



# Fireside Chat

50 Years with Us!

**ASI JULIBEE | July 24, 2021**



American Suzuki Institute  
College of Fine Arts & Communication  
**University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point**



# Kay Collier McLaughlin, Violin

ASI 1974, 1977-88

## Moderator of Fireside Chats

**Kay Collier McLaughlin - Slone** at the time - was a young mother teaching an experiential pre- school music class and working as music reviewer for The Lexington Leader when she accepted the invitation of Dr Marvin Rabin, her high school youth orchestra director to bring her 4 and 6 year old daughters to be in a demonstration class with Dr Shinichi SuZuki at the U of Wisconsin Madison, where she also met Margery Aber, whose students from Steven's Point were also performing for the famed pedagogue. That week was a life changer for Collier Slone, who started the Lexington Talent Education Association , and from its inception, assisted Aber in the design and format of American SuZuki Institute traditions such as parent education and teen dorm. Her 1A classes here and across the country introduced many of today's teachers to The world of beginning SuZuki violin, and her classic They're Rarely Too Young and Never Too Old to Twinkle is now in its third printing. Dr. Collier McLaughlin utilizes her studies in psychology and human relations to offer leadership training and many other resources for SuZuki teachers, and is presently an honorary member of the SAA Board.



# Paul Landefeld, Violin

ASI 1975-82, 1985-86, 1988-89

## Executive Director Emeritus of the Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas Director

**Paul Landefeld** is Executive Director Emeritus of the Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas. He holds degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and Duquesne University. In 1981 Mr. Landefeld received a Certificate of Study and Observation from the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto, Japan, where he studied violin with Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. Mr. Landefeld performed with colleagues at the memorial service for Dr. Suzuki in March 1998 at the Civic Center in Matsumoto, Japan. He has participated as speaker and/or clinician at music educators' conventions and Suzuki conferences, workshops and institutes



throughout the USA as well as Germany, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Korea and the Philippines.

Mr. Landefeld taught in the Pittsburgh area for 20 years and became the Executive Director of Talent Education of Greater Pittsburgh. He later served as Director of the American Suzuki Talent Education Center (ASTEC), now named Aber Suzuki Center, and the American Suzuki Institute (ASI), at UW-Stevens Point. He served as Director of the Texas Christian University Suzuki Institute in Fort Worth.

Mr. Landefeld is an Honorary Life Member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA), as well as a Past President/ Board Chair (1986-1988), and is an SAA Teacher Trainer Emeritus. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the SAA for Vision, Leadership and Outstanding Service. From 2002-2011 and from 2016-2017 Mr. Landefeld served as CEO of the International Suzuki Association (ISA). From 2011-2016 he served the ISA as an At-Large Member of the Board of Directors. During his tenure as ISA Board Member and ISA-CEO, he assisted in the reorganization of the ISA's Asia region which led to the development and legal incorporation of the Asia Region Suzuki Association (ARSA).

## Jennifer Burton, Violin

ASI 1981-2000, 2002-20

### Creator of Fireside Chats

**Jennifer Burton** retired in 2020 from the Aber Suzuki Center and as Coordinator of the American Suzuki Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Her 43-years of teaching also included 13 years at the Suzuki Institute of Dallas, where she served as Assistant to the Director. She received her Master Degree in Music Education with Suzuki Emphasis from UW-Stevens Point in 1976, where she studied with Margery Aber. She also did short-term studies with John Kendall, Paul Landefeld and Alice Joy Lewis.



Jenny has been a violin clinician at over 250 workshops and institutes across the U.S. She served 3-year term on the board of the Suzuki Association of the Americas from 1996-1999 and was the Editor of the State, Provincial and Local Association Committee of the SAA for four years. Jenny has written numerous articles for the American Suzuki Journal. She was President of the North Texas Suzuki Association and Suzuki Association of Wisconsin. Ms. Burton performed at Dr. Suzuki's graveside at his funeral in Matsumoto, Japan, in 1998. She was awarded the Outstanding Violin Teacher Award at the Colorado Suzuki Institute in 2001, received the Distinguished Service Award by the NTSA in 2005 and was given the Sensei Leadership Award from the SAW in 2014. Her book, *Sharpen Your Tools: A practice companion for Suzuki parents and teachers*, is in its fourth printing.

# Marilyn Kesler, Cello

ASI 1971-91

**Marilyn Kesler**, retired after forty-two years as a teacher in the Okemos, Michigan Public Schools teaching 7th and 8th Grade strings and three high school orchestras. She continues to be the director of the Okemos Community Education Suzuki Program where she also teaches Suzuki cello lessons.

Ms Kesler began her teaching career as a general music teacher in Alton, Illinois; while there, she earned a master's degree in music education at Southern Illinois University where she specialized in the adaptation of the Suzuki Violin Method for the cello with then professor, John Kendall. Her undergraduate degree in Music Education was from Indiana University where she studied cello with Janos Starker and Leopold Teraspulsy.



Marilyn was the first cello teacher at the then called, Stevens Point Suzuki Summer Institute. She was ever so thankful for this opportunity, as the Suzuki Cello method and music was developed at the Stevens Point Institute. She continued to teach at the institute for twenty-five years.

She has been the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Suzuki Association of the Americas, a member of the Teacher Development Advisory Committee and a Suzuki Cello Teacher Trainer. Past offices include President of Michigan Chapter of the American String Teachers Association, Secretary of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, Chairman of the SAA Cello Committee, the SAA Public School Committee, and Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Vice-President of Orchestra Activities.

This summer is her 44th year as director of the Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp. She is often asked to be a guest conductor across the country for festivals and institutes and an adjudicator for the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

In 1990, she was the first recipient of the ASTA National School Educator Award which is presented to the outstanding public school music teacher in the US. In 1998, she received the "Distinguished Service Award" from SAA. Other honors include, MSBOA, MASTA, and Indiana University Alumni "Teacher of the Year".

She has continued to teach Suzuki cello lessons by skype while the Covid Pandemic has stopped all personal contacts and the schools are not accepting in school classes. She hopes all will return to normal in September.

## Diane Slone, Violin and Viola

ASI 1983-87, 1989

One of the first students to begin lessons with Dr. Suzuki in the U.S., **Diane Slone** has been active in Suzuki Talent Education for most of her life as a student, teacher, administrator, and (now) parent. An avid performer and student, in addition to Dr. Suzuki Diane's teachers and mentors include Myron Kartman, Roger Shermont and Peter McHugh. She has held seats in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, Madison Symphony, Matsumoto Philharmonic, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, and Cleveland Chamber Symphony. Diane has served as a presenter at SAA National Conferences and Leadership Retreats, as guest faculty at Conferences, institutes and workshops throughout the US, Europe and Asia, including the 2013 Suzuki World Convention in Matsumoto, Japan and the 2016 (Bali, Indonesia) and 2018 (Manila, Philippines) Asia Region Suzuki Suzuki Conferences. Co-founder of the East Cleveland Rainbow Suzuki Strings, one of Diane's passions is bringing Dr. Suzuki's philosophy and method to underserved populations. During her tenure on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music, Diane founded, directed and served on the faculty of the Blue Hills Suzuki Project and Strings at West, and taught students in the school's TIP program; bringing the joy of music instruction and Suzuki philosophy to underserved populations was the focus of each of these programs. During her time at Hartt, Diane also served as Chair of the String Department for the Community Division and Director of the David Einfeldt Chamber Music Seminar. Since 2015, Diane has been Music Director of KinderU Suzuki Music Academy in Hong Kong. MM and Doctoral studies, Northwestern University; Graduate, International Conservatory of Talent Education, Matsumoto, Japan; other Suzuki training includes long-term training with Cathy McGlasson and Yuko Mori, as well as short-term training with Margery Aber, Louise Behrend, Anastasia Jempelis, William Starr, and many others.



## Sanford Reuning, Violin

ASI 1971-75

**Sandy Reuning** served as the director of Ithaca Talent Education and an adjunct professor at the School of Music, Ithaca College. He was the coordinator of the master's program in Suzuki pedagogy and director of the Suzuki institute. Sandy is a past president and board member of SAA and currently serves on the violin committee. Sandy and Joan's association

with the Suzuki movement began in 1964 after hearing the Japanese Tour Group in Philadelphia, and their students were used for demonstration by Dr. Suzuki at workshops at the Eastman School of Music and Syracuse University between 1966 and 1969. In 1974 they went to Japan and studied with Suzuki, and Sandy has made numerous return trips. Sandy was on the faculty for the 1978 International Suzuki Conference in San Francisco and the 1999 conference in Matsumoto. He was director of the Friendship Concerts of 100 Japanese and 100 American students in 1987 and chairman of the 1981 International Conference in Amherst, MA. Sandy has taught at workshops and institutes in more than 23 states and six foreign countries, and his ITE Violin Ensemble has toured to Israel, Japan, Czech Republic/Italy, Denmark, and Mexico. They also performed at the 1996 SAA conference.



## Bill Preucil, Viola

ASI 1978-82, 1984-88, 90, 92

**William Preucil, Sr.**, violist, has performed in thirty-five countries on six continents. He received Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and the Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, was principal violist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and a founding member of the Stradivari Quartet. He is Emeritus Professor at The University of Iowa, where he was given its annual M.L. Huit Award for Teaching Excellence in 1992.

Mr. Preucil is the recording artist for the method books of the Suzuki Viola School and has served the Suzuki Association of the Americas as Chair of the Board of Directors and also the International Suzuki Association as its Vice President. As a registered Teacher Trainer with the SAA, he has taught master classes and workshops in South America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and throughout North America. He is a longtime member of the American String Teachers Association who presented him with its Artist Teacher Award of 2009, and also of the American Viola Society where he served as Vice President and received their award for Creative Achievement in 2008.

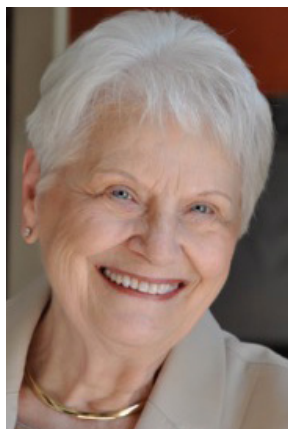




## Doris Preucil, Violin

ASI 1973-86, 88, 90, 92

**Doris Preucil** is the Founding Director Emerita at the Preucil School of Music, a Suzuki school with over 700 students, established in 1975 in Iowa City, Iowa. An honors graduate of the Eastman School of Music, she was a violinist with the National Symphony Orchestra and the Rochester Philharmonic. She taught at Western Illinois University, the University of Northern Iowa, and Interlochen Arts Camp, and has presented workshops in North and South America, Europe, Australia, Japan and Korea. A Suzuki teacher since 1963, she was a founding Board Member of the International Suzuki Association, and served as President of the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) from 1982-84. She was chosen by Dr. Suzuki to author the 9 volumes comprising the Suzuki Viola School, and has published other works for violin, viola, and cello. She and her husband, Bill, were honored with the Suzuki Chair Award at the American Suzuki Institute in 1986. Mrs. Preucil has received awards from Associated Chamber Music Players, the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, the Suzuki Association of the Americas, the Iowa String Teachers Association, and the American String Teachers Association. She was named to the Hall of Fame at Washington High School, Milwaukee, in 2018. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 from the Eastman School, and recently was honored by the American Viola Society with a Career Achievement Award.



## Carrie Reuning-Hummel, Violin

ASI 1979-82, 84-85, 87, 89

**Carrie Reuning-Hummel** began the study of the violin at the age of five with her parents, Joan and Sanford Reuning in Ithaca, New York. She was one of the first Suzuki students in the U.S. and studied with Shinichi Suzuki on numerous occasions.

Carrie is the director of the Ithaca Talent Education Suzuki music school, and heads the long-term MM graduate program at Ithaca College in Suzuki Pedagogy and Performance (violin and viola). She is a registered Suzuki Teacher Trainer. Carrie has taught at hundreds of institutes and workshops throughout the continental U.S. as well as in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and Israel. In 1986 she was honored to receive the Shar Distinguished Young Teacher Award. Carrie served on the national Board of





Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas for six years.

Carrie received a BA in Psychology from the University of Iowa and is a professional violist and an active performer. She recently completed a Master's of Science degree in Communications at Ithaca College, writing a thesis on powerful learning experiences. Carrie home-schooled her two children and is interested in exploring parent/child practice partnerships with families. She has written a book called "Time to Practice: A Companion for Parents."

## Jean Dexter, Cello

ASI 1972-2017

**Jean Dexter**, cellist (BM - Michigan State; MME - Southern Illinois-Edwardsville specializing in the Suzuki Approach with John Kendall). Jean joined the SAA in 1972 at it's founding; and is a cello and violin Registered Teacher Trainer with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. She has twice served on the SAA Board of Directors, most recently as Secretary, and has served on SAA committees to develop systematic teacher training courses. Jean received in 1995 the first Missouri ASTA Studio Teacher Award, and the Suzuki Chair Award at the American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Jean is a founding member (1979) and continues to be active in the Heart of America Suzuki Association (an affiliate chapter of the SAA). She has served in all offices including the past 30 years as Treasurer. Jean maintains a private Suzuki studio of Cello and Violin students in Olathe, Kansas.



## Mark Bjork, Violin

ASI 1972-2004, 2006-14

**Mr. Bjork** is an SAA-registered Teacher Trainer and is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of Suzuki Talent Education. A retired professor of violin and pedagogy at the University of Minnesota School of Music, he is a graduate of Indiana University where he studied violin under the renowned pedagogue Josef Gingold. A past president of the SAA, Mr. Bjork is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of Suzuki Talent Education. In 1967 he started one of the first Suzuki programs in the United States at the MacPhail Center For Music in Minneapolis. Workshops, master classes and clinics, often related to Suzuki Talent Education, have taken



him throughout the world. His former students include orchestral musicians, chamber music performers, teachers, and many happy amateurs. Bjork is the author of *Expanding Horizons: The Suzuki Trained Violinist Grows Up*.

## Stan Smith, Violin

ASI 1977-2010

**Stan Smith** was the founder and director of a Suzuki program in Aurora Illinois for 40 years. All four of his children were raised as Suzuki students and continued in their adult life playing and teaching violin. Stan has a Bachelor of Music from Lawrence University in Wisconsin and a Master of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He previously taught in the public schools of Wisconsin and Illinois for 20 years and was a clinician at workshops and institutes throughout the United States. He was presented with the Suzuki Chair Award at the American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point Wisconsin in August 2000 and received a Leadership in the Suzuki Community Award at the SAA conference in Minneapolis in 2006. He also was presented with a Champion of the Arts by the Fox Valley Orchestra in Aurora Illinois in 2014. In 2009 he retired from teaching in Illinois and moved to Knoxville Tennessee where he was a volunteer teacher at the Joy of Music School for 9 years.



## Dorothy Jones, Piano, Early Childhood

ASI 1976-84, 1989

**Dorothy Jones** is a world-renowned Suzuki specialist in Early Childhood Education. Asked to do so by Dr. Suzuki in 1985, she founded and directed for 12 years, a Suzuki School in London Ontario Canada. In 1993, the International Suzuki Association (ISA) approved the program in Early Childhood Education that she had developed and designated her school, as a world Teacher Training Centre for Suzuki Early Childhood Education.

She is a Past President of the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) and was for 10 years a board member of the ISA. She was also a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of Ontario (SAO) and served as President of that organization. She has also been a Suzuki parent, Suzuki Piano Teacher Trainer and keynote speaker at conferences in the ESA, PPSA, SAA and workshops around the world for the past 44 years. Her consultations have assisted individuals and schools in Canada, USA, Latin America, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Great Britain, Singapore, Japan, Iceland, Denmark, and Korea.



## Linda Perry, Collaborative Pianist

ASI 1977-2009, 2012-2016

**Linda Perry** served as accompanist for ASI from 1977-2016 and for numerous national SAA conferences. She recorded the Revised Edition of Violin Books 1-8 with William Preucil and was active in revising the piano accompaniments. Dr. Perry retired from her position as Director of Keyboard Studies and Collaborative Piano at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2012. In 2017, after her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, they moved to a vibrant senior living community in Glen Carbon, Illinois. Of course, she took her Steinway along, and Harvey (oboist) donated his Kawai grand piano to the community room so that they could bring regular musical programs to the residents. Music remains a central part of their lives that they share with others.



## Lorraine Landefeld, Piano

ASI 1975-86, 1988

**Lorraine Landefeld** holds Bachelor and Master degrees from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Ms. Landefeld won numerous awards and scholarships and appeared as soloist with the Butler Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony and the Pittsburgh Symphony. She appeared as soloist on radio stations WNYC in New York City and KDKA in Pittsburgh and was winner of the Pittsburgh Concert Society Junior and Young Artist Divisions.

Ms. Landefeld's students have won prizes in national and international competitions and have graduated with music degrees from prominent universities. In 1981, she completed 15 months of study with Dr. Suzuki and Dr. Kataoka and earned a certificate of Study and Observation from the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto, Japan. She introduced the Suzuki Piano method in Manila, Philippines.



After returning to the US, she taught at the American Suzuki Talent Education Center and the American Suzuki Institute at Stevens Point. At UWSP, Ms. Landefeld taught pedagogy courses in the Suzuki method at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She was co-founder of the Suzuki Development Center of Pittsburgh and the Talent Education of Greater Pittsburgh. Ms. Landefeld became a registered Suzuki Piano teacher trainer through the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA), and served the SAA as Piano Column editor of the American Suzuki Journal and Chair of the Piano Committee. In retirement, she holds the prestigious title of Teacher Trainer Emeritus on a long list of wonderful pioneers who paved the way for the future teachers of the Suzuki method. In 1986, she moved to the greater Dallas area and co-directed and taught at the Suzuki Institute of Dallas. She retired in 2005 from that position and continues to teach privately.

