

AMBASSADOR

American Suzuki Talent Education Center

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point
College of Fine Arts and Communication

*Changing lives by providing the best in performance,
creativity, and expression*

December, 2002

From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

The Holiday Season is filled with many traditions. Some are shared by lots of families and some are pretty personal. I grew up hearing my father sing "O Holy Night" at midnight mass almost every year until he was nearly 80. My husband and I are both musicians so it likely will not surprise you to learn that we have developed musical traditions during the winter holiday season however it might surprise you to learn exactly what kinds of traditions have developed. Of course we perform in and attend a number of holiday concerts every year but at home, when just the family is around, things are often a bit less formal. It all started when I won an LP filled with holiday songs in a contest at the local A&P. We didn't have any records of traditional Christmas carols so I brought it home and played it right away. I was disappointed to hear the Do, Re Mi Children's Chorus signing mediocre arrangements of the songs, but my young children loved it. As preschoolers they sang, danced, laughed and eventually learned to sing along with every song. We still sing along with it while we put up the Christmas tree. As the children grew older we also played wonderful recordings of the Messiah and of Christmas music sung by some of the worlds greatest choirs.

One year I purchased a book of more than 150 Christmas Carols from all around the world. I spent time singing my way through the book while playing the piano. A number of these carols have become family favorites at our Christmas sing along. At first I stumbled through the piano parts. Then my daughter and I each played one hand. A number of years ago I relinquished my seat at the piano and my daughter did all the playing. Anyone listening to our family sing knows immediately that it is

more about having fun together than singing beautifully but we do occasionally even sing in parts.

Perhaps the strangest tradition is our growing collection of "the worst Christmas albums ever." It is absolutely amazing how many wonderful singers have produced Christmas albums, and we do have a bunch of these, but the electronic frog sounds "singing" carols, Silent Night on the Hawaiian Guitar and a Christmas CD that includes the "Little Brown Jug" have added a dimension to the Christmas music collection that served as a tension releaser on campuses the entire time we had children in college.

Yes. During the holiday time our home is filled with musical traditions. I hope your family also has some fun with music during this season.



Thank You, Folks

By Dave Becker

During the past seven and a half months both of my parents passed away. They lead long, full lives that were rich with experiences, good friends and loving family. It has been a perfect time for me to reflect on everything my parents did that had profound and lasting affects on their children and all those who knew them through the years.

My dad studied the violin as a boy and my mother took piano lessons when she was young. Their life long love of music was nurtured at an early age by their parents and in turn they shared the joy of music with their three

sons. I began studying piano when I was seven and my brothers started violin lessons around the same time.

One of my dad's dreams was to some day have a family string quartet, so while my brothers honed their skills on the violin, Dad bought a cello and took some lessons with the cello teacher at UW-SP. Mom, being the good sport that she was, agreed to learn how to play viola to fill out the quartet. At the age of ten I started playing the viola in the public school music program and eventually relieved Mom of her quartet duties.

During the years that our family played chamber music together, we were joined by many other musicians. Margery Aber moved to Stevens Point in 1967 and soon became a regular partner in our chamber music sessions. My father also belonged to an amateur chamber musician's society that published a directory of all of its members. We often got a call out of the blue from a fellow member who would be passing through Stevens Point and wondered if it would be possible to make some music together.

Over the years my folks amassed a tremendous record collection that covered a broad range of musical styles and periods. It was, in fact, that collection which inspired my December 2001 *Ambassador* article on starting your own listening collection. The eclectic nature of the Becker record library gave our family an appreciation for many different kinds of music.

Our family took many long car trips together. Whether tooling along a highway in Montana or sitting around a campfire in Yellowstone Park, we often passed the time by singing. In recent years, it was the family sing-alongs that endured as our way of making music with each other. When I was young my folks took me to lots of concerts. UW-SP has had a wonderful Arts and Lectures series for as long as I can remember, and major concert artists performed at the auditorium in Old Main. Seeing live performances by artists like Hermann Prey (baritone), Ruggiero Ricci (violin), and Rudolf Serkin (piano) helped me appreciate a level of artistic refinement that I had previously associated with only recorded music and inspired me to spend lots more time practicing my instruments.

Although Suzuki instruction was virtually unknown in this country when we were growing up, there were a lot of parallels with our musical upbringing and that of a child in a modern Suzuki household. My parents provided all of their children with good musical instruction and the best

instruments they could afford even during lean financial times. There was lots of help and encouragement with practicing.

Although we may not have listened to specific pieces we were studying, there were almost always great recordings spinning on the turn table, ear training which engendered a strong consciousness for beautiful tone, rhythmic precision and expressive, musical phrasing. The folks were our staunchest supporters when we performed and were there to console us when our playing didn't measure up to our own expectations.

In addition to the musical benefits of growing up in our household, my folks inspired, in all of us, an appreciation of the natural world. We enjoyed going on walks together armed with binoculars, cameras and field guides to check out the bird life or interesting flora we came upon. My mother's love of gardening and cooking rubbed off on all three sons and my father's penchant for fly fishing turned us all into avid fishermen and took our family to some of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the country. My parents were both fluent in German (Dad also spoke Spanish and French) and instilled in us a love for languages and the richness of other cultures. I mention these non-musical gifts because it seems in harmony with the holistic approach that Dr. Suzuki took toward life in general and what he referred to as the creation of more noble human beings.

Last October my brothers brought my parents up for what would turn out to be their final visit to Stevens Point. The entire family came to hear a Suzuki solo recital and they were all overwhelmed (to the point of tears) by the beautiful music they heard that afternoon. How thankful I am that they were able to experience, first hand, the wonderful program I am lucky to be a part of.

So thanks to all parents for everything you do to enrich your children's lives.



Mark Your Calendar

The **String Festival Concert** will be held
Sunday, April 27, 2003.

The **Piano Festival Concert** will be held
Sunday, May 11, 2003



Watch Your Mailbox

Enrollment information for the Spring 2003 semester will be arriving shortly. Please be sure to complete the forms and return them by the deadline of January 6th, or use our online enrollment system on or before January 6th. Registrations completed after the deadline will incur a \$15 late fee.

As a guideline, the start date for classes varies by teacher, but most will be starting the week of January 20th.



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

In order to acquire CD's of viola music outside the Suzuki books, viola students almost always have to seek out CD's of fine performances by looking online or placing special orders at a shop. Because much of recorded viola music was written in the 20th century families can easily get recordings that are most easily enjoyed by seasoned listeners. The following CD's are wonderful performances of works that appeal to a wide audience. I just checked online and they are all currently available.

Music for Viola and Orchestra, Vol. 1

Rainer Moog, violist

Arte Nova Records #37319

The works on this CD include the Telemann Concerto from Book 4.

Romances and Elegies for viola and Piano

Kim Kashkashian, violist

ECM Records #827744

A variety of romantic, post romantic and 20th century viola works.

Fairies

Rivka Golani, violist

CBC Enterprises #1127

Works for viola by Robert Schumann

Brahms Viola Sonatas and Songs for alto and viola

Pinchus Zukerman, violist, Marilyn Horne, alto

BMG/RCA Victor #61271

Rich romantic viola works.



Holiday Office Hours

If you need to contact a faculty member between December 23rd and January 3rd, please call their studio directly. All Suzuki phone numbers have voice mail capabilities, but faculty members do not access the 346-3033 Suzuki Office voice mail box, and will not receive messages left at that number.

Dee Martz	346-2805
David Becker	346-4902
Pat D'Ercole	346-4938
Kyoko Fuller	346-4951
Mary Hofer	346-4921
Lawrence Leviton	346-4555
Ann Marie Novak	346-4889
Tom Yang	346-4977



Notes from the Endpin

By Lawrence Leviton

The Weekend Cello Report

As the title suggests, I just experienced a fabulous weekend of cello performances worthy of reporting in the *Ambassador*. Friday night, I went to a recital by the Celtic Trio, Ferintosh. This was a concert of Scottish music from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The instrumentation consisted of harp, violin, and cello. The performers played with an amazing amount of energy, style, and passion. I was mesmerized by their commitment to the music making and they played together with the finesse of the Julliard String Quartet. I marveled at how the cello could be used in a much different way than we are accustomed to hearing. It was a compelling evening of music making.

Saturday, several ASTEC and University students traveled with me to Madison, where we experienced another great day of cello events. In the evening, Carter Brey, the principal cellist in the New York Philharmonic gave a recital. Earlier in the day, he gave a master class at the University of Wisconsin. The class was illuminating—one of the great things about a master class is the opportunity it affords to see different points of view and solutions to playing issues on the cello. Mr. Brey spent a lot of time with the students talking about how they needed to examine the harmony, the orchestra parts, and the piano parts in figuring out how to make beautiful phrases. He also helped them explore all of the different colors that the cello can create. During the class, the auditorium started to shake because of a deafening rumbling noise. Mr. Brey paused to figure out what was going on. Just before we started to evacuate, because of what we thought was a rare Wisconsin earthquake, someone mentioned that the marching band was returning to the music building after a Badger football team win. Cello and marching band—what a combo!

The Saturday evening recital was a revelation. Mr. Brey played with total authority and conviction. The emphasis on colors and thoughtful phrasing that he talked about in the master class were given full expression in his performance. He played a program of twentieth century music by Elliot Carter, Sergei Prokofiev, and Francois Poulenc that covered a great range of musical styles. It is always a great pleasure to hear someone who can have such command of the instrument and play so musically.

Lastly, on Sunday I was privileged to be able to attend our ASTEC Recitals. Two cellists, **Jamie Davis** and **Eric Christensen** beautifully played the Haydn and Boccherini concertos. Eric's performance marked the completion of Book 10, the last book in the Suzuki cello repertoire. Congratulations Eric! Rounding off the program was a lovely performance of Minuet Two, played by **Chris Peck**. All in all, an exciting day and weekend of cello related activities.

Announcement:

I will be scheduling a trip to High Rise Manor again this year for a holiday performance. It will probably be in the week before Christmas. I will keep you posted as details emerge. Please begin reviewing your holiday songs.



Student News

On October 19th, **Forest Passineau** played violin at the Westwood Center in Wausau during the Social Hour for the District Conference of the United States Sail and Power Squadron.

Jane Mitchell and **Katie Munck** were both selected to play in the Middle School Honors Orchestra. Jane played, but Katie opted out of it because she ran in the sectional X-country meet instead.

Jenika Kase and **Laura LeGault** will be having their Senior Voice Recital Saturday, December 14th, 2:00 pm in Michelsen Hall.

Travis Slattery will have his Senior Voice Recital on Sunday, February 23rd.

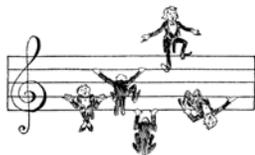
Laura LeGault, **Kayla Provisor**, and **Shelia Lais** played roles in the recent Community Theater production of "Annie".

Jenna Kase, **Megan Otte** and **John Zach** participated in the SPASH production of "No, No Nanette".

Kayla Provisor and **Sheila Lais** participated in the State of Wisconsin Choral Directors Workshop.

Megan Otte participated in the State Honors Jazz Choir.

Violists **Sarah Zahn** and **Brad Hessler** played in the pit orchestra for the SPASH production of "No, No Nanette."



November, 2002 Graduates

- Grace Luetmer**, Violin Book 3
- Emily Wolfe**, Violin Book 2
- Jenika Marion**, Violin Book 4
- Madeline Luetmer**, Twinkle
- Wade Dittburner**, Violin Book 2
- Erik Sands**, Violin Book 2
- Christian Czernicki**, Violin Book 8
- Roy Meyer**, Violin Book 9
- Jamie Davis**, Cello Book 9
- Eric Christensen**, Cello Book 10
- Chris Peck**, Cello Book 1
- Tyler Millican**, Violin Book 8
- Sally DeBauche**, Viola Book 3



Faculty News

Dee Martz gave a master class for the viola performance majors at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee on November 14th. She also served as the viola clinician at the Middle Tennessee Suzuki Workshop on November 16th.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 14th – Marathon Saturday. Violin, viola, cello and voice 9:00 – Noon. Piano 11:00 – 2:00 pm

Sunday, December 15th – ASTEC Solo Recital, UC Alumni Room, 2:00 and 3:30 pm.

Friday, January 17th and Saturday, January 18th,
Chamber Music Weekend

Saturday, January 25, 2003 – Marathon Saturday. Violin, viola, cello and voice 9:00 – Noon. Piano 11:00 – 2:00 pm.

Sunday, January 26, 2003 – Solo Recitals, Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm.

Saturday, February 15th – Marathon Saturday. Violin, viola, cello and voice 9:00 – Noon. Piano 11:00 – 2:00 pm.

Sunday, February 16th -- Solo Recitals, Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm.



100 Ways for a Parent to Say "Very Good"

You've got it made!
You're on the right track now!
You are very good at that!
That's much better!
I'm happy to see you working like that!
You're doing a great job!
That's the best you have ever done!
I knew you could do it!
Now you've figured it out!
Now you have it!
Great!
Keep working on it, you're getting better!
You make it look easy!
You're a great help!
You're getting better every day!
You're really growing up!
Nice going!
Sensational!
That's the way to do it!
That's a kind thing you did!
That's my boy/girl!
Perfect!

You're really going to town!
Terrific!
You're a real prince/princess!
You've just about mastered that!
Outstanding!
You did that very well!
Fantastic!
You're really improving!
Superb!
Keep it up!
You've got that down pat!
Tremendous!
Good thinking!
Keep on trying!
I've never seen anyone do it better!
I like that!
I'm very proud of you!
I think you've got it now!
You figured that out fast!
That's really nice!
That's right!
That's good!
When I'm with you I feel like singing!

Good work!
I'm proud of the way you worked today!
You're really working hard today!
You've just about got it!
That's it!
Congratulations!
That's quite an improvement!
You are doing that much better today.
I sure am happy you are my child.
You are learning fast!
Good for you!
Couldn't have done it better myself.
You really make being a parent fun!
One more time and you'll have it!
You did it that time!
That's the way!
Now you've figured it out!
You haven't missed a thing!
Keep up the good work!
Nothing can stop you now!

Excellent!
That's the best ever!
Fine!
You've got your brain in gear today!
Wonderful!
That's a masterpiece!
Nice going!
Now that's what I call a fine job!
You must have been practicing!
You're doing beautifully!
Right on!
Good remembering!
You did a lot of work today!
You certainly did well today!
You're doing fine!
You are really learning a lot!
You out-did yourself today!
Good for you!
Good going!
Marvelous!
You're doing the best you can!
Good job, (child's name)!
You remembered!

The next issue of the *AMBASSADOR* will be published February, 2003

Happy Holidays to You and Yours!

