

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 2004

From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

At the Spring Festival Concert I had the pleasure of presenting 20 year certificates to Patricia D'Ercole and Kyoko Fuller. Their arrival marked a new beginning in the UWSP Suzuki programs. No doubt I am one of the few people reading the Ambassador that can remember ASTEC prior to their arrival. My husband and I arrived in Stevens Point in 1978 and our children started their adventures in the Suzuki program almost immediately. (What – no waiting list?) Miss Aber had already produced many wonderful violin students, the program had expanded to include piano and was in the early years of offering cello. The faculty consisted of three violin teachers, one piano teacher and a half time cello teacher. Miss Aber was the only teacher with a lot of experience. Although the program was quite strong the quality across the board was not consistent. When Miss Aber retired in 1984 the situation had not changed very much except that the cello program had started to produce some fine students.

Along came Professor Pat and Kyoko Fuller. They both had lots of excellent training, Pat with Miss Aber and Kyoko with Dr. Suzuki and Bill Starr. In addition, they both had already proven themselves to be successful teachers. Most importantly both were and are completely committed to Dr. Suzuki's philosophy and vision.

Since they arrived it is fair to say that things have changed at ASTEC. The program has expanded and has become a place where faculty members want to stay for many years after they are originally hired. Little by little more of the violin students started developing to a higher level. This gradually influenced the other teachers and other students in the ASTEC program. Kyoko and Pat each shared their special gifts and talents to improve ASTEC as a whole. Now I am pleased to note that students on all instruments and in all studios are developing their abilities to a very high level. I have no doubt that this happened because of the subtle change of environment that happened when Kyoko and Pat became

part of ASTEC. With strong commitment and quiet leadership they built on Miss Aber's legacy to help ASTEC develop into one of the premier Suzuki programs in the Americas.

Thank you both for all you do and especially for who you are.



A New Face in the ASTEC Office

By Rachael Peterson

As an arts management major at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, I am required to complete three internships. You may have noticed a new face in the ASTEC office this spring as I am presently in the process of completing my second arts management internship with ASTEC.

Throughout the semester, I have been working on different projects under the direction of Mrs. Martz and Christine Kancler. My primary task was to develop a proposal to define and develop the relationship between ASTEC and area teachers in an attempt to affiliate additional teachers with ASTEC.

Carrying out the task of writing a proposal was an adventure as I surveyed area teachers and attempted to expand off of their input to develop appealing ideas. I attended my first faculty meeting and had the opportunity to speak directly to the ASTEC faculty and present my proposal.

An additional assigned task was the promotion of the 2004 Spring Festival Concert. As a means of community outreach, I contacted local newspapers, Public Access TV and UWSP media. Also, a number of you may have spotted me at my filming debut, behind the scenes videotaping at the festival concert.

To conclude, I'd like to thank Mrs. Martz, Christine Kancler and the remaining ASTEC faculty for their assistance throughout my internship this spring. The constant guidance I received combined with the willingness of the ASTEC staff to share their ideas made this educational experience truly wonderful.



Cello Senior Recitals

By Lawrence Leviton

On May 15th and 16th, David Cecil and Anna Krueger will be giving their senior recitals. A senior recital is an unusual and special event for any student. Having two senior recitals in two days makes this an extra special weekend. David and Anna have been important members of the cello studio for many years. Both have participated in chamber ensembles, the Central State Chamber Orchestra, the Music of the Masters Dinner and many successful solo recitals. Both are leaders in the cello studio and have developed into terrific musicians.

David came to the cello studio from the Stevens Point Public Schools where he began his cello studies in fourth grade with Joyce Wotruba Paulson (Perhaps this is fodder for another article, but David is one of four or five students from the public schools that I have taught in the past few years. What's troubling is that our wonderful public school string program is facing more cuts in the next few years). David exhibited a great deal of ability and skill on the cello when I first met him when he was in middle school. Since then he has been one of the most dedicated students in the cello studio and he has developed into a mature and thoughtful performer. David is an inquisitive young man and always asks probing questions about cello repertoire and cello technique during lessons; this curiosity always results in very mature musical performances.

In the past few days David has given several first-rate performances. This past week he performed the *Vivaldi Concerto for Two Cellos* with Karl McComas Reichl and the SPASH Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Cindy Kiepert. At that concert his peers in the orchestra voted him the top senior. At Solo and Ensemble he played two movements of *Bach's Third Cello Suite* with great style and grace. David has consistently garnered high honors at the state Solo and Ensemble competitions. Most recently, he was given a four-year summer camp music scholarship to attend the University of Wisconsin Madison.

David's senior recital will include an interesting cross-section of music. It will begin with several movements from the *Suite in C Major* for solo cello by J.S. Bach. This piece is one of the cornerstones of the cello repertoire. He will then play the *Silent Woods* by Dvorak and the *Fantasy Pieces* by Schumann. Both are very romantic and expressive pieces, requiring great virtuosity on the part of the performer. David will conclude his concert with the rollicking *Capriccio* by American Composer Lucas Foss. This piece has hints of Copland and sounds of the old west. David Becker will accompany him on the piano.

David's concert will take place on May 15th at 7:30 in Michelsen Hall.

Anna Kruegers's recital will take place on the following day at 4:00 in Michelsen Hall. Anna's recital is a reflection of the unique place that she has occupied in the ASTEC program for many years. She will be playing the cello on the program but will also perform on the piano and violin. Anna has traveled a different path than David in getting to her senior recital. Being home schooled, she didn't come from an organized public school orchestral program. However, Anna comes from a family that places a premium on music and tirelessly supports Anna's myriad musical activities. I have marveled at watching Anna and her brother Peter juggle piano, violin, and viola since they were very young musicians.

Several years ago Anna approached me with the idea of starting the cello and I must admit that I had a few reservations about Anna starting yet another instrument and whether she could be successful spreading herself so thin. Anna has been a marvel; after only a few short years of study she has made an almost meteoric rise to work on very challenging cello repertoire. Her senior recital includes the *Prayer* by Ernest Bloch and the first movement of the *Haydn Cello Concerto in C major*, both very demanding works that require great technique and musical maturity. It is only fitting that Anna's recital also includes pieces where she will play violin and piano. Peter Krueger will accompany her on the piano. She will also be sharing her recital with Sarah Tranel.

It is with great pleasure that I write about these performances. Anna and David both have music in their futures on some level although they might not be majoring in music at the college level. They are both wonderful examples of the benefits that participation in music and the Suzuki program can provide. In addition to being terrific musicians they are well-rounded and engaging people. They will be missed in the cello studio and ASTEC program. Best of luck David and Anna!



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

I am counting the days until June 9th. It is marked in purple on my calendar because that is the first day of the most amazing viola event ever. I am going to attend the XXXIII International Viola Congress. Although the congress has been held all over the world this year it is very conveniently located because it is being hosted by the University of Minnesota.

According to the website (<http://www.americanviolasociety.org/>) "As the world's largest gathering of professional, amateur and student violists, this event will feature a full schedule of concerts and presentations including displays of instruments and accessories by retailers and manufacturers from many countries."

I am looking forward to hearing live performances by many violists whom I have only heard via CD. I am also eager to experience an environment where viola is the main topic of conversation.

No doubt I will return to Stevens Point with a whole new repertoire for "story time."



Notes from the Endpin

By Lawrence Leviton

Here is the summer teaching schedule for the Cello Studio:

May 25-27th
June 23 and 24
June 30 and July 1
July 7 and 8
July 28 and 29

Please contact me to set up your lesson times.

Congratulations to the following participants in State Solo and Ensemble:

Jamie Davis
Ethan McKnight
David Cecil
Emily Gruselle
Jesse Nummelin

Have a great summer everyone!

An In-Service for Parents

By Pat D'Ercole

When Dr. Suzuki spoke before the United Nations Assembly in 1968, he said that degrees and/or advanced degrees are required for every profession in our world except the one that will have the most lasting and influential effect on society—parenting. That profession is left to chance. His idea was that governments should provide parent education.

While that idea has never come to pass, maybe, parents, you have felt that you could use an in-service day about parenting. Do you need some new ideas, a fresh perspective? Do you wish that exchange could happen within the Suzuki community? Well, here's your chance! The Suzuki Association of the Americas is hosting a mini-conference for parents on Saturday, May 29 within their biennial conference, and this year the conference will take place in Minneapolis.

The keynote address will be given by the international speaker and well-known author Barbara Coloroso. She is the author of *Kids Are Worth It!*, *Giving Your Child the Gift of Inner Discipline*, *Parenting Through Crisis* and *The Bully, The Bullied and The Bystander*. Also, Barry Green, author of the *Inner Game of Music*, well-known for his techniques that help musicians overcome mental obstacles, improve concentration and reduce nervousness, will present a workshop. Other session topics will include: *Motivation for Parents and Students*, *Instrumental Selection and Repair*, *Understanding the Roles of Movement and Bodywork* and much more.

Make it a weekend and stay at the Hilton Minneapolis and receive the conference room rate. For more information and to download a registration form, go to www.suzukiassociation.org.



Student News

Roy Meyer placed First in the Junior division of Vocal performance at the Wood County 4-H Creative Arts Day held April 3rd at Pittsville High School. **Melissa Zanotelli** placed Second in the Junior division. **Emily Karbowski** took Third place for piano (Grade 5-7), **Jonathan** and **Ben Karbowski** took First place playing a violin duet in the Small Group Instrumental category and **Ben Karbowski** took Third place in the Instrumental Violin (grades 7-9) category.

Kate Leifheit played the role of the Turkey in the Marshfield Junior High School Musical Production of *Honk*.

Matt Leheifheit played the role of Baby John in the Marshfield Senior High School production of *West Side Story*.

Allie Jagielo, Sheila Lais, Matt Leifheit, Megan Otte, Kayla Provisor, Karl Spaay, Christopher Marion, Kelley Rolak, Maddie DeBot, Ann Marie Kosmoski, Lawrence Andersen and Evelyn Andersen attended WSMA State Solo and Ensemble Contest at SPASH.

Christian Czernicki and Jessica Ryan were selected to be members of the Wisconsin High School Honor Orchestra 2004.

The **Marion Family Players, Christopher, Jenika and Bryce** and their uncle performed at the Portage County Cultural Fair on Saturday, April 24th.



Anna Krueger and Sarah Tranel Senior Recital

Anna Krueger, of Hancock, and **Sarah Tranel**, of Port Edwards, will present a combined senior recital on Sunday, May 16, 2004 at 4:00 pm in Michelsen Hall in the Fine Arts Building of UWSP.

Anna has been a student of Pat D'Ercole, violin, Lawrence Leviton, cello, and Tom Yang, piano, and she will be assisted by her brother, Peter, also a piano student of Tom Yang.

Sarah is a student of Ann Marie Novak, piano.

Both seniors are home-schooled and have been students in the ASTEC program for a number of years. The performance will include works by Bach, Beethoven, Bloch, Brahms, Chopin, Haydn, Starer and Vandall.



Megan Otte and Kim Slattery Senior Recital

Megan Otte and Kim Slattery will perform a Senior Voice Recital Sunday, May 9th at 6:00 pm. in Michelsen Hall. They will be assisted by David Becker, Piano, Roy Meyer, Violin, and John Zach, Voice.

Megan placed fourth alternate for the UW Madison Music Scholarship. She is credited with the outstanding soloist award at the 2002 Western Michigan Jazz Festival, and the 2004 Illinois Milikin University Jazz Festival. Megan has been selected for State Honors Jazz Choir in 2003 and 2004. She was one of seven students from the state to be chosen to perform in the Isthmus Jazz Festival. Megan plans to pursue a career in Vocal Jazz Performance.

Kim Slattery has maintained a 4.2 grade point for the past three years. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, and 4-H Club. Kim will be attending the UW Madison in the Fall.

The recital will include music from Bach to Jazz. All are invited. There will be a reception following the recital.



April 2004 Graduates

Kelsey Christensen, Violin Book 5
Jenika Marion, Violin Book 5
Quinn O'Reilly, Violin Book 6
Marcus Morris, Violin Book 1
Jamie Davis, Cello Book 10
Allison Patchett, Violin Book 6
Emily Spaid, Violin Book 6
Christa Spieth, Violin Book 2
Bryce Marion, Violin Book 2
Sam Sheibley, Piano Book 1
Jessica Ryan, Violin Book 9
Rachel Thames, Violin Book 1
Jason Smith, Violin Book 2
Rado Wilke, Violin Book 3
Annie Yao, Violin Book 1



Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 8th, Ensemble & Solo Recital, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, May 8th, CSCO Concert, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Sunday, May 9th, Piano Festival Concert, Michelsen Hall