



AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

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

October, 2010

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 2, 2010

Violin students play at Lensmire Gardens

October 6 – November 13, 2010

Youngers Community Days

October 9-10, 2010

ASC students perform at the
Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra
Intermission

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, October 24, 2010

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

Saturday, October 30, 2010

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

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Music of the Masters
DUC Alumni Room, Cocktails 6:00, Dinner 7:00

Saturday, November 20, 2010

Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, November 21, 2010

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

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, December 12, 2010

Solo Recitals

From the Director's Desk

By Pat D'Ercole

Welcome back to all the Aber Suzuki Center (ASC) families! An especially warm welcome to Mimo He; Rachel, Kevin and Rebecca Jorgensen; Aileen, Carie and Scott Winn; Bailey and Stephanie Saris new to ASC so far this year! We are privileged that you have chosen the Aber Suzuki Center to share this musical journey with you. We hope that you will find the ASC to be a supportive environment filled with many Suzuki triangles of students, parents and teachers who nurture, educate and inspire each other to excellence.

We've started the year off with great energy. In our first month of the semester, we've already done some things differently than usual. The September marathon began a Suzuki parents' coffee and discussion (with coffee donated by EmyJ's) and a crazy hat day for the students. Our special mini-concert was not a concert at all, but a presentation by Kay Holz (Thank you, Kay!) on Beethoven's life and his 9th Symphony. The highlight of the month though was actually going to hear the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra *perform* Beethoven's 9th Symphony (the Ode to Joy) and Copland's Appalachian Spring. We had such a good turnout. 95 of us boarded two motor coaches for the ride down to the city. There was much talking and laughing and getting to know one another. New friends were made across instrumental, school and generational boundaries. And the music! It was sublime! No words can describe it. A 90 member orchestra with 150 voice chorus and 4 soloists produced music that received a standing ovation and 5 curtain calls. Before leaving Uihlien Hall, one of the Milwaukee Symphony cellists boarded the bus to greet all of the ASC travelers. The cellist was none other than ASC alumni Peter Thomas. (You will be able to hear Peter solo with the CWSO in April.) Peter is one of many ASC graduates who are professional musicians. All of them started out just like you and then one day they discovered that making music was their passion. In fact, see the article later in this AMBASSADOR about a new column featuring interviews with ASC alumni.

One of the ways that parents have used to ignite a passion for music in their child, whether that passion enhances their quality of life or merely leads to a musical career, is to attend the American Suzuki Institute. This past August we celebrated very successfully our 40th Anniversary of this, the first Suzuki music camp, outside of Japan. Be sure to read Mrs. Fuller's and Mrs. Mahon's reflections on the experience so you can begin to plan to take advantage of this opportunity that's right in your own back yard!

You'll also want to read about the:

- The new scholarship opportunity provided by the American Suzuki Foundation
- The upcoming Music of the Masters Dinner
- The new bulletin board section for parents
- ASC students in the news
- Openings for new students
- First semester calendar of events

One of my goals this year is to get to know as many non-violin parents and students as possible. I'm not great at remembering faces that go with names so please be patient with me if I ask you to identify yourself for the umpteenth time. Know that my door is always open and your suggestions are welcome. Have a great year and I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you.



Reflections on the American Suzuki Institute

By Kyoko Fuller

The oldest Suzuki summer conference in the United States marked its 40th Anniversary this summer in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and celebrated another eventful and successful workshop. Despite challenges from the economy, the Suzuki Summer Institute continued its tradition of creating memories with music for hundreds of parents, students and teachers.

It all began on Sunday evening with the welcoming opening ceremony and greetings to everyone from our new ASI director Pat D'Ercole, and from newly-appointed Chancellor Bernie Patterson, College of Fine Arts Dean Jeff Morin and Stevens Point Mayor Andrew Halversen. Then quickly the music began as the instruments joined in the half hour opening play-in which was, as always at the Institute, a remarkably heart moving experience. There is something so very special about people gathering together to connect with each other with the common ground of faith in Dr. Suzuki's truth

that "every child can learn," *and here we are!* standing at the ceremony surrounded by all the Suzuki families and faculty who came from many parts of America and the seven foreign countries of Canada, England, Switzerland, Brazil, Columbia Barbados and Indonesia. Additionally, there were teachers and college students in pursuit of further teacher training.

I couldn't help feeling that for this year's Institute, it was not about the number of students, but about the intensity of devotion for Dr. Suzuki's dream, and that is why people keep coming here and that is what makes it such a thrill, even after four decades! As I listened to the play-in, I felt a twinge of sorrow for all those families of my students who could not be a part this year, many of whom reside within blocks of this awesome event. Though the Institute is organized by the same familiar ASC staff, directed by Pat D'Ercole, and the ASC faculty are among its teachers, the majority of the faculty and Suzuki families come from out of the area. That influx of visitors is, of course, what helps transform this familiar place with a magical touch in the ASI student experience, especially for us who live here.

The ASI has always been scheduled over the warmest time of the year in Wisconsin, and this year we were blessed with unusually fine weather almost every day. So students and parents were eager to find shady spots outside for practice between classes, lectures and recitals, and found many opportunities to wander to the ASI music store and the three different instrument shops. As they walked to classes and lectures, many made new friendships, even those not sharing the same classes. And for us "locals", it was a special time for us to have the instrument stores for checking on new instruments and accessories or bow rehairing or minor instrument repairs. And the store presented a chance to check on practice games, award gifts and sheet music, right here in the Fine Arts Building.

As an institute teacher, one of my favorite moments is exchanging conversation with parents about their own experiences with their children living and growing in the Suzuki philosophy. I am convinced that there is not another place like the Suzuki Institute where parents can go to share both their joys and their hardships with others in the midst of high activity. When students are energized in the mix of fun and hard work, parents also are refreshed to find new ways to connect and support them in their goals. Nothing more can make children feel so proud and hopeful.

Speaking of activities, this year ASI had some new offerings that were quite special. At the top of everyone's list were the master classes for advanced violin and cello students by UW-Madison violin Professor and first violinist of Pro Arte String Quartet, David Perry, and Fort Worth Symphony principal cellist, Karen Basrak. They are both ASI alumni and incredible musicians! Also new this year were the daily enrichment classes that included instruction on dance, fiddle music and rhythm training. Their purpose was for children to

A Parent's Reflection on the American Suzuki Institute

By Sarah Mahon

exercise and to develop musical ability without instruments. During those sessions, parents were free to participate in the lectures without their students. Another innovation that I know I will not forget was the daily morning fresh coffee and pastries! This was greatly appreciated by the ASI adults. It is true that the little things can make a big difference and help set the mood for the day. Lastly, we cannot forget the ASI photographers who followed students all over the place to catch their actions and then by projecting them throughout the day on the huge screen hanging in the courtyard turned them into stars for all of us to enjoy.

The regular features of the Institute also produced wonderful highlights:

- The daily 4:00 solo recitals at Michelsen Hall. These performances continued to inspire the audiences with a high degree of musical ability in students of all levels, from the beginners to the advanced students.
- The guest artist performances on Monday nights. David Perry's delicate and skillful performance was stunning. Ms. Basrak performed on the second Monday night and her beautiful and gentle musical tone inspired cello students and everyone else too.
- The Faculty recital on Tuesday night. This is actually one of the most popular events among students. We hear them say, "I just love to see my own institute teacher play. That is so cool and inspiring to us!"
- The talent show on Wednesday. Always fun and relaxing. This year many faculty joined in the skits. The "Suzuki T-Shirt Fashion Show" and "Suzuki White" were hits.
- Chamber music and orchestra concerts. The most awaited events for the chamber music students to celebrate themselves at this moment after their two weeks of hard work! The most advanced group playing the Mendelssohn Piano Trio was so stunning they made the audience jump for excitement! There is nothing like coaching a string quartet for me. This teamwork develops wonderful friendships that they never forget. My own sons still keep in touch with ASI chamber music friends even now after twelve or more years and their conversation revolves around the memories of ASI!

As ASI closed with the Friday festival concerts, a final Hip! Hip! Hooray! expressed our gratitude and strong feelings of united purpose. There were many promises to return, though the senior students were very emotional about knowing this will be their last ASI after coming for so many years. All in all, so many good things happened during this time. It was a very successful happy Institute indeed.



We have a routine every year: After counting down to the start of Institute all summer, the first day of the first week is upon us. As soon as the Suzuki Store is open that day, the girls all grab their wallets with their allowance money and we swiftly walk the four blocks to NFAC 2nd floor. After pouring over all of the books and practice aids, each girl picks out her "must-have" items for this year. The excitement builds as the evening play-in draws closer. Since we have three girls and two parents, we usually do the violin play-in the first week, and the viola and cello play-ins the second week. Finally seven o'clock arrives, and we all walk over to the violin play-in. The excitement in the air is palpable as Professor Pat calls the start of the play-in, welcoming participants and congratulating the award-winning Suzuki teacher of the year. All around us, mini-reunions take place, as teachers and students who only see each other once a year at this Institute greet each other with broad smiles and hugs.

By the time Sunday of the second week of Institute is upon us, we are all nearly jumping out of our skin with excitement, anticipating the moment registration opens and we can get our name tags showing which teachers each girl will have. I go home and make up our color-coded calendar for the week, showing where each girl will be throughout the day and figuring out which parent will accompany which girl in which lesson. With ten lessons a day between three girls and two parents, this is quite a full calendar! Besides the lessons, we all look over the schedules of lectures and concerts and decide which ones we absolutely would not miss.

All of this is a lot of work. It requires major sacrifices of energy, work vacation time, and money. But it is entirely worth it. When I describe this schedule and all the events involved to non-Suzuki friends, I often get a look of surprise or questions that seem to indicate that we must really be pushing our children to "force" them to endure this rigorous schedule for a week. If you talk to our girls, however, you get an entirely different perspective. They look forward to the fun activities (including lessons), reuniting with friends and making new friends who enjoy a lot of the same things they do, and the time that we all can spend together as a family. Though I particularly appreciate the talented staff who come to teach at Institute from all over this country and others, the excellent concerts and lectures, and the progress that we see in the girls' playing—not only over the week of Institute but in the months that follow—I am not sure that the girls even realize how much they are learning, nor is that necessarily *their* top priority!

As anyone who serves as a practice partner for one or more children realizes, the commitment to participate in Suzuki lessons is not one that can or should be taken lightly. The

commitment to raise our children with Suzuki instruction is a daily one. My husband and I are both very independent and very driven people. Still, practicing day in and day out with three children (who are not always eager to practice), can be very wearing. It is easy to lose heart when I see set-backs in my girls' progress in technique or repertoire, or when I am exhausted from a long stressful day at work and still need to sit for several hours with my girls, focusing whatever attention I can muster on intonation, bowing direction, dynamic expression, and "honey, *please slow that piece down, and I promise you, it will be easier to make fewer mistakes.*" We are blessed with three wonderful teachers in Kyoko Fuller, David Becker, and Tim Mutschlecner, and we are so grateful for the opportunities our girls have to learn from them in their lessons each week. Still, if we were unable to attend Institute, we would all miss the encouraging lift and renewed excitement we get each year from that week in August. Our girls grow in their musical skills, and I learn better ways to be their "at-home teacher." More importantly, we are encouraged as a family to keep the "big picture" in mind: that working together, we can accomplish great things. Or as Shinichi Suzuki famously said, "With love, much can be accomplished."

*If you have a reflection you'd like to share about your experience at the ASI, please send it to suzuki@uwsp.edu.



NEW Scholarship Opportunity From the American Suzuki Foundation

By Karen Harms, President

The American Suzuki Foundation will participate in Younker's fall "Community Day" event. The purpose of this is twofold: to bring the ASC Suzuki program to the attention of the community by showcasing our students and to bring in funds for scholarships. Unlike the other scholarship awards offered to Suzuki students that are needs-based and merit scholarships, the funds generated by the "Community Day" event will be based on **participation**.

The Community Day booklets may be sold at any time by students or their families, or they are invited to come and sell at the Younkers store in Plover during the specific dates and times listed below. You may participate as individuals or as families. If the winner is a family, they will share the prize. The following scholarships will be awarded:

- 1) One **\$100 scholarship plus \$25 cash prize** will be given to the individual/family that sells the most Community Day coupon books.
- 2) A drawing will be held for the following prizes:
1st Prize: One \$100 scholarship plus \$25 cash prize
2nd Prize: One \$50 Scholarship plus \$15 cash prize
3rd Prize: One \$25 Scholarship plus \$5 cash prize

You earn tickets for the drawing as follows:

- One ticket will be earned for each Community Day booklet bought or sold (you may buy coupon books from us and sell them to your friends).
- Three tickets will be earned for each hour each Suzuki student participates by playing/singing at Younkers (on the days/times listed below). Parents and siblings are invited to sell booklets at Younkers during these selling times as well.

The Community Day coupon books sell for \$5 and contain a \$10 off coupon (which can be used for any item costing \$10 or more), as well as many % off coupons. This is really a great deal, because for the price of a \$5 booklet you can get a \$10 item! The booklets can be purchased at the ASC office. When you purchase a coupon book, you will receive one ticket (for each booklet purchased). The tickets are "double tickets" -- keep one half and put the other half into the box for the drawing. (If you put your name & phone number on it, it will insure that you get your prize even if you misplace your half of the ticket.)

The American Suzuki Foundation will sell booklets at Younkers on the following dates and times:

Wed.	Oct. 6, 2010	2 - 6 pm
Sat.	Oct. 9, 2010	10 am - 2 pm
Sat.	Oct. 23, 2010	12 - 4 pm
Sun.	Oct. 24, 2010	12 - 4 pm
Sat.	Oct. 30, 2010	2 - 6 pm
Sat.	Nov. 6, 2010	12 - 6 pm
Wed.	Nov. 10, 2010	10 am- 6pm

Sign up for your playing/singing time in the ASC waiting room.

The American Suzuki Foundation has provided financial support to the Aber Suzuki Center since 1974.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!
Music of the Masters Dinner
Saturday, November 13

By Karen Harms, President

The American Suzuki Foundation would like to invite you to join us for a unique and enjoyable evening at our annual “**Music of the Masters**” event on November 13, 2010, at 6 PM in the UWSP University Center Alumni Room. Our host and featured musician for the evening will be **Frederic Chopin**.

Guests will enjoy hors d' oeuvres, cocktails (cash bar), and dinner, while being entertained by ASC's pianists and strolling strings. Dinner will be followed by a concert featuring the ASC students.



Raffle tickets for a stunning 14K white gold and blue sapphire necklace (valued at \$1,700.) designed by internationally famous jewelry designer Thomas Dailing will be available, and throughout the evening, you will be invited to bid on silent auction items such as a mountain bike, theater tickets, fine art or a family portrait.

Tickets for the “Music of the Masters” are \$35.00 and can be purchased from the Aber Suzuki Center office, from your ASC teacher, or from the UWSP Box Office. Tickets purchased by mail from the brochure can be picked up at the door. Raffle tickets may be purchased in advance and are \$5 each or 3/\$10. They can be purchased from any Foundation Board member, at the Aber Suzuki Center office, or from your ASC teacher. All proceeds from the event fund the needs-based scholarships awarded by the American Suzuki Foundation to our Aber Suzuki Center families. Gather your friends and relatives who admire your children's abilities and join us for a wonderful evening in support of Suzuki children!



A New Feature in the Ambassador This Year!

A new column is coming to the Ambassador next month and we need your input to make it work! We are going to feature an interview with ASC alumni. Some of them will be professional musicians; some will be in professions other than music. So as the parents and students currently in our program, what would you like to know about the place of music in the

alumni's lives now or back then as a student? What questions would you like to ask them about lessons or practice or life benefits? Put “Alumni Questions” in the email subject and send them to suzuki@uwsp.edu.



We Have Openings in
Cello, Piano, Voice and Violin

Once a teacher's studio is full, about the only way openings become available is when students graduate or a family moves out of town. For every high school senior that graduates, a teacher can take two or three beginners and only if younger students are not increasing their lesson time. We had a very large graduating class this past May, therefore we still have openings in cello, piano, voice and violin.

The Aber Suzuki Center has a very low drop-out rate. The reason for that is how the method is applied by the teacher. All ASC teachers have taken multiple units of Suzuki training that is recognized by the Suzuki Association of the Americas. And because of that training and their years of teaching experience they know how to implement the principles of the Suzuki method so that it works for each family. In fact, if just the years of teaching at ASC are added together, the average number of years of experience among them is 17! In addition, they all have advanced degrees in music and music education.

We know that you are our best advertisement. If you know of anyone who is interested in beginning Suzuki lessons, or if you know of someone studying through the public school music program that would benefit from private lessons, please pass the word that we have openings. THIS is the year to enroll!



Suzuki Principles in Action

On September 9-10 the SAA course titled "Suzuki Principles in Action" was offered at UWSP. Patricia D'Ercole and Nancy Lokken presented the course, which offers experienced teachers an opportunity to reflect on their own teaching from a fresh perspective. Attendees were from several different states and included our own Mary Hofer, Tim Mutschlechner, Ann Marie Novak and Tom Yang.



You Spoke and We Listened: Parents' Bulletin Board is Ready

Last March at the parents focus group meeting it was suggested that we have a section of the large bulletin board at the west end of the hallway devoted to postings by and for parents. It is empty and ready to be filled by you. "Instrument wanted" and "for sale" signs are permissible, however please note that the Aber Suzuki Center, the ASC faculty and staff or UWSP bear no responsibility for the quality of the instrument or the completion of the transaction.



Composer of the Month George Gershwin

George Gershwin was born on Sept. 26 in Brooklyn, New York. His early piano studies were with neighborhood teachers in Manhattan. His first work in the field of music was as a "song plugger" for Jerome Remick. This type of work consisted of playing and/or singing recently published songs and pieces to encourage people to purchase them and/or use them commercially. At the same time, George was working on composing his own material, and shortly after he left Remick's employ, he had his first song published (1916). He spent some time under contract as a songwriter, and he worked on Broadway as a rehearsal pianist.

George Gershwin's first musical, "La La Lucille" was produced in 1919...it ran a total of 104 performances (not a bad

start on Broadway)! He also branched out into concert music. In his "Rhapsody in Blue" (1924), Gershwin managed to meld jazz and classical styles in a masterful and very successful manner. This piece remains a favorite of concertgoers to this day.

George continued to compose and perform music for the concert hall, Broadway shows and also for film throughout his lifetime. He also collaborated successfully with his brother, Ira Gershwin (a well-known lyricist) for many years beginning with "Lady, Be Good" (the show which launched the long and wonderful career of the dancer and showman, Fred Astaire). George Gershwin's works have been performed and recorded by the best in the business, and his harmonic progressions have served as the bases for other, newer jazz improvisations.

Source:

Randel, D. M. 1996. "The Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music". Cambridge and London: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.



CWSO Concert October 9 and 10

Calling all **pianists!** And all other instrumentalists in the ASC, too. You won't want to miss the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra concert on Oct. 9 & 10. The concert will feature Cleveland Piano Competition 2nd prize winner, Dimitri Levkovich who will play Franz Liszt's *Totentanz* (translated Dance of Death). It is based on the Gregorian plainchant melody *Dies Irae* and you are certain to be wowed by the daring stylistic innovations. This concert is sure to get you in the mood for Halloween. Other selections on the program include Saint-Saens' *Danse Macabre*, and the *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz. Also, you can support our ASC musicians who will be providing the lobby intermission music for this concert. This is the only concert this season in which we will assist. The remainder of the intermission programs will feature other music programs.



HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

ASC needs help in identifying presidents of the PTA/PTOs of the area Elementary Schools. We'd like to give a short presentation about the Suzuki philosophy for each. If you can help us to identify contacts for each of the schools, we'd appreciate it. Please email suzuki@uwsp.edu or stop by the office. Thanks!



Student News

Natalie Galster competed at the State Solo & Ensemble on Saturday, April 24th at UW-Oshkosh. For piano, she got a 2nd, and for cello she got a 1st.

Natalie Galster played the piano during the Waushara County Chamber of Commerce Business After 5:00 party on May 13th.

The following ASC violin students played for the Parade of Gardens on July 16, 2010: **Will Mitchell, Marco Kurzynski, Lucas Chan, Cal Irons, Frederick, Antony and Tatiana Van Tiem, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, Craig and Tom Felt, and Rachel Ley.**



Many thanks to all of the violinists who played at the Portage County Cultural Festival in May: **Brynn and Gwynn Beversdorf, Roshini and Dinesh Traynor, Antony, Frederic and Tatiana Van Tiem, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, Eleanor Mutschlechner, Zsanna Bodor, and Christina Marchel.**



And thank you to the following students for their performance at the Stevens Point Sculpture Park Grand Opening on Saturday, June 12th: **Elisabeth and Lilly Mahon, Roshini and Dinesh Traynor, Olivia Yang, Zsanna and Koppány Bodor, Sarah Harmon and Kate Young.**



Faculty News

ACS faculty **Mary Hofer** and **Tim Mutschlecner** collaborated with UWSP Voice Professor Susan Bender in a performance of Bach's *Cantata No. 84* on September 20th.

Mary Hofer had her article published in the recent issue of the American Suzuki Journal. Mary's article dealt with the history of Suzuki Voice. Congratulations!!



May 2010 Graduations

Sarah Taylor, Violin Twinkles
Barrett Severson, Violin Twinkles
Gwynn Beversdorf, Violin Twinkles
Linnea Turner, Violin Book 2
Emma Dorshorst, Violin Twinkles
Alan Kiepert, Violin Book 5
Tim Hofer, Cello Twinkles
Lilly Mahon, Viola Book 1
Hope Mahon, Violin Book 4
Havilah Vang, Violin Book 4
Sarah Harmon, Violin Book 7
Ben Karbowski, Violin Book 10
Joshua Dudas, Piano Twinkles
Maria Vitt, Piano Twinkles
Kobe Carlson, Piano Book 1
Lydia Ensminger, Piano Book 1
Trent Miller, Piano Book 1
Vivian Norman, Piano Book 1
Aubrey Borchardt, Piano Book 1
Ashley Hoerter, Piano Book 1



September 2010 Graduations

Ada Sell, Violin Book 1
William Rosenthal, Piano Book 2
Roshini Traynor, Viola Book 6
Laura Josephson, Violin Book 8
Zsanna Bodor, Violin Book 3
Marco Kurzynski, Piano Book 3
Natalie Van Tiem, Cello Book 7
Antony Van Tiem, Violin Book 8

