

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 2004

From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

A Holiday Riddle

(reprinted from the December, 1986 Ambassador)

What can you give away and still keep? What gets better and better the more you use it? What can you use every day, yet never use it up? How can you express yourself so that you can be understood in any language without translation? If you know the answer to these questions, then you know something very special that you can give to someone you love.

Have you figured it out yet? Okay. Get started. Polish it up until it shines as brightly as the Christmas Star. Then plan a quiet time with your special friend and give your gift.

What? You gave it away, and you still got to keep it?! You gave it away again and it's shining even brighter?! Have you figured out the answer to the riddle yet? Here's another hint. If your special friend (maybe Grandma) lives far away, you can give this gift on the phone, by email or on a CD. I bet you have it figured out now! Have fun and share your talents during this holiday season.



Back on the Skates Again!

By Mary Hofer

Well the summer has passed and it is time to get back to skating. Some of you may remember that I was learning to skate last year and made some analogies between learning to skate and learning music. I ended last spring skating at about a Tot 2 level. I did not practice over the summer and here we are ready to start again.

My son and daughter are happy to go skating this year. They do not need any motivation to get out there, and since I did not practice over the summer, I do not want to fall; I do not want to start all over again to get back to where I ended last spring. So, instead of skating this year, I will walk. It's

easier, I can think about other things as I'm walking. The kids do not need me to inspire or motivate them. Yes! Walking it will be.

This is great! I am walking, the kids are skating, I am thinking of all the things I have to do when we go home, problem solving and organizing. Life is good.

Suddenly I hear my daughters voice, "Mom did you see my spin?" I answer "no, but I will watch now ... good job" I clap and continue to watch as I walk. Soon I find my mind wandering and again and I hear, "Mom did you see me do the waltz jump?" "No, sorry honey, I will watch this time."

Now I notice my 5 year old is skating very fast around the rink. I wonder, has he practiced how to stop. I call to him "Tim, show mom how to stop". He answers back something and flies away. Why is it kids always want to do the fast things, but they don't want to practice the necessary steps to become better? That is another article! Now, it's later, I call "Tim, can you show mom how good you can do your stops"? His answer "after while", and he's gone. But he's having fun, and he's in the right place.

The light goes on!!! How does this relate to Suzuki lessons? First of all, I did not want to get back on those skates because I hadn't practiced all summer. Not only had I not progressed, but also I knew it was going to be a lot of work to review and feel comfortable before I could start advancing. I believe, had I practiced over the summer, it would not have been so easy to want to quit this fall.

My daughter is extremely self motivated when it comes to piano and skating, (she wasn't always), but now I do not have to watch her. She is very independent and past my skill level. But my taking the time to stop and just be with her while she practices, shows her how important she is, and that I appreciate all her efforts to become better at the various skills she is trying to accomplish.

My 5 year old does not fight when it is time to practice piano or skating. He now understands this is something we do every day just like brushing our teeth. When I say please go to the piano, he does, but suddenly I hear the melody of 'Star Wars' or 'The Lord of the Rings', not his lesson music. He needs me sitting nearby giving him my full attention. In

doing this I am telling him how much I value what it is I want him to learn. It is my job to keep him on track and motivated in the right direction. He also takes great delight in learning to do something better than me (I think this is a guy thing).

So what now? I am back on my skates, because I will then be right next to my daughter as she does her spins and jumps and I will try to pay better attention to her accomplishments. I will be on the ice behind her, but close enough to encourage her and challenge my son to work on the skills he will need to move to the next level. I cannot zone out and think of other things while the kids do their own practice thing. I realize they are only this young once, and I do not want to miss any of their 'first steps'. Whatever the level, I want to enjoy the process of getting there.

I will try to go skating next summer so that the prospect of getting on those skates isn't as depressing when the fall arrives. Starting back up was very frustrating. In my mind I knew what to do, but my muscles took several practices to get back on board.

Suzuki lessons take a lot of work, determination, time, and effort, but when you see the student's pride and sense of achievement as they pass each level, you know it is well worth it.



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

Some of you may remember Nokuthula Ngwenyama (Thula) an exciting young violist who appeared on the Performing Arts Series in Michelsen Hall a few years ago. She played a stunning recital and on the following day taught a viola master class. A few days ago, when I was looking for something else, I was thrilled to discover "Travels with Thula" on the American Viola Society Web page. By going to www.americanviolasociety.org you can follow her during an action-packed year as a touring violist. Interestingly she starts by writing about something close to her home in Tempe, Arizona. I won't give away the story but she writes about the largest importer of something you use every time you practice. I'm hooked on "Travels with Thula." Check it out and learn why.



Notes from the Endpin

By Lawrence Leviton

ASTEC and UWSP cello students will be playing together in a cello choir concert this Friday, December 3rd, at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The concert will take place at 7:30 in Michelsen Hall in the Fine Arts Building. The cellists will be joined by vocal students of Mary Hofer who

will also perform as vocal soloist on the program in the beautiful and stirring Pie Jesu from Faure's Requiem.

The program will also include works by Brahms, Dvorak, (arr. by Carrie Gruselle) Michael O'Brien, Rick Mooney and others. It is free and open to the public. Please invite your friends and family. It will be a fun and entertaining concert! ASTEC Cellists will also be playing and providing holiday cheer at the High Rise Manor on December 10th. Please mark you calendars.



88 Keys

By Dee Martz

Have you ever priced pianos? How about ones that are the size of the ones in Michelsen Hall that we use for Suzuki recitals? I was shocked to find out that it will cost about \$88,000 to replace one of the nine foot Steinway Concert Grand Pianos. After almost 35 years of constant use, the time has come to do just that.

The Music Department has launched a fund raising campaign where the goal is to raise \$1,000 for each of the 88 keys on the piano. The names of all the \$1,000 donors will be engraved on a large keyboard placed outside Michelsen Hall. In the very near future, each Suzuki family will receive more information about this project in the mail. The Suzuki program regularly uses the pianos on the Michelsen stage and benefits greatly from having fine instruments available. For this reason I hope that you will give serious consideration to making a donation to the Michelsen Concert Grand Campaign.



Faculty News

Pat D'Ercole attended a meeting of the SAA Teacher Development Committee October 29-November 1 in Columbus, OH. She was also a violin clinician for workshops in Duluth, MN on November 5-6 and in Atlanta, GA November 13-14.

Dee Martz performed the solo quartet viola part in the Vaughn Williams on the CWSO concerts on October 9 and 10. She performed the Mozart trio for viola, clarinet and piano with **Andrea Rosen** and **Lily Chia Brissman** on October 17th at the Wausau Conservatory of Music. November 14th Mrs. Martz played the Mozart Duo in G with violinist **Steve Bjella** in Michelsen Hall.

Dee Martz was the viola and violin clinician at the Creative Arts Suzuki Workshop in Reading, Massachusetts on November 6 and 7.

Student News

Congratulations to **Karl Spaay** on a wonderful senior recital.

Reminder to all **voice students** to save December 3rd date. We will be performing with the cellos on the winter concert.

Kelly Tillotson presented her home Minuet piano recital on November 6th.

Megan Elder presented her home Minuet piano recital on November 7th.

Zara Markman presented her Minuet piano recital on November 12th at the Jensen Center in Amherst.

Isaac Klasinski presented his home Book 1 piano recital on November 21st.

John Stanislawski, former student of Ann Marie Novak and current student at UW-Oshkosh, presented his Junior piano recital informally at Mitchell Piano Works on Saturday, November 13, and formally at UW-Oshkosh on Tuesday, November 16th. The program included works by Haydn, Chopin and Liszt.

Craig and Brian Turner played at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 31st with the St. Paul's Strings group. They played "As the Deer" and "Be Thou My Vision."

Emily Gruselle won the Fox Valley Youth Symphony Concerto Competition and will be performing with the orchestra in March.

Jamie Davis will be playing the first movement of the Elgar Concerto with the Spash Symphony Orchestra on December 21st.



November 2004 Graduates

Wade Dittburner, Violin Book 4
Peter O'Reilly, Cello Book 6
Courtney Lila, Piano Twinkle
Joey Cal, Violin Book 2
Jonathan Cochrane, Violin Book 2



Upcoming Events

Friday, December 3rd, ASTEC-UWSP Cello Choir Concert, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, December 11th, Marathon Saturday

Sunday, December 12th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, UC Alumni Room

January 21-22, Chamber Music Weekend.

Saturday, January 22nd, Chamber Music Weekend Concert, 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, January 29, Marathon Saturday

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

Saturday, February 19th, Marathon Saturday

Sunday, February 20th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, March 12th, Marathon Saturday

Sunday, March 13th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, UC Alumni Room

Saturday, April 9th, Marathon Saturday (piano only)

Sunday, April 10th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, April 23rd, Marathon Saturday (except piano)

Sunday, April 24th, String & Voice Festival Concert, 2:00 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, May 14th, Solo & Ensemble Concert, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, May 14th, CSCO Concert, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Sunday, May 15th, Piano Festival Concert, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall.



Christmas Carols

For those who are interested in learning the most popular Christmas Carols, below are the keys and starting notes.

For Cello, Violin and Viola

| <u>Carol</u> | <u>Key</u> | <u>Starting Note</u> | <u>Cello String & Finger</u> | <u>Violin/Viola String & Finger</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Away in A Manger | G Major | G | D4 | D3 |
| Joy To The World | D Major | D | A4 | A3 |
| Jingle Bells | G Major | "Dashing" D "Chorus" B | Open D A1 | Open D A1 |
| O Come All Ye Faithful | G Major | G | D4 | D3 |
| Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer | G Major | D | Open D | Open D |
| Hark The Herald Angels Sing | G Major | D | Open D | Open D |
| Silent Night | C Major | G | D4 | D3 |
| Deck the Halls | G Major | D | A4 | A3 |
| Angels We Have Heard On High | G Major | B | A1 | A1 |
| The First Noel | D Major | F# | D3 | D2 |
| O Christmas Tree | G Major | D | Open D | Open D |
| We Wish You A Merry Christmas | G Major | D | Open D | Open D |

For Piano

| <u>Carol</u> | <u>Key</u> | <u>Starting Note</u> | <u>Finger</u> |
|------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Jingle Bells | C Major | E | 3 |
| Joy To The World | C Major | C | 5 |
| Away In A Manger | C Major | C | 5 |
| Silent Night | C Major | G | 2 |
| The First Noel | C Major | E | 3 |
| Deck the Halls | C Major | G | 5 |



The next issue of the *AMBASSADOR* will be published February, 2005



Happy Holidays
From All of Us to All of You