concerto in A minor, Opus 54, with his high school's Chamber Orchestra. The concert is on Thursday, April 26th at 7 PM at Southwest High School in Minneapolis.

Congratulations to **Franklin Sellner and Jonah Wills** for performing "America the Beautiful" at the Superbowl!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 24

Linda Trygstad Suzuki Viola Studio Recital, 2 pm, Antonello Hall

Sunday, February 25

Nikki Lemire and Emily Gerard Suzuki Harp Solo Recitals, 1 pm, Antonello Hall
Tamara Gonzalez Suzuki Viola and Violin Studio Recital, 3:30 pm, Antonello Hall

Friday, March 9

Piano, Guitar, and Harp Department Recital, 6 pm, Antonello Hall

Friday, March 16

Suzuki Faculty Recital, 6 pm, Antonello Hall

SUZUKI NEWS

The **New Parent Class** meets at De LaSalle High School, 1 De LaSalle Drive, Minneapolis in D117.

The remaining class meetings will take place from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.:

March 3, March 17, March 24, April 7, April 14, and April 28.

FAMILY HOST NEEDED!

A 15 year old cellist, Marco, and his teacher, are travelling from Mexico to attend the Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference May 24-28, 2018. We are looking for a family that will host Marco while he is in MN. He will need transportation to and from the family home to the Hilton in downtown Minneapolis in the morning and evening. A wonderful opportunity to expose your children to a highly motivated young cellist who speaks english and spanish!

Email Kamini LaRusso if your family can help out: larusso.kamini@macphail.org

Have you attended the **MacPhail Suzuki Guitar and Piano Institute** in the past?

Our families will love to hear about your experience!

Send us your memories of the insitute, and why you plan to attend this year.

Email: SuzukiDept@macphail.org

Mark Your Calendars:

Cello, Viola and Violin Families:

We are adding a "Take Me Out to the . . . Play In" on **Saturday, April 28** at De La Salle High School to our 2017-2018 calendar. We will prepare Take Me Out to the BallGame in group classes this spring, and play it all together in April!

We will have a combined cello, viola and violin play-in to end the year of group classes.

Group Teachers are passing out flyers at class 2/17 and 3/3.