

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*

May 2003

From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

Suzuki Talent Education is based on a philosophy that includes an unshakable belief that all children have the potential to learn to perform music at a very high level. The responsibility for unlocking this potential clearly falls to the teamwork of the teacher and the parent. During the summer there are often long periods of time when there is little contact with the teacher. This puts all the responsibility on parents who sat times can feel overwhelmed. My suggestion for this summer is to enjoy the small accomplishments that happen in each practice session, to enjoy the process of working together and to enjoy the music. Keeping track of the big picture will really help. I think that this can be simplified into what I call "BEST."

Believe in the potential of each student.

Expect the attainment of excellence.

Show the way.

Take the time to acknowledge success.

Happy Summer!



Staying on Top of Your Game in the Summer

By Lawrence Leviton

Summer is a time of fun, outdoor activities, and vacation from academic year responsibilities. It is also a time when there is the potential for you to lose the momentum that you had in your music studies during the school year. Perhaps your teacher will be on vacation for a part of the summer; maybe you will be away at computer camp, or off on a family vacation. How can you insure that you keep your music and playing healthy during long stretches away from study? What can you do to insure that those polished pieces stay polished and even take on a more brilliant sheen during the summer months?

There are many ways that you can transform your summer into one of musical growth and continued learning. Here are a few suggestions to help your music prosper in the summer.

Take All of the Lessons That Are on Your Teacher's Summer Schedule

For most of you this is a no-brainer; when your teacher is around you are hungry to learn and want all of the lessons that you can fit in. Others might consider summer a time to take a break from lessons. I almost always find that if lessons are interrupted students lose the edge that they had at the end of the spring term - there is rust that has to be shaken off and it often takes a few weeks or even months for the arms, hands, fingers, and mind to get back into the groove when lessons resume in the fall. I would caution against a hiatus from lessons. Summer is a time where you don't compete with your other academic-year activities and where you can easily fit in that half hour, hour, or even more that your teacher suggests you practice. Make a set practice time for yourself that you follow daily. My recommendation is early morning practice in the summer. I always feel that my entire day goes better when I have early contact with my cello. After your practice session, you'll be free to enjoy the long summer days without having to figure out when to fit in practicing.

Set up a Listening Program

Many of you will be taking vacations or will be at camps that may not be music related. Be sure to take your reference recordings with you. Even if you don't have your instrument close at hand, you can still progress by listening to upcoming pieces, listening to the current pieces you're working on or even by listening to pieces for your instrument that are outside of the Suzuki books. Pick a famous composer and make it a goal to listen to some of their works on CD. See if you can listen to three Beethoven Symphonies or a Mozart opera. For violinists, maybe you want to get to know the Mendelssohn violin concerto. Cellists, perhaps you want to get acquainted with the wonderful concerto by Dvorak. Violists, did you know that Sancho Panza is represented by the Viola in Richard Strauss' epic tone poem Don Quixote? Pianists, perhaps you might want to listen to some of Mozart's great piano concerti or music of Chopin. Your teacher can make recommendations in helping set up a summer listening program for you.

Go to an Institute or Music Camp

There are many choices for institutes in the summer. As this issue goes to press, our local institute is probably getting close to full capacity so get your applications in! There are institutes in other locales as well if our August institute doesn't work into your schedule (all summer Institutes are listed on the Suzuki Association's website: www.suzukiassociation.org.) Institutes provide a wonderful opportunity to get a week or two of intensive training on your instrument. What I like for my students are the opportunities institutes present for study with master teachers from all over the world. It is

always beneficial to get other points of view or even have familiar teaching points presented in a different and refreshing way. At institute you can make new music buddies and share your love of music with others. My students always come back from institutes with their batteries recharged and an arsenal of new tools and "tricks of the trade" that they are anxious to share with me.

Attend Live Performances

Summer concert opportunities abound for you in the Midwest. By traveling only a few hours from Stevens Point you can hear a performance by a great symphony orchestra in the summer.

The Milwaukee Symphony orchestra has a full summer schedule that you can take in. Read more about it here:

<http://www.milwaukeesymphony.org/>

The Minnesota Orchestra has a wonderful festival called Summerfest that takes place in the summer. Read more about it here:

<http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/summer/sommerfest.cfm>

The Chicago Symphony has performed for years at a wonderful setting called Ravinia about 20 miles North of Chicago. Read more about it here:

<http://www.ravinia.org/>

Ravinia is an easy four-hour drive from Stevens Point. Make a night of it and you probably can see the Cubs as well as they drive for the World Series title. Yes, you all know where my hometown is. ☺

Make your summers musically productive ones. When you come back in the fall you'll be able to "hit the ground running" and will bring new skills and ideas to your studies that come from a summer of continued practice and a well-rounded set of musical experiences. Enjoy your summer of music!



Central States Chamber Orchestra Presents Spring Concert

By David Becker

The Central State Chamber Orchestra will play its spring concert in Michelsen Hall - COFA on Saturday, May 10th at 7:30 p.m. The program will include Benjamin Bitten's Simple Symphony, Dag Wiren's Serenade for Strings Op.11, a Fugue by Mozart and a variety of other works from the 19th and 20th centuries. Young string students are especially encouraged to attend this concert so they can be inspired to work hard and some day be a part of this exciting group. A reception will be held following the concert.



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

Beware! You learn what you practice.

Practice is the essential ingredient for improving as a violist. So you may wonder just why I am warning you about practice. In the last several weeks as students prepare for the Festival Concert, for State Solo and Ensemble and for end of semester jury exams at the university I have become more aware than ever of the frustration that many are experiencing. Part of the preparation is going extremely well but, frankly some parts are not. What is most interesting to me is that in many cases the parts that are not going well are the exact spots that are receiving lots of attention in the practice sessions.

While exploring this during lessons I hear over and over again that in the practice session the piece is played until there is a problem. Then the problem area is repeated many times in an attempt to learn the correct version. It seems like this system should work but it really doesn't because the student is learning to play incorrectly and then to correct it the mistake. Unfortunately, this means that during the performance the audience will only get to hear the incorrect version. Of course this is frustrating. The time and effort spent correcting mistakes just isn't getting the job done.

In order for something to be performed well it must be practiced in a way that eliminates the errors and reinforces the correct response. This means that the problem area must be carefully identified and in fact it must be very small, maybe even as small as one or two notes. One well played note can be added to another well played note and these can be placed in a group of notes that eventually grows to a whole phrase. As long as the practice area is small enough and slow enough that the repetitions include only the correct version progress can be made. You will learn what you practice and what you practice will lead to accomplishing the task.

Be Aware! Practice for success.

Notes from the Endpin

By Lawrence Leviton

Congratulations to all of you who participated in the Festival Concert in April. All of your hard work and dedication paid off in a wonderful concert. Bravo!

Congratulations to Eric Christensen for his acceptance into the prestigious Eastman School of Music. Way to go Eric!

My summer schedule is now available. I will be teaching on the following dates:

June 4th and 5th
June 11th and 12th
June 18th and 19th
July 9th and 10th
July 30th and 31st

Please contact me to arrange the time of your lessons.

Have a great spring.

Forest Passineau Senior Recital

Forest Passineau will be giving a Senior Violin Recital on Saturday, May 17th at 3:30 pm in Michelsen Hall, COFA.

For eleven years he was a student of Pat D'Ercole, and for the past two years he has been a student of David Becker.

His program will include a variety of music from classical, including some of his favorites from the Suzuki Books, to International pieces representing his travels, to jazz and bluegrass.

Some of the featured pieces are Sonata in G Minor by H. Eccles, Meditation on the First Prelude of S. Bach by Charles Gounod, Polish Dance by Edmund Severn, Csardas by V. Monti, Tango "El Choclo" by Villoldo-McLean, and Railroad Street Blues by Martha Mier with an arrangement by David Becker.

Forest will be assisted by David Becker and Dawn Passineau on the piano, Josiah Grothe on violin and viola, and Samantha Stanley as choreographer and dancer.



Student News

Craig Felt played O Come Little Children with the Cherub Choir at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Bryce Marion won first place in the Youth Division of the Marshfield Clinic Talent Show on April 6th. Bryce played Bach's Minuet III.

David Cecil, Jamie Davis, and Eric Christensen played with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra in April.

Dolce Strings is performing at the Tour Group Festival Concert with Sonora Strings from Madison, and Vivaldi Strings from Wheaton College, at Monona Grove High School auditorium in Madison on May 4th.

Christian Czernicki was chosen to be a member of the 2003 Wisconsin High School Honor Orchestra.

Rebecca Furdek attended District WMTA auditions in Merrill on March 22nd. She will be attending State WMTA in Appleton on May 17th.

Rebecca Furdek participated in the WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival at Seymour High School on March 29th, and received a starred first on her piano solo and her oboe solo. She will be participating in the State WSMA Solo & Ensemble in Stevens Point on May 3rd.

Rebecca Furdek was an oboist with the 2002/2003 Lawrence Arts Academy Honors Band in Appleton. The band finished the season with a concert in March.

Erik O'Reilly gave his Volume 1 home recital in piano on March 2, 2003.

Alexandra Scaffidi gave her Volume 1 home recital in piano on March 20th.

Kelly Tillotson gave her Volume 1 home recital in piano on March 30th.

Violists Lyndi Benz Dean, Brad Hessler and Sarah Zahn will participate in State Solo and Ensemble in Stevens Point on May 3.

Violist Brad Hessler was named an alternate for the Wisconsin State Honors Orchestra.



Alumni News

Ben Porrey was accepted to Cleveland Institute of Music. There was a record application of 400 string players this year and few openings. Ben gave his senior violin recital at UM on April 17th and played the Sibelius violin concerto and Bizet's Carmen Fantasy.



Faculty News

Pat D'Ercole attended the American String Teachers Association Conference March 26-29.

Lawrence Leviton gave a solo cello recital on Sunday, April 13th.

Lawrence Leviton and Dee Martz gave a series of clinics and performances in Reedsburg, Wisconsin on March 28.

Dave Becker, Lawrence Leviton and Dee Martz performed with the CWSO on April 26 and 27.

Dee Martz will attend the Suzuki Association of the Americas Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado May 23-26. She will also attend the meeting of the SAA Board of Directors in Denver on May 21-23.



April, 2003 Graduates

Jane Mitchell, Viola Book 7
Lauren Sheibley, Violin Book 2
Jill Iwanski, Violin Book 5
Erik O'Reilly, Piano Book 1
Alexandra Scaffidi, Piano Book 1
Kelly Tillotson, Piano Book 1
Christopher Patchett, Violin Book 7

Gretchen Sands, Violin Book 5
Jessica Ryan, Violin Book 8
Jason Smith, Violin Book 1
Keisuke Yamamoto, Violin Book 6
Alyssa Eiden, Violin Twinkle



Upcoming Events

May 10, 2003, Suzuki Ensemble and Solo Recital, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall, COFA

May 10, 2003, Central State Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall, COFA

May 11, 2003, Suzuki Piano Festival Concert, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall, COFA

The ASTEC voice students will perform a recital on May 29th at 6:30 pm in Michelsen Hall, COFA.



Help Wanted

The ASI Retail Store, which is open during the two weeks of the American Suzuki Institute, is looking for 1-2 people, age 14-adult, who would be interested in working in the ASI Store August 3-16. The store features a wide variety of books, music, cassettes, CDs, souvenirs, mementos, apparel, figurines, jewelry and fine gift items.

Anticipated hours would be, Sunday, August 3rd and 10th, 3-5 pm; Monday thru Friday, August 4-8 and August 11-15, 8 am – 5 pm; and Saturday, August 9th and 16th, 8-11 am. These hours of operation are tentative at this time.

If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number at the Suzuki Office (715) 346-3033, and we will pass the information on to our store manager.



Road Construction

The Stevens Point Public Works Department website shows the following information:

Main Street will be **CLOSED** from Michigan Ave. to Phillips St. as of **Monday April 28**.

The **Intersection** of Main St. and **Michigan Ave.** will remain **OPEN** until further notice.

US Highway 10 will also be under construction between Minnesota Ave. and Country Club Drive as of **Monday, April 28**, but one lane will remain open in each direction as crews work on the center of the roadway.

Please **SLOW DOWN** and drive extra carefully in construction zones!

Tentative Hwy. 10 Construction Project Schedule

Phase 3 - Stage 1

Phillips Street to Michigan Avenue Construction Schedule

The following is a tentative timeline for the first part of USH 10 - Phase 3 Construction Project. This schedule is subject to change without notice.

Traffic Control Signage: April 23rd - April 25th

Removal of Pavement: April 28th - May 6th

Sanitary Sewer Work: April 28th - May 23rd

Water-main Work: April 28th - May 28th

Sewer and Water Laterals: May 26th - June 17th

Storm Sewer: May 29th - June 18th

Storm Inlets: June 18th - June 31st

Grading and Base Course: June 24th - July 2nd

Concrete Paving: July 3rd - July 7th

Electrical Work: July 9th - July 17th

Curb & Sidewalk: July 8th - July 23rd

Only every other intersection will be closed at a time. Thus for people traveling in the area, if one side street is closed – just go up one block.



The next issue of the AMBASSADOR will be published October 1st.
Have a great summer!!

