

AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
College of Fine Arts and Communication

*Changing lives by providing the best in performance,
creativity, and expression*

February 2006

From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

Happy Birthday Wolfie!

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria on January 27, 1756. As classical music lovers around the world celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth, we have the great pleasure of hearing more about Mozart's life and of hearing more of his music throughout the entire year.

Mozart grew up in a very musical family. His father, Leopold, was a successful composer and violinist. Wolfgang, or Wolferl as his family called him, was a child prodigy. He played the keyboard confidently at the age of four, composed his first pieces for it at age five, and quickly mastered the violin. Leopold was eager to show off his son's extraordinary talents, along with those of his gifted pianist-daughter, Maria-Anna (called Nannerl) so he took them on a series of tours across Europe that began when Mozart was just six years old. Because of his constant travels, Mozart learned to speak fifteen different languages!

Mozart is considered by some to be the greatest composer who ever lived. Mozart could compose anywhere—at meals, while talking to friends, while playing pool or even while his wife was having a baby. While most composers specialize in certain kinds of pieces, Mozart created masterful works for almost every category of music - vocal music, concertos, chamber music, symphonies, sonatas and opera. His genius is obvious in his melodies, his use of harmony and his ability to express human emotions.

During his lifetime, Mozart was very well-known but spent money faster than he could earn it. Although he composed very quickly up to the very end, he was poor and in debt when he died at the age of 35. Much has been made of the fact that he was buried in a pauper's grave, but at that time such burial was legally required for all Viennese except those of noble or aristocratic birth.



String Players – Save This Date Saturday, April 1st

A very special opportunity for string players will take place on Saturday, April 1st when the members of the Fry String Quartet will work with string groups on pieces for the Festival Concert. Watch for a complete listing of the days' activities in the March Ambassador.



Aviation Encounters of the Musical Kind

By Ann Marie Novak

While sitting in the waiting room at my doctor's office, I began reading the April, 2005 issue of EAA Sport Aviation, a magazine for homebuilders of airplanes and gliders. Now, of course, I don't build airplanes, nor do I have a pilot's license, for that matter; but for some reason, the magazine caught my attention. Maybe I was tired of the same old magazines with the same old articles, or maybe I was just feeling adventurous that day...whatever the cause, I leafed through the ads for windshields and the pictures of experimental craft, and I came to a delightful little list of ideas that seemed to have great potential for multiple uses. The title of the article was "Blunderisms: Truths about aviation I've blundered into" and it was written by Luran Paine, Jr. A surprising number of the "Blunderisms" seem to apply to musical study without alteration; and a few apply with a one-word replacement. I hope you find them as enjoyable and as useful as I have.

- Problems aren't what we have, but what we overcome.
- Do the same thing wrong three times and it's time to take a walk.
- Frustration is when it's time to move on to something else for awhile.
- Bright ideas that don't work are numerous and normal.
- Sequence is important.
- "Build (Practice) every day" is good, if not always practical, advice.
- Perfect rivet (thumb, pinky, etc.). Perfect sunset. Same feeling.
- Spending all day doing one small thing may not seem like progress, but it is.
- Endorphins are released when you have the right tool at the right time.

- Expect not perfection; tolerate not sloppiness.
- Time is not of the essence, but doing it correctly is.
- Thinking and planning ahead are better than reacting to and recovering from.
- The sooner you call a halt to a bad situation, the better.
- Hard work now means more fun later.
- Getting there is the cake; enjoying getting there is the frosting.

If you are looking for more inspirational notes, try your Parent Handbook. The "Tips/Inspirational" section contains short quips like these, as well as some inspiring stories. If you need review ideas or practice games, try those sections of the handbook. For even more inspiration, try coming to a Parent Information Session. There are two more yet this academic year, one on February 14 and another on April 11. They are designed primarily for parents of beginning students, but all are welcomed to attend.



Notes From the Endpin

By Lawrence Leviton

Last week, I had the opportunity of seeing the Madison Symphony in concert. It was a program of all French music. A couple of pieces were pieces that I have heard many times and, frankly, I wasn't sure how I would react to hearing one more performance of some "old warhorses." My doubts were erased however; as soon as guest conductor Carl Sinclair stepped onto the podium I knew I was in for a special evening of music making. I could tell immediately that the musicians responded to his musicianship and inspired music-making. They played with a passion and excitement that comes from a strong connection to the music, the conductor, and the process of bringing it to life. I like to sometimes characterize playing in orchestra as being in a giant chamber ensemble with the issues of communication and listening being no different than playing in a string quartet-this concert certainly reinforced that idea. After the concert I went to a reception for the musicians and the palpable joy of the concert was still present. At one point, I heard a familiar voice saying, "Hey, is that you Dr. Leviton." Sure enough it was Matt Dahm, who was a former student at the ASC. Later I said hello to Andy Meyer, also a former student in our program. Overall, the evening was a great pleasure-first of all, the great concert, and secondly, seeing some of our wonderful students making music at such a high level. It was a good reminder of why I love the process of teaching and playing music. Bravo Andy and Matt!

In my article on buying a string instrument last month I listed a number of shops that potential buyers could use when looking for instruments. Unfortunately, I was relying on a list that wasn't completely up to date and I neglected to mention a very valuable local resource. My apologies go out to Mildred Neville, of *The Sound Point*, who sells instruments, does repair and has been a great help to our local string programs for several years now. She can be reached at 341-0749



Videotape Collection of Dr. Suzuki's 1976 Visit to ASI to be on the Web

By Pat D'Ercole

In 1976, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, founder of the the Suzuki Violin Method, visited the American Suzuki Institute at UW-SP for two weeks. All of his lectures and his classes with children and teachers (23 hours) were videotaped. With the cooperation of Aber Suzuki Center, UWSP, the International Suzuki Association and the UW Digitizing Committee, this precious collection will be preserved and digitized and included on the UW Digital Collections Website for viewing by anyone who would like to see the master himself at work. The Aber Suzuki Center is especially proud to be the owner of this collection which now will allow people from all over the world to research the philosophy and methods of this man who revolutionized early childhood music education. In addition to the original footage, there are 12 hours of clips taken from the classes and edited by topic such as "Left Hand Technique", "Tonalization" and "Changing Strings" etc. The project should be completed and ready for viewing by December of 2006.



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

My daughter Alyssa is a public school music teacher. I am pleased to say that I am always learning new things from her. In our recent visit with her family in Reedsburg, Wisconsin she told me about an internet site that she explores frequently to enhance her own teaching. I have taken a bit of time to explore this site and think that you would enjoy it too. It is a nice mix of information and performances. It even has a music dictionary so that you can look up all those terms in your music. I encourage you to go take a look and a listen to what it has to offer.

<http://www.classicsforkids.com>



Parent Education Sessions

The following Parent Education sessions will be held, 7:30 pm in NFAC 361. All Suzuki parents/guardians are welcome.

February 14 – "Note Reading 101: A Survival Manual for Parents"
April 11 – "The Art of Reviewing With a Purpose"



Pictures from Bolivia

By Pat D'Ercole

Finally, the long awaited pictures of the equipment our Review-a-thon funds bought for the students in Bolivia. The total amount collected, including the amount contributed by the string students of Washington School totaled \$2,805.92. They were able to purchase an electronic piano and music stands.



In the Vocal Vane

By Mary Hofer

Parents please watch the schedule for special events.

April 15th the International Suzuki Conference is taking place in Italy. Suzuki Singers from around the world will be singing a concert at 4:00 pm on Saturday April 15th. We will meet at 9:00 am for donuts and juice and then we will begin our Pajama Sing at 10:00 am. While we cannot be in Italy we can all sing at the same time. Don't forget this is a pajama day!

April 30th is the Festival Concert at Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium.

May 12th, Kayla Provisor Senior Recital, 7:00 pm, Michelsen Hall



Ambassador Survey

Many thanks to all of you who took part in the Ambassador Survey! The following five families received a prize at the December Marathon mini-concert when their names were drawn from all those who returned a survey. Congratulations to the **Patchett, Harmon, Mahon, Marchel and Mocadlo** families!

Faculty News

Pat D'Ercole was a clinician at the XXI Festival Internacional Suzuki, in Lima, Peru, January 10-23. She did teacher training for Books 2 and 3 as well as two enrichment courses entitled "Teaching Strategies" and "Developing Good Tone".

Dee Martz performed with the CWSO on December 3 and 4, 2005.

Dee Martz, the current Secretary of the Suzuki Association of Americas Board of Directors, attended an SAA Board meeting in Boulder, Colorado January 12-15.

On January 13, **Steve Bjella, Tom Yang** and Jenni Yang performed for the Ashland Elementary School and in a chamber recital sponsored by the Ashland Chamber Society. The pieces performed for the school were The Story of Babar and Ferdinand the Bull. These pieces were also performed in the chamber recital along with the Khatchaturian Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano, the Lutoslawski Dance Preludes for Clarinet and Piano and the Mozart Sonata for Piano and Violin, K. 304.



Dedication of the New Steinway in Michelsen Hall

By Michael Keller

The new Steinway concert grand piano has been delivered and the music department is planning a series of dedication recitals during the first week in March. On Sunday March 5 at 3:00, Michael Keller will present a piano recital. He will be assisted by Susan Bender, soprano and will be performing music of Haydn, Grieg, Liszt and Strauss. On Wednesday March 8 at 7:30, pianist Molly Roseman will perform the Robert Schumann piano concerto with the UWSP orchestra. Finally on Thursday, March 9 at 7:30, pianist Diane Birr and mezzo-soprano Beth Ray will present an evening of music for piano and voice.



Alumni News

Billy Jenkins, SPASH and Suzuki Program Class of 2005, performed recently in two concerts at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel. Billy, a Midshipman at the Academy, performed in a string ensemble for two Halloween concerts in October. The Halloween concerts are an annual tradition that are always heavily attended by the public. Then, on January 18, he performed the Beethoven Romance #1 as part of a concert featuring Midshipman wind and string musicians. This concert was the first of its kind at the Academy and was also well attended by the public. Billy has also applied his musical talents with the Academy Drum & Bugle Corps (coronet) and Men's Glee Club (tenor).

December 2005 Graduates

Kerry Heinecke, Violin Book 3
Tom Felt, Violin Twinkle
Rachel Ley, Violin Book 1
Brianna Van Dyke, Piano Twinkle
Alyssa Eiden, Violin Book 1
Stacey Rolak, Violin Book 6
Jill Iwanski, Violin Book 6
Kelsey Christiansen, Violin Book 6
Allison Patchett, Violin Book 8
Kelly Rolak, Violin Book 9



January 2006 Graduates

Miranda DeBot, Violin Twinkle
Courtney Lila, Piano Book 1
Katherine Erdman, Voice Book 1
Havilah Vang, Violin Twinkle
Alexa Haynes, Piano Book 1
Alex Oberthaler, Violin Book 2
Elisa Prebble, Violin Book 3
Annella Kochanowski, Piano Book 4
Lydia Anderson, Piano Book 5
Jenika Marion, Violin Book 6
Jake Kubisiak, Violin Book 7



Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 4th, Marathon Saturday

Sunday, February 5th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 pm, Michelsen Hall

Tuesday, February 14th, Parent Education Session – Note Reading
101: A Survival Manual for Parents, NFAC 361, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 18th, Katie Munck Senior Recital, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Sunday, March 5th, Piano Dedication Week Event, Michael Keller, piano and Susan Bender, soprano, 3:00 pm, Michelsen Hall

Wednesday, March 8th, Piano Dedication Week Event, Molly Roseman, piano, and the UWSP Orchestra, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Thursday, March 9th, Piano Dedication Week Event, Diane Birr, pianist, and Beth Ray, mezzo-soprano, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, March 11th, Marathon Saturday

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

Saturday, April 1st, Activities with the Fry Street Quartet

Sunday, April 2nd, Fry Street Quartet Concert, 3:00 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, April 8th, Piano Only Marathon

Saturday, April 8th, Jane Mitchell Senior Recital, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Sunday, April 9th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Tuesday, April 11th, Parent Education Session – The Art of Reviewing With a Purpose, NFAC 361, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 29th, Marathon (except Piano)

Saturday, April 29th, Christian Czernicki Senior Recital, 7:30 pm, NFAC 221

Sunday, April 30th, String & Voice Festival Concert, 2:00 pm, Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium

Friday, May 12th, Kayla Provisor Senior Recital, 7:00 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, May 13th, Solo & Ensemble Concert, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, May 13th, CSCO Concert, 7:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Sunday, May 14th, Piano Festival Concert, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

