



AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

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

December, 2010

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 11, 2010
Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, December 12, 2010
Solo Recitals
Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

Saturday, January 29, 2011
Marathon, 9am – Noon

Saturday, January 29, 2011
Solo Recitals
Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

Saturday, February 19, 2011
Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, February 20, 2011
Solo Recitals
Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

From the Director's Desk

By Pat D'Ercole

I know there's lots to do in December and reading the *Ambassador* might not be a high priority on your "to do" list, but I hope you will print it, leave it on your kitchen table and read an article now and then to see all the good news that we have to share. Mr. Becker has written an excellent article about the value of attending live performances and all the opportunities that are available in our culturally-rich region, especially at this time of year. There are articles listing details about two events

that are just around the corner—the information night for interested parents and the holiday performances in the community. You'll also want to know how to order your first ever ASC t-shirt, read the second installment of our ASC Alumni Interviews and who won the Younker's Community Day Scholarships.

In this season of thanks and giving I also want to add my appreciation to that of the American Suzuki Foundation to all of you --our ASC families-- for your generosity and support of the Music of the Masters Dinner. Because of your willingness to sell/buy tickets, obtain auction items, advertise to your friends and neighbors; and that of your children to attend rehearsals, and perform at the MoM program, the American Suzuki Foundation is able, in these difficult economic times, to financially assist ASC families currently in our program to continue their study at the Aber Suzuki Center. Because we value Suzuki education, sharing time, talent and treasure is what shapes us into a caring and sensitive community of musicians. As Dr. Suzuki would say, "Where love is deep, much can be accomplished." I want to particularly thank the American Suzuki Foundation Board (Karen Harms, Diane Sands, Gretchen Anderson, Andy Felt, Kaushalya Iyenger, Brian and Daniela Kurzynski, Gloria Josephson and Orsolya Gasztony) for their belief and dedication to the Suzuki philosophy and for the many hours they volunteered in making the Music of the Masters and the Younkers Community Day Sale a great success.

Wow! Only 27 days left to the first decade of 2010. It seems like only yesterday that we were all anticipating the new millennium and the Y2K computer virus and here we are at the end of the first decade. On behalf of the entire ASC faculty and staff, have a wonderful holiday season filled with fun, family, friends and music!



**An Interview With ASC Alum
Steve Zander**

Steve Zander, professional violinist, began his love of the violin at the age of four when he started lessons at the American Suzuki Talent Education Center (now Aber Suzuki Center). He continued his lessons here for fourteen years!

What piece or event caused you to “fall in love” with your instrument and how old were you when it happened? It wasn't a single event or piece of music that caused me to fall in love with the violin, but rather that I had been exposed to good music and good music-making since the time I was born! It dawned on me when I was in my early teens that I couldn't imagine doing anything else with my life, and so I worked as hard as I could in order to make that a possibility.

How is music a part of your life now as an adult? It's how I make my living! I live near Los Angeles, CA, and I play with many different professional orchestras in the area, and I also play music for television/film.

What benefits have you received that you credit to your Suzuki training? I think that I developed a very good ear, and memorization of the pieces I learn has always come very easily to me, because it's a skill I started to develop at the very beginning. I also really love what I do, which in turn makes me a happier person than I might otherwise be!

How has your experience at the Aber Suzuki Center and with the Suzuki philosophy impacted other areas of your life? (values, parenting, employment, choices of entertainment etc.) The Suzuki method has helped me with the small amount of teaching that I do. I really believe that given the right teaching, environment, work ethic, etc., any student can become an accomplished musician.

Do you have a favorite memory you'd like to share? There are too many good ones to choose from! Marathons, Dolce String Ensemble (especially the Vienna trip), and every summer at the ASI!



ASC 2010-2011 Directory

Included in the email with the link to this newsletter is the Aber Suzuki Center Directory. Please print a copy so you have your friends' addresses and phone numbers or pick one up in your teacher's studio.

Live Music is Best

By Dave Becker

What a fabulous performance! I'm so glad I went to see that concert. These were some of the thoughts I had as I walked out of Uihlein Hall after hearing the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra perform a concert that featured Beethoven's epic 9th Symphony and Aaron Copeland's Appalachian Spring on September 25, 2010. Thanks to an anonymous donor who paid for the buses and Aber Suzuki Center director Pat D'Ercole's vision to organize the field trip, more than 90 people associated with the ASC were able to experience that inspiring performance. The morning after returning from Milwaukee I put on a vintage LP record of Beethoven's 9th Symphony recorded by the legendary Arturo Toscanini with the NBC Symphony at Carnegie Hall in 1952. Although it is a marvelous recording, simply listening to it didn't equal the excitement and immediacy of the performance we had heard, live, just 10 hours before.

It is the powerful, ephemeral and spontaneous nature of live performance that makes it so special. Make no mistake, recordings have their place. I have a large collection of LPs (yes some people still have turntables) and CDs which I continue to add to. But nothing beats seeing the interaction of the performers on stage and being a part of the audience that is enjoying the moment together.

My own memories of attending concerts are numerous and extend back to my youth. There used to be an auditorium attached to the east end of Old Main on the UWSP campus. It was the main concert venue in Stevens Point then and was home to the local symphony as well as the university Arts and Lecture Series which brought some world class performers to that old auditorium. Pianist Rudolph Serkin, mezzo-soprano Shirley Verrett and violinist Nathan Milstein were just a few of the outstanding performers who I saw grace that stage and electrify audiences.

One of the great by-products of attending a live performance is in its inspirational value. I was frequently so charged up after hearing performers like Itzhak Perlman, Yo Yo Ma or the Juilliard String Quartet that I couldn't wait to spend more time practicing and trying to achieve higher standards in my own playing. Actually witnessing the grace and ease with which an accomplished performer can bring the music to life is the equivalent of months of fine instruction.

Local concert options

The Aber Suzuki Center holds solo recitals every month during the school year. Even if one isn't performing on a

recital it is fun and instructive to hear other students playing familiar and new repertoire. Many ASC students who are graduating from high school elect to give senior recitals. Come and help them celebrate years of honing their musical skills at these special events.

UWSP has a fine music department with outstanding teachers and performers on its faculty. UWSP also has a large body of music students who perform with large ensembles and in recitals. Every semester there are dozens of performances ranging from musical theater to classical and jazz. A list of performances can be obtained at the UWSP music office or found online by going to <http://www.uwsp.edu/music/> and clicking on the Music Events List to get the calendar of concerts and recitals for the entire semester.

The Central Wisconsin Symphony plays four concert sets each year at Sentry Theater that feature standard symphonic repertoire as well as holiday and pops options. To see what CWSO offerings lie ahead for this season go to <http://cwso.org/> and click on Concert Season to view the repertoire that is programmed for each concert.

Other concert options

Many performing artists are brought in every year to perform on the Arts Block series held at the Grand Theater in Wausau. The last time I heard Itzhak Perlman in person was at the Grand Theater. For information on what's happening at the Grand go to <http://www.grandtheater.org/> and click on calendar of events. If you are willing to travel even further afield there is a wealth of concert performances to choose from in cities like Madison, Minneapolis and Milwaukee. Chicago is home to one of the finest orchestras in the entire world.

For many years, when I made my living as a performing orchestral musician, I belonged to the American Federation of Musicians' union which promoted the idea that "Live Music Is Best". While adopting such a position was clearly in the best interest of the union membership it is also an undeniable truth. Treat yourself and your family to live performances for enrichment, pleasure and inspiration.



Upcoming Community Performances

🎵 Aber Suzuki Center **Voice** students will carol up and down Main Street or at the square on Sat. Dec. 11 beginning at 11:00

🎵 Aber Suzuki Center **Violin and Viola** Students will play holiday music for one hour at Robins Nest Gifts from 12:30-1:30 on Sat. Dec. 11. Watch for details on the ASC bulletin boards.

🎵 The **Central State Chamber Orchestra** will present its annual Holiday Concert at the Lincoln Center, Dec. 11 at 2:00. The 27 member high school group is sponsored by the Aber Suzuki Center and will perform classics from the string orchestra repertoire as well as a holiday audience sing-a-long.

🎵 Aber Suzuki Center **Cellists** will perform holiday music for residents at the Edgewater Manor, Sat. Dec. 18 at 2:00.

🎵 Aber Suzuki Center **Pianists** will perform holiday music at an inside location from on Sat. Dec. 18 from 1:00-2:00. Watch for details on the ASC bulletin boards.

🎵 The Earth Quartet will perform at Harmony Village in Stevens Point on January 17th at 7:30



Youngers Community Day

By Karen Harms, President

Thanks to everyone who participated in Community Day. The American Suzuki Foundation was able to raise well over \$600 for scholarships. This money will be funding a new category of scholarships---participation scholarships. (The other scholarships are need-based scholarships, and merit scholarships.) The Foundation keeps 100% of the \$5 price of the booklets we sell. We then use this money to fund scholarships. It is our intention to increase the number of scholarships awarded as we bring in more money. All Suzuki students and their families are eligible to participate, and those who participate the most have the greatest chance of getting the scholarships.

Community Day Scholarship Winners:

3rd place (\$25 ASC Scholarship + \$5 cash)

Anna Meilahn

2nd place (\$50 ASC Scholarship + 15 cash)

Sam Ginnett

1st place (\$100 ASC Scholarship + \$25 cash)

Bodor Family

Highest sales (\$100 ASC Scholarship + \$25 cash)

Bodor Family

Gift cards for ice cream at The Cold Stone Creamery were given to all the students who performed at Younkers. The kids did a great job, and both store customers and employees loved it and were lavish in their praise. (The store manager repeatedly said how much they all enjoyed having the Suzuki students perform and are eager to have future participation.)

Thanks to the Suzuki singers, violinists and cellists, and Tom Yang, Mary Hofer, and Kay Holz. I think all the kids enjoyed performing at Younkers, and being the stars of their own show. It was wonderful to watch as the performers visibly blossomed, gaining confidence and poise. The shy ones soon seemed to lose their shyness, and by the end were smiling and confident. Some wanted to stay for more! We hope to see most or all of you there next year.



Music of the Masters Dinner

By Karen Harms, President

The 2010 Music of the Masters was wonderful. Our community was able to enjoy this unique "dinner and a concert" in large part because of the hard work and dedication of the Suzuki teachers, Pat D'Ercole, the director, Christine Kancler, and the Board of Directors of the American Suzuki Foundation. However, a special thanks is in order for the talented Suzuki students who provided the wonderful music we all enjoyed, and for their parents, the "unsung heroes" who bring them to lessons, rehearsals and the event itself, and who, through their encouragement and support made their performances possible.

The Music of the Masters not only showcases the talent of our young musicians, but it also provides important funding each year for need-based scholarships. The American Suzuki Foundation Board of Directors would like to give you all a heartfelt "THANK YOU!" for your support and a job well done.



Suzuki Association of Wisconsin
5th Annual Weekend Workshop
January 21-23, 2011

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Register for the 5th Annual Suzuki Weekend Workshop sponsored by the Suzuki Association of Wisconsin (SAW). The workshop is for string and piano

students and will take place January 21-23, 2011 at the Inn on the Park Hotel in Madison. This is a great opportunity to experience a mini-institute. This is a great weekend to have fun with music, re-energize motivation and enjoy a winter get-away. The weekend will include group lessons taught by volunteer teachers from around the state with special guest, violin guest clinician Gabe Bolkosky. Gabe is one of the most requested teachers at the American Suzuki Institute and has a prominent role in *The Stolen Goldin Violin* written by the Felt Family of ASC.

Final Registration deadline: 12/15/2010

Go to the SAW website for more information:

www.suzukiassociationofwisconsin.com



ASC T-Shirts for Sale

Beginning Monday, December 6th, order forms for the first ever ASC t-shirt will be available from your teacher. All order forms must be returned to the ASC Office (or the waiting room payment box) **on or before December 23rd**. Payment in full must accompany all orders, or the order will not be filled. If you are paying by credit card, please be sure to include your account number, card type (Visa or Mastercard), expiration date, and your name as it appears on the card. By signing the bottom of the form, you authorize us to charge your purchase to the card on the form. We do not keep credit card information "on file."

The cost for each shirt is only \$5.50, and we plan to distribute the orders at the January 29th Marathon.



Composer of the Month
Jean Baptiste Lully

By Ann Marie Novak

Jean Baptiste Lully was born Giovanni Battista Lulli sometime in late November, 1632 in Florence. His family was very poor, and Giovanni spent his days in the streets listening to local musicians and learning to dance and sing. He became rather adept at singing and dancing, and he eventually taught himself how to play the guitar. He brought in what little money he could from the streets with his music and his comic routines. One day when Giovanni was 14, the Chevalier de Guise came by and heard his act at a carnival. The Frenchman was pleased with the boy's abilities and he offered him a position at his court. He really wanted Giovanni to teach his wife to speak Italian, but he soon found out that he had gotten much more than a language tutor in this young lad.

Giovanni was amazed by his new surroundings in France. The Chevalier and his wife lived in a huge, beautiful home, where even the servants dressed well at all times. At first, the royal lady of the house sent Giovanni to the kitchens, where he became a dishwasher. But, in time, his real musical talent became evident, and they tutored him in music. This is where he discovered the violin. He fell in love with it and became quite an artist. Soon Giovanni was playing in the Chevalier's orchestra, and later on, he began conducting it.

Unfortunately, Giovanni had a falling out with the lady of the house, and she sent him away. Luckily, King Louis XIV had heard of this young man, and he asked him to join his royal orchestra. At this time, Giovanni was only 19 years old. The court of the king was to become his permanent home. He was so favored by the king that he lived very well indeed. Giovanni was so taken with the French way of life that he decided to change his name to a French version. Giovanni became "Jean" Battista became "Baptiste" and Lulli became "Lully". The transformation from the poor Italian boy to the Frenchman who moved in the most elite circles was complete.

Lully continued to play and write music all of his life. He commanded great respect among the court musicians. Many people came from miles around to study at his academy. He found love with a beautiful French woman, and he raised three children, all of whom became musicians themselves. He died of gangrene poisoning in Paris in March of 1687.

Kendall, C. W. (1985). "Stories of Composers for Young Musicians". Kendall.



Parent Information Session

Do you know of a family who is contemplating enrolling their child at ASC in January or next fall?

Let the Aber Suzuki Center help them give this gift to their child. We have over 40 years of music education experience with children in violin, viola, cello, piano and voice. Using the Suzuki Method, our highly qualified faculty works with students from preschool to adult. We believe that every student can learn given the right environment and working closely with the parent as the home teacher. In fact, we're so successful at it that openings only become available through graduations or family relocations.

To help your friends find out more about the Aber Suzuki Center and the Suzuki method, invite them to come to a **parent information session at 7:30 pm, on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010 in Room 146, Aber Suzuki Center, Noel Fine Arts Building, UWSP.**



November 2010 Graduations

Olivia Yang, Cello Book 2
Kelly Vodra, Cello Book 2
Sawyer Eiden, Violin Book 2
Sam Schmitz, Cello Book 4
Alyssa Eiden, Violin Book 4
Linnea Turner, Piano Twinkles
Maggie Medo, Violin Book 6
James Smyth, Piano Book 6



Student News

Thanks to the **Voice Opera Troupe** who performed their "Young Person's Guide to the Opera" at Pacelli High School on Nov. 9, 2010 for the choir and band students.

ASC cellist **Natalie Galster** performed at St. Pauls UMC, *Holiday Festival* on Saturday November 13.

The following voice and violin students performed at Gallery Q for an artists' reception on Sat. Nov. 20th: **Annie Tillotson, Victoria Tillotson, Tom Treder, Michael Treder, Sue LeGault, Emily Smith, Anjali Iyengar, Catriona Quirk, Olivia Heese, Gabrielle Heese, Genevive Heese, Hannah Selwyn, Brit Holz, Sam Ginnett, Jon Peck, Hope Mahon, Sarah Harmon, Frederick Van Tiem, Antony Van Tiem, Havilah Vang, Cal Irons, and Christina Marchel.**



Congratulations to **Natalie Leek** for her great performance of Annie in the Central Wisconsin Children’s Theater production of the musical “Annie” on November 26 and 27.



Did You Know?

Every day it seems there are more studies that tout the benefits of music-- not just listening to music and appreciating it (though there is some benefit to that too), but making

music. When one gets an early start in music education, somewhere between ages three and ten, music practice can actually wire the brain. Though much of this research has been known for at least a decade, our society persists in believing that music is an extracurricular activity and not part of the core subjects. The studies cited below, demonstrate that music can actually make learning the core subjects easier.

HIGHER SCORES - Students with 4 years or more of arts and music study scored 29 points higher on reading, 22 points higher on math and 29 points higher on writing sections of the SAT College Board test. (College Board SAT, 2008 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report). Another study showed that middle and high school instrumental students outperformed their non-musician counterparts in math, science and language arts. It also showed that the longer they participated in music, the larger the difference in test scores between the groups. (University of Sarasota, Jeffrey Lynn Kluball; East Texas State University Daryl Erick Trent).

BETTER SKILLS - Arts-based learning is known to promote collaboration, creative problem solving, and the ability to apply learning across different disciplines. (Neuroeducation: Learning, Arts, and the Brain. Dana Press, 2009) Did you know, for example, that music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school? — 66%. 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted. (Peter H. Wood, ERIC document No. ED327480).

ENHANCED CONCENTRATION - With as little as 20 minutes of active music making a day, studies showed that because musicians are trained to be attentive to the melody or harmony lines or the sound of their instrument within an ensemble, they become competent in finding the relevant sounds in complex processes. This skill is especially useful for those who have difficulty concentrating and who are easily distracted by background noise. (Nature Reviews Neuroscience, Nina Kraus, Northwestern University and Bharath Chandrasekaran, University of Texas at Austin, Nov. 2010.) The same article states that music students have more sensitivity to pitch and rhythm making it easier for them to learn new languages.

Music study is the gift that keeps on giving. In school, students are more confident, able to think critically, have a creative emotional outlet and a pastime that can be shared socially. And for later in life? Employers are looking for workers who have the social skills to work as a team, can use their imagination, who know how to problem-solve, who have self-discipline and perseverance. These are all skills that music students develop through daily practice and in ensemble rehearsals.

