



perfect attendance, rather than program policy (warnings, disallowing participation in the program due to insufficient attendance). Staying true to the **Suzuki philosophy** of a range of abilities within the class for modeling and leadership, while addressing **educational need** for and parent desire for a narrower range within each class.

Book One group class has ages 3–11 roughly. Although the musical level is the same, the **developmental levels** are different. I want to present activities in an **age-appropriate** way, but also keep the more mature students engaged and excited.

We have a large cohort of pre-teens who are not progressing as fast. They feel stuck and it leads to **behavior problems** and **retention problems**. We are currently looking at ways to engage these students by offering a **multi-level** group class where students from 10–13 could explore

improvising, learn about composers, other art forms, etc.

The challenges described by the respondents can also be represented visually in the diagram on page 6.

The teachers who responded to the survey remained committed to the idea of group class in spite of the challenges. While some of the challenges are difficult for individual teachers to overcome (e.g., over-scheduled students or lack of suitable physical spaces for classes), other challenges such as classroom management, lesson planning, and differentiated instruction could be addressed through focused professional development. The benefits of group class (as described in the previous article) are such that it is certainly worthwhile exploring solutions to some of the challenges so that more students can experience engaging, enriching group music classes.

**Free Download!** To download a PDF of the Suzuki Yin-Yang Diagram, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/suzuki/Pages/IRSTE/default.aspx>

#### Parents as Partners, continued from p. 5

**And, a note of appreciation to those whose talks were replayed during the 2016 series:**

Alyssa Hardie Beckmann (Pop your Ears!), Joanna Binford (Simple Suzuki Stretches), Meret Bitticks (Prioritize!), Zachary Ebin (Forget Soccer, I want to practice!), Brittany Gardner (Advice and Encouragement for Suzuki Parents), James Hutchins (Guarantees for More Progress During Practice, Part 1, 2, 3), Ed Kreitman (Ownership), Rebecca Martin and Suzuki parents (The Suzuki Triangle Relationship), Leslie Mizrahi (Time, Tiempo), Mark Mutter (Raising Independent Musicians), Ian Salmon (Tech Talks 2015: Bringing your Suzuki Experience Up-to-Date with the Latest Gadgets and Apps), Lucy Shaw (Dry Ideas! Make it visual using the dry erase board), Nicolette Solomon and Donna Davis (Teens, Tenacity and Technique), Kathleen Spring (Is My Child Talented?), and Ed Sprunger (Pardon the Interruption).

#### Thanks to SAA Staff Members

Chris Davis, our publications designer for 13 years, has moved on to other artistic endeavors. We miss her, but she remains involved as our newsletter cartoonist and as an enthusiastic Suzuki mom.

Christie Felsing completed a two-year staff position recently. We appreciated her excellent work on Parents as Partners Online and our newsletter Short Score and her support for the Retreat and the Conference. She is now teaching and doing teacher training at the Hartt Community Music School. We wish to thank both Chris and Christie for sharing their talents with the SAA.

The staff has welcomed Cheryl Armstrong as our new publications designer. She comes to us from a career in association publications design in the Denver area. We will soon welcome Margaret Watts Romney, whom many know as a Suzuki Cello teacher in Salt Lake City and a Suzuki alumna. We look forward to adding her to the staff as well.

#### Organizational News, continued from p. 4

##### Calendar of Events

<b>September 1,</b>	ASJ Ad contracts due
<b>December 1,</b>	(Artwork due within
<b>March 1, June 1</b>	30 days after contract date)
<b>September 23-25</b>	SAA Board meeting, Oak Park, IL
<b>September 25</b>	Established Institutes preliminary dates due
<b>October 15</b>	All Institute applications due
<b>October 31</b>	Final date for Premier Membership Renewals
<b>December 31</b>	Final date for 2016 SAA Donations

##### 2017

<b>January 13-15</b>	SAA Board Meeting, Location TBD
<b>April 21-23</b>	SAA Board Meeting, Boulder, CO (tentative)
<b>May 25-29</b>	SAA Leadership Retreat, details to come

#### ASJ Article Submissions

We welcome article submissions on Suzuki-related topics. Deadlines are November 1, February 1, May 1 and August 1 for the winter, spring, summer, and fall issues, respectively, but we accept manuscripts year-round. We accept emailed articles, either included in the body of the message or as .doc or .docx attachments and manuscripts on disc by mail. Please do not send articles as PDF attachments. Email manuscripts to [editor@suzukiassociation.org](mailto:editor@suzukiassociation.org). Please include a short bio and author photo with your submission. Contact [publications@suzukiassociation.org](mailto:publications@suzukiassociation.org) for more information.