

# AMBASSADOR

## Aber Suzuki Center

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
College of Fine Arts and Communication  
*inspire, create, achieve*

October 2007

### From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

Who is that tall guy with the cello and a friendly face?



**Tim Mutschlecner** became the first full time Suzuki Cello Specialist at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point when he joined the faculty of the Aber Suzuki Center in the fall of 2007. Most recently Tim was at the University of Florida in Gainesville where he taught cello for four years and graduated with a PhD. in

Music Education in August 2007. While pursuing his studies at the University of Florida Tim was principal of the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra and an active performer in the community. Previously Dr. Mutschlecner established and directed a Suzuki cello program in Johnson City, Tennessee as well as performing as principal and associate principal cellist in two regional orchestras. Tim received a M.M. in Violoncello and Suzuki Pedagogy from the Cleveland Institute of Music and his B.M. in Violoncello from Indiana University. Tim moved to Stevens Point with his wife Sarah, a Nurse Practitioner and their three daughters; Audrey, Megan, and Eleanor.

Of course there is more to the man behind the new face in the Aber Suzuki Center than the professional bio indicates. To help you learn a bit more about Dr. Mutschlecner I asked a few questions and am pleased to share his answers in the Ambassador.

When did you start playing cello and why cello?

I started playing the cello at age 11 under the direction of my mother, a violinist and public school orchestra teacher at the time. I had previously started piano and considered the trumpet or flute but was drawn to the beauty of the cello sound. Once I began, I was hooked.

When did you first hear about Suzuki? When did you get involved and why?

While I was dimly aware of the Suzuki approach as an undergraduate at Indiana University, I didn't really discover it until being asked to teach some very young students in Gainesville, Florida where I had moved to do music ministry work. Very rapidly I knew I needed help and attended a summer institute with teacher-trainer Dr. Tanya Carey. I fell in love with the natural, sensible approach to learning the instrument, but what really attracted me was the atmosphere of openness among the teachers and students - sharing ideas and trying out new approaches. I continued to attend several training sessions and eventually completed my masters degree in Cello Performance and Suzuki Pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

What do you like best about teaching cello?

Teaching cello is fun, but getting to work with children and young adults is really exciting. I get energized watching them discover music. There is something almost miraculous about seeing a child who has never played music before blossom into a musician in front of your very eyes.

What do you like to do when you are not teaching or practicing?

I compose music, love the outdoors, cook, make pesto, and read a lot!

Please tell us a little about your family.

Sarah, my wife, is a nurse practitioner who will be working at Ministry Health as a wound care specialist. We met through a performance of Messiah in which I was playing and Sarah was singing. She loves dogs, exercise and a clean kitchen.

My three daughters Audrey (16) Megan (14) and Eleanor (10) play music, the older two cello, and the youngest is taking violin with Professor Pat. They are making new friends in Stevens Point and participating in all the local events like attending football games and trying to eat cheese curds. The older two BABY SIT!!

What else would you like the ASC families to know? I want to get people all over central Wisconsin excited about Suzuki cello. I would love to do a demonstration at your school or for any group of people you suggest. You can reach me [tmutschl@uwsp.edu](mailto:tmutschl@uwsp.edu) or 346-3580.



### Share the Gift of Music

The American Suzuki Foundation invites you to celebrate the journey towards excellence through a Suzuki event of conviviality and Vivaldi, featuring composer Antonio Vivaldi and musicians of the Aber Suzuki Center. Raising support for needs-based scholarships so that more might learn.

**Music of the Masters**  
**Saturday, October 20, 2007**  
**Holiday Inn & Convention Center**  
**1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point**

**6:00 pm Beverages and Hors d'oeuvres**  
**7:00 pm Dinner**

**Silent Auction is available throughout the evening.**

Tickets are available from the UWSP Box Office (715-346-4100), Aber Suzuki Center faculty or office, and American Suzuki Foundation Board members Sheila Banovetz (715-345-9645) or Sara Oberthaler (715-342-5909).



### Thoughts from a Frazzled Mother and Suzuki Teacher

By Mary Hofer

I was asked to describe a typical day in the life of my family as an introductory activity at a meeting I recently attended. Other attendees described their typical days also. What I discovered was that there's no such thing as a typical day except that everyone's day was very busy! The specific activities, involvements, appointments as well as the ages and interests of children, extended family members, and

friends were all different but the common (rather than typical) theme of everyone's story was "VERY busy."

Many times I marvel at how well many of my Suzuki Voice parents accomplish all of the things they do. Let me tell you right now, however, that I am not one of them! There are days that I feel absolutely frazzled and the idea of practicing Suzuki with my children seems totally overwhelming. In the rush of the many things in my "typical" day, it is not uncommon for me to ask myself, "Why am I doing this?"

Well, why do we brush our teeth, eat our fruits and vegetables, and try to get enough exercise? Because deep inside ourselves we know these things are good for us. They help us maintain a healthy lifestyle.

So it is with music and regularly practicing our pieces.

I am not going to write about the scientific benefits of music. If you have questions or doubts about scientifically-proven benefits of music you can "Google" the terms "music" and "brain" in an Internet search engine on any computer to find a vast amount of information, including research reports on the subject.

My topic in this article is about music as a lifelong skill we give to our children – a gift that will last and benefit them throughout their entire lives! This is the answer to my question, "Why am I doing this?"

Music helps children – and adults! – express themselves, become more sensitive, recognize beauty, and share the gift of sound with others. Learning music teaches patience, self-discipline, goal-setting, time management, and perseverance, among other skills and traits that will help throughout our lives.

Why Suzuki? Years ago, long before I had my own children, I taught music to grade school children (kindergarten through eighth grade). I became acquainted with the Suzuki philosophy while teaching in the grade school. Some of my students were also Suzuki violin students. One of the characteristics of the Suzuki program that most struck me was the attention and devotion of the parents of Suzuki children. The other trait that impressed me was the self-discipline and goal-orientation or drive of the children in the Suzuki program. I clearly recall thinking that if I ever had children of my own, I would want Suzuki to be part of our lives together. So, on those days now when I feel completely frazzled and overwhelmed I try to remember what it was that impressed me so much about Suzuki and how much I wanted that for my children.

I understand that knowing and remembering how important something is and "living" it are two completely different challenges! I am not a perfect parent or teacher – nor do I have a perfect family. Nobody is and nobody does! I've heard

every excuse in the book (the great BIG book) from my own children in the Suzuki Voice Program: "I'm too tired!" "I hate this music!" "This is too hard!" "Not now, mom. Can I finish my game?" "Not now, mom. I want to play. I haven't seen my friends for days!"

In addition to having heard it all, I've seen a lot also. Children hiding under the table. Children lying on the floor refusing to get up. Assorted creative tantrums.

And, of course, the everlasting question, "Why?" as in "Why do I have to practice?" This is one question which my children no longer ask very often as they have repeatedly heard my "Why Response/Oratory." Here it is. You are welcome to use it with your children!

"Because I believe in the Suzuki method and that learning music is neurologically important for your brain growth. It is a life skill that we all need to know. You will not be sorry you have music in your life when you grow up. We need to do this everyday, just like we need to brush our teeth every day. Because Music and Suzuki are very important." My children may not always appreciate my choice of music for them or the Suzuki philosophy, BUT, I know that at times, deep in their hearts, they love it. These are wonderful moments for us! A few examples of these moments include when my son learns a piece or a song and plays or sings it for everyone and I see the sense of pride in his face or hear him tell a friend about how he learned this song and sang it for others. Another example is when, after struggling to learn a long, difficult piece and finally pulling it together, my daughter says that it wasn't so bad or when she spontaneously plays the piano just for the fun of it. I do not doubt myself at times like those!

Last week my children watched a wonderful piano performance by Professor Molly Roseman. My daughter was amazed at Professor Roseman's beautiful technique and musicianship. My daughter appreciates all of the hard work and practice that went into Dr. Roseman's accomplished performance. This experience helped inspire my daughter to practice harder all week long. Again, I do not doubt myself at times like this!

I don't have all the answers for dispelling doubts but I would like to share with you some tips that I have found helpful for encouraging my children to practice and me to become a better Suzuki parent.

First, I recommend starting each practice session with a positive attitude. Fake it if you have to ☺ on your more challenging days! Take a deep breath and count slowly to ten before announcing that its time to practice Suzuki. A calm positive attitude really helps. The other day as I practiced with my son, I abruptly said, "That's wrong. You need to do that again. Hurry up. Fix it." My son gave me a quick look and replied, "Mom, you are telling me something is wrong but

you're not telling me what is wrong. I don't know how to fix it." Duh! Out of the mouth of the child comes the wisdom the parent should have! I was in a hurry to get the practicing done which soured my response to my son's efforts. This leads to a second tip.

Secondly, believe in yourself as a good Suzuki practices parent and believe that you can help your child. Sympathize with your child's efforts, acknowledge his or her hard work and keep assuring your child that by working together much will be accomplished!

Thirdly, find specific things that your child is doing well and correctly – even if they are tiny things that don't seem to mean much toward learning the music. For example, be sure to praise your child for practicing without whining if that is the case. This will encourage more whine-free sessions! Listen for the things that are going well with a piece and praise them. Receiving praise for the positive things children do encourages them to do more positive things and to work harder. (This is true of adults also. We enjoy being praised for our work and the positive feedback makes the rest of our work, and day, go better.)

Fourth, maintain regular practices despite slumps and other obstacles. Instead of dropping or avoiding practicing difficult parts or pieces, shortening the practice might help refocus energy. If you drop a practice completely, it only makes it harder to get back in the routine.

Fifth, never underestimate the power of listening to the music! Listen, listen, and listen! Put copies of your music CDs in your car, your living room, your dining room, your children's bedrooms, and yes, even in your bathroom. Play those CDs everywhere and every chance you get.

Sixth, when all else fails, bribery. We all like the little perks we receive for a job well done, so do our children. From M 'n Ms, to ice cream, a chance to go shopping, a favorite game, what ever inspires your child. This bribery isn't needed forever. When my daughter was 5 years old it was shoes. It has been a very long time since I have needed to bribe her, most of the time it is music , the love of playing, or the desire to please her teacher that motivates her.

And finally, attend those monthly Saturday Marathons and as many recitals as possible. Of course, as a Suzuki teacher I want my students to attend these important learning opportunities but as a Suzuki parent the importance of exposing your children to other Suzuki students of various ages and at various stages of the Suzuki repertoire should never be underestimated! Suzuki children are often inspired by older Suzuki children. They also hear other pieces as well as reinforce what they've learned by hearing their current and previous pieces performed in group and solo recitals.

In summary, there isn't a typical Suzuki experience but we do experience many of the same blessings and challenges. We are all in Suzuki music together and Suzuki music togetherness helps all of us – individually and collectively – enhance the lives of our children and ourselves. We need to believe in ourselves and what we do while helping and inspiring each other!



### Attention New Suzuki Parents

By Ann Marie Novak

The 2007 Parent Orientation was a smashing success! Each faculty member gave a brief presentation on one topic, such as: Parent Roles and Responsibilities, Program Offerings, Philosophy, Benefits Beyond Music, Program History, etc. In addition, parents were given the opportunity to view a portion of the video, "Nurtured by Love", a professionally made video about Dr. Suzuki, his life and his philosophy. Also, each new parent was presented with a copy of the Aber Suzuki Center Parent Handbook, an excellent compilation of many articles, charts for practice, and other inspirational tidbits, prepared by the ASC faculty. Lastly, parents and faculty mingled at a brief social hour complete with coffee, punch and assorted goodies.

Just in case you missed it, and you are a parent who is new to the program, please be sure to ask your teacher for your ASC Parent Handbook. This event was not recorded, so if you were unable to attend, perhaps you would consider attending next year. It's a great way to get a sense of the program and to meet other new parents. Also, please see the following Ambassador article on the **Parent Education Program**, and plan to attend at least 3 of the sessions if at all possible.



### Parent Education Program Expands at ASC

By Ann Marie Novak

That's right...more of a good thing is on the way! Parent Information Sessions will now be offered on a *monthly* basis throughout the academic year (except January), and we strongly encourage parents of all levels of experience to

attend. It is our intention that all parents will have an opportunity to learn, grow, and to share their own unique perspectives.

The sessions will be offered on the **second Tuesday of each month (at 7:30 p.m. in Room 144)**. The format will include a short presentation by a faculty member, followed by a Q & A time, and a little social time as well. Each session is prepared surrounding a specific topic (see below), but all comments and questions are welcomed and encouraged.

This year, the program will be presented by Kyoko Fuller and Ann Marie Novak, both of whom are looking forward to some lively discussions AND the coffee and goodies that will be offered afterward.

The schedule is as follows:

- October 9 - "First You Got to Create...Da Mood" (The Suzuki Home Environment)
- November 13 - "The Practice of Practicing"
- December 11 - "The Art of Reviewing with a Purpose"
- February 12 - "Suzuki: Translating the Philosophy Into Reality"
- March 11 - "Do You Hear What I Hear?" (Listening)
- April 8 - "Fostering Independent Learning"
- May 13 - "In the Good Old Summertime: Survival of Those Lazy Days of Summer"

We look forward to seeing you there!!!



**Save the Date!**

The Suzuki Association of Wisconsin will hold its 3rd annual weekend workshop for violin, cello and piano students at the Inn on the Park Hotel in Madison, January 19-21. Registration for the first student is \$80 (\$65 before November 15). Registration for each additional sibling is \$70 (\$65 before November 15).

Watch for brochures on the Suzuki bulletin board.



## A Message from Antonio Vivaldi

By Dee Martz



At the beginning of the September Marathon Mini-Concert a breathless young boy, John Peck, ran up onto the stage and announced that he had a special delivery from Father Vivaldi. He handed me a piece of ivory colored paper that was rolled up and tied with a purple ribbon. This is the message that Vivaldi sent---

*Dear Young Musicians of the Aber Suzuki Center,*

*The trip is very long but my travels are going well. As you can imagine it is a difficult trip through almost 300 years of time and all the way from Venice to Stevens Point. I am pleased to report that I will arrive in time to host the Music of the Masters event. However my young students, all girls as you know, will not be able to make the trip with me.*

*It pleases me that you are preparing for an evening of music. I can hardly wait to hear how well the students of the 21st Century perform. Yes, yes, I know that there will be music by other composers but that is of little importance to me. What I really want to hear is how young boys and girls perform my music in 2007.*

*I understand that there will be a "silent auction" -- whatever that means -- and that you are raising money to help students with financial need. As you may know, at the Pia Ospedale della Pietà where I teach, all the students have been abandoned, are orphans or come from families that cannot support their children. So I do believe that what you are doing to support music study for young children is very important.*

*I am looking forward to meeting many people from Wisconsin on October 20<sup>th</sup>.*

*Yours,*

*Antonia Vivaldi*

*P.S. I just heard the good news---Tickets can be purchased from the faculty and staff of your school.*



## Do You Belong to a Service Organization?

The ASC Faculty is actively looking for opportunities to make presentations/demonstrations about the Suzuki philosophy at service club meetings such as Kiwanis, Jaycees Optimists, etc. If you are a member of such an organization and would like a presentation for your group, please contact an ASC faculty member.



## Lorre Lynn Trytten and the CWSO

The 59th season of the **Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra** begins on October 13 and 14 with a concert featuring violinist and composer **Lorre Lynn Trytten**.

Soloing on the world premiere of "Sugarbush", a multimedia piece composed by Ms. Trytten specifically for the CWSO, Lorre will also be the featured soloist on Fritz Kreisler's Tambourin Chinois, Liebesleid and Preludium and Allegro. "A Roman Carnival Overture" by Hector Berlioz and "Symphony No. 2 (Romantic)" by Howard Hanson round out the opening concert of the CWSO season.

Lorre Lynn Trytten grew up in Stevens Point and was one of Margery Aber's first Suzuki violin students at the UWSP Lab school. A long-time resident of Amsterdam her most recent performance in Stevens Point was in October 2005 at the dedication of the Aber Suzuki Center. Lorre is known for her power and verve, her dynamic stage presence and easy rapport with an audience. Trained as a Baroque violin specialist Lorre has broadened that experience and is now recognized for her prowess improvising in styles across the musical spectrum. With Lorre on stage there's never a dull moment; one is guaranteed a masterful show of virtuosity, humor and creativity.

Tickets may be purchased through the UWSP Box Office, 715-346-4100.



### Alumni News – Peter Thomas

Following a successful audition, cellist **Peter Thomas** recently moved to Miami Beach to join the New World Symphony Orchestra. The Mission of the New World Symphony is to prepare highly-gifted graduates of distinguished music programs for leadership roles in orchestras and ensembles around the world. Members, called fellows, normally are provided with a maximum of three years of extremely valuable professional training in this group. An interesting note is that Peter's brother, cellist **Daniel Thomas**, just completed his service in the New World Symphony. Peter and Daniel are both graduates of the Suzuki program at UWSP.



### Alumni News – Nick Munagian

Suzuki grad, violist **Nick Munagian**, just completed a Master of Music in viola performance at Northwestern University and, based on his audition, is now a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

Founded in 1919, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago is the only training orchestra affiliated with a major American orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Recruited from the best music schools in the country and around the world, members of the Chicago Civic are given the incredible opportunity to be mentored by musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Principal Conductor, Cliff Colnot.



### Student News

Thanks to **Cal and Sarah Irons, Tom and Craig Felt, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, MJ DeBot and Sarah Harmon** for playing at the Parade of Gardens on July 13th. Deb Aeby, coordinator of the event wrote in her thank you, "Your beautiful music was a wonderful addition to the garden and parade-- goers commented how lovely it was to stroll through the gardens and hear your violins. You are a true joy to watch and listen to--many thanks!"



Thanks to **Natalie, Fredrick and Antony Van Tiem, Roshini and Dinesh Traynor, Maleah Zinda, Rachel Ley, Annika Enders, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler and Cal Irons** for playing at the Justiceworks Suzuki Stroll 1/4 mile Run/Walk on Saturday, September 1 at Piffner Park. The students provided music while runners warmed up and stretched and ran the 1/4 mile.

Congratulations to **Rachel Ley** who has practiced 3 years without missing a day!

On September 8, **Maria Marchel** won the first place trophy at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Days Fiddling Contest in Peppin, WI in the young adult category.



## Faculty News

While attending the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) Leadership Conference in Nottawasaga, Ontario, Canada in May, **Dee Martz** spoke on "Leadership Through Service" and presented Appreciative Inquiry training sessions. Her "Leadership Through Service" remarks were also published in the Summer 2007 issue of the American Suzuki Journal.

**Dee Martz** served as a clinician at the Intermountain Suzuki Institute (Utah) from June 18-23 where she performed in a viola quartet on Faculty Recital and with the ISSI Faculty orchestra on the Festival Concert that closed the Institute. She also taught at the Chicago Suzuki Institute from June 30-July 6.

On July 31 **Dee Martz** completed a six-year term on the SAA Board of Directors, including four years as Board Secretary.

**Pat D'Ercole** was a teacher trainer at the Intermountain Suzuki Institute in Sandy Utah, the Chicago Suzuki Institute and the American Suzuki Institute. She also was a presenter at the SAA Leadership Retreat in Nattasawaga, Ontario, May 25-28, 2007.



## September Graduates

Kobe Carlson, Piano Twinkles  
Hope Mahon, Violin Book 1  
Sarah Thimmesch, Piano Book 1  
Morgan Carlton, Viola Book 1  
Ruth Bouwer, Piano Twinkles  
Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, Violin Book 1  
Julida Kochanowski, Piano Book 4  
Erik Sands, Violin Book 6  
Frederick Van Tiem, Violin Book 1  
Natalie Van Tiem, Cello Book 2  
Elijah Vang, Violin Twinkles  
Nathan Hunter, Piano Book 1  
Kate Young, Violin Book 1  
Roshini Traynor, Violin Book 5  
Havilah Vang, Violin Book 1  
Marco Kurzynski, Piano Book 1  
Dinesh Traynor, Violin Book 3  
Erik O'Reilly, Piano Book 3  
Antony Van Tiem, Violin Book 5  
Emily Spaid, Violin Book 8



## Tell Your Friends!

The Aber Suzuki Center has immediate openings in violin, cello and piano, for children three years or older. Call the Suzuki Office at 715-346-3033, or email us for more information: [suzuki@uwsp.edu](mailto:suzuki@uwsp.edu).



## Upcoming Events

**October 13, 2007**

CWSO performs at Sentry Theater with special guest **Lorre Lynn Trytten**.  
7:30 pm performance. Tickets available through the UWSP Box Office, 715-346-4100.

**October 14, 2007**

CWSO performs at Sentry Theater with special guest **Lorre Lynn Trytten**.  
4:00 pm performance. Tickets available through the UWSP Box Office, 715-346-4100.

**October 17, 2007**

**UWSP Symphony Orchestra**, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall.  
Tickets available through the UWSP Box Office, 715-346-4100, or  
one hour before performance at the Box Office located in the NFAC Atrium.

**October 19, 2007**

**Dolce String Ensemble Rehearsal** with special guest **Lorre Lynn Trytten**,  
5:15 – 6:30 pm, NFAC 250.

**October 20, 2007**

**Marathon**, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.  
Special guest **Lorre Lynn Trytten**.

**October 20, 2007**

**Music of the Masters** (Vivaldi), 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Holiday Inn & Convention Center.  
Tickets available through the UWSP Box Office, Aber Suzuki Center faculty and office,  
or from American Suzuki Foundation members Sheila Banovetz or Sara Oberthaler.

**October 21, 2007**

**Solo Recitals**, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

**October 27, 2007**

**Piano Halloween Recital**, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

**November 3, 2007**

**Marathon**, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**November 4, 2007**

**Solo Recitals**, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

**November 12, 2007**

**UWSP Faculty Voice Recital**, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall.  
Susan Bender, soprano, Dennis Willhoit, tenor, Michael Keller, piano.

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