



AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

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

April, 2011

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Piano Only Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, April 10, 2011

Solo Recitals

Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Emily McIntee, Senior Voice Recital

Michelsen Hall, 2:30 pm

Sunday, April 17, 2011

Emily Sands, Senior Violin Recital

NFAC 221, 2:00 pm

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Marathon, 9am – Noon (no piano)

Sunday, May 1, 2011

String and Voice Festival Concert

Ben Franklin Junior High School, 2:00 pm

Sunday, May 8, 2011

Cello Day 2011

Noel Fine Arts Center, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Solo Recitals

Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Central State Chamber Orchestra Spring Trio

Noel Fine Arts Center, 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Piano Festival Concert

Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

From the Director's Desk

By Pat D'Ercole

Dr. Suzuki said that there are five conditions necessary for ability or talent to flourish. They are: 1) to begin earlier rather than later, 2) to enrich the environment, 3) to use an excellent teaching method, 4) to practice and 5) to have a superior teacher. Children can develop to their fullest potential to the extent that all of these conditions are fulfilled.

We, at the Aber Suzuki Center, have been fortunate to have on our faculty a superior teacher who has taught a generation's worth of students and helped them to become talented players and noble human beings. By now, you probably all have heard the news that Mrs. Fuller will be retiring as of July 31, 2011. All of us, but especially her current students, will surely miss her.

Kyoko Fuller was born and raised in Japan. She studied with Dr. Suzuki as a young student and as a teacher trainee for many years. After Kyoko received her Suzuki teacher certificate from the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto, Japan, she continued studying with Dr. Suzuki and taught until she came to the United States. Kyoko taught and studied with William Starr at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville TN, and then directed the Suzuki program at Methodist College. She was a member of and a soloist with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and served as concertmaster of Fayetteville Symphony, Fayetteville NC. She

served on the faculty at the second American Suzuki Institute in 1972 and twelve years later, in 1984, Kyoko, her husband and four children moved to Stevens Point.

Many of Mrs. Fuller's students have won concerto competitions, full scholarships to music schools and universities, and have given senior recitals. Probably the highlight of her time here at ASC was the founding of Dolce Strings. In 1996, under her direction the group performed at the national convention of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and was chosen as one of 10 North American representatives to enter the 25th International Vienna Music Festival.

Each year, near the end of April, we gather to mark the growth in the ability of our students, to recognize those students who will be joining our alumni ranks, and to celebrate the breadth and depth of our program. This year, our festival concert will be even more special as we honor Mrs. Fuller with a special festival concert feature (read all about it below) and a reception for her, our graduates and our special guest.

I look forward to seeing you there! Remember to invite your friends and relatives too!



NEW at the ASC String & Voice Festival Concert

Have you heard about the movie *Hoodwinked Too: Hood vs Evil*? Would you like to meet the composer of the music for that film? Would you like to meet and hear the violinist who travels with Gary Sinise (of CSI fame) and the Lt. Dan Band? Then come to Ben Franklin Jr. High Auditorium on May 1 at 2:00.

But wait! Isn't that the same time and place as the Strings and Voice Festival Concert? Yes it is, and this composer and performer, who is a Stevens Point native and ASC alumni, Dan Myer, will be there to join us. In fact, he will have just re-

turned from Los Angeles and the premiere of *Hoodwinked Too* the day before. With the Central State Chamber Orchestra, Dan will be the featured violin soloist on a piece he composed for chamber orchestra called *Prelude to Coddington Road*. It will be a special moment for Mrs. Fuller and ASC as well as we realize that her influence has come full circle. And this is just one of many students!

Mr. Myer studied with Kyoko Fuller for 7 years and graduated from SPASH in 1995. In his ten years in Chicago, Dan has toured the world with actor Gary Sinise's Lt Dan Band, and has recorded five records with Tenacity Record's acoustic pop act, *Down The Line*. Dan writes songs for commercials, radio, television, and film. He has recently been accepted to Columbia College's Film Scoring Graduate program, and plans to attain his Master's in Composition in the fall of 2011.



Seniors Honored at the Festival Concert

"In 90 minutes, this concert will be over and I will have played Twinkle with the whole group for the last time!" one of the senior ASC students lamented. She couldn't begin to imagine what life was going to be like without coming each week to the NFAC for a lesson. As much as she balked about this annual event during her junior high days, she had to admit she was going to miss making music with her friends, miss watching those cute little ones give their first performance, and miss standing in the midst of 146 musicians and feeling that big, deep, gorgeous sound envelope her.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS (and their parents), we'd like to know your plans for next year—where you plan to go to college, what you think you'll major in—just a few lines. Please let your teacher know so we can print it in the festival concert program. This year, those same feelings may be tugging at your heart.

PARENTS OF INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS, if you're wondering if this concert should be your priority for the day, then the answer is a resounding "Yes!" You and your child must come to be re-inspired by the vision of what you see and hear. Daniel Coyle in his book, *Talent Code*, calls it "ignition"--that vision and attitude that our children "catch" when they see someone playing at a more advanced level and ask, "if she/he can do it, why can't I?" Dr. Suzuki referred to this process as enriching the environment. One never knows what might "ignite" the student or when, so don't miss the opportunity!



The Central State Chamber Orchestra Presents...

You and every kindergartener from every school district that is represented at ASC are invited to the Central State Chamber Orchestra "Spring Trio" on Saturday, May 14 in the Noel Fine Arts Center.

This concert has three component parts. The first, an instrument petting zoo, is for young children who may be interested in beginning a musical instrument study. The second element, the *Prelude Concert* is both for the parent and child to see and hear what can be accomplished in the first years of study. The third component will feature an advanced pianist and vocalists and our Central State Chamber Orchestra. These advanced high school students will present a concert showcasing the level of musicianship and artistry that these young musicians have developed during their time at ASC.

The Instrument Petting Zoo will begin at 7:00 pm on the NFAC balcony. At about 7:20 all the youngsters at the zoo will be invited to participate in a musical experience. At 7:30 in Michelsen Hall the *Prelude Concert* will begin immediately followed by the Central State Chamber Orchestra under the direction of David Becker.

Composer of the Month Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

By Ann Marie Novak

Peter Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, Russia on May 7, 1840. His father was of Cossack lineage, and his mother was descended from French nobility. Peter was the third-born in a family of 7 children. There was music in the house, and he showed early on that he was very, very interested in it. When he was 4 years old, he begged to be included in his older brother's schooling (which included piano lessons). He was quite persistent, and he eventually convinced his parents to allow him to study both languages and music. He had a favorite governess, Fanny Durbach, with whom he formed strong emotional bonds. In 1848, the family moved to St. Petersburg, leaving the governess behind. This proved to be extremely upsetting to the young Peter. The family moved back a year later, but Peter was not to stay there for long, as, in 1850, he was sent off to a boarding school that trained well-to-do youth for civil service. Peter missed his mother and family dearly, and he was thrown into great despair 4 years later when a cholera epidemic claimed the life of his mother. It was at this point that he retreated emotionally and he turned to his music for solace.

Peter graduated in 1859 and entered into civil service, but he continued to study music on the side. In 1861, he began theory and composition studies in the Russian Musical Society. A year later, when the Society became the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Tchaikovsky joined Anton Rubinstein's composition class. Music was becoming central in the young man's life. In 1863, he made a life-altering decision: he left civil service forever and devoted himself fully to his music. This meant that he would have no source of income other than his gains from being a free-lance musician. At this time in Russia, most composers were self-taught, so choosing to study at the conservatory was a good move for him...it set him apart from the average musician. In fact, it set him apart enough to land him a job upon his graduation in 1866. That job was a teaching position at the Moscow Conservatory.

Tchaikovsky's early works included a symphony and the well-known fantasy-overture "Romeo and Juliet". It was during this time that he became noticed by Balakirev, who was part of the group of composers known as the "Five". Balakirev gave Tchaikovsky good reviews and much support, propelling his career forward.

The ensuing years were filled with compositions, including more operas, symphonies, concerti, and something new, ballets, the first of which was the ever-popular, "Swan Lake". The shy young man began gaining popularity and at the same time, confidence. With this new-found sense of confidence, he decided it was time to try his hand at conducting. He got rave reviews as a conductor, and he spent many years touring Europe and the U.S. in this capacity. In fact, it was Peter Tchaikovsky who was invited to conduct the first concert in Carnegie Hall.

Tchaikovsky was musically active to the end. In 1893, he contracted cholera and died. He left us with a rich repertoire that continues to be enjoyed by young and old the world over.

Sources:

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

Randel, D. M. 1996. "The Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music". Cambridge and London: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.



Please complete the Parent Survey

This is just a reminder to complete the parent survey you received by email on Mar. 31. This research is being conducted by Abigail McHugh, a Suzuki cello teacher from Rochester, NY. The goal is to help Suzuki teachers understand what specific information and instruction Suzuki parents need in order to effectively fulfill their role as Suzuki "home teachers." The data collected from ASC parents will be shared with us before being

combined with other schools' and will supply much needed information in carrying out our strategic planning with regard to parent education. This is a great opportunity for us to get invaluable knowledge about parent education at the Aber Suzuki Center with someone else doing the work.

To participate in the study we ask that you complete a 35 question anonymous survey, which can be found at the following link:

https://seanacademic.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8q6tFNLyQtdflig

It will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete it. The deadline date for **completion is April 15th**. Your help with this project is greatly appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your time.



Visit Our New ASC Parents Blog

Also be sure to visit our new parents' blog. The blog, ASC Parents: Solo to Symphony opened March 14. Why a blog for parents? We've noticed how much you've enjoyed getting together and having discussions around coffee and donuts at a couple of marathons this year. We hope that our new blog will allow you to continue some of those discussions from the comfort of your own homes. What do you have to do? It's easy! Just join us at:

<http://ascparentsolo2symphony.blogspot.com>

Choose a topic that is of interest to you, read a short couple of paragraphs posted by our faculty, and join in the discussion with other parents from our program. New items will be posted weekly throughout the school year and biweekly in the summer. Join us soon and enjoy the blog designed with you in mind!

ASC Alumnus Peter Thomas Performs with the CWSO April 16 & 17

Remember when we went to hear the Milwaukee Symphony play Beethoven's Ninth and afterward a young, handsome man in tails came on each bus to thank you for coming to the concert? That young man was ASC alumnus Peter Thomas who is a cellist in the MSO. He is coming to perform the Saint-Saens's Cello Concerto No.1 with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra on April 16 & 17. He will also be giving a master class for ASC cellists on Wed., April 13 4:00. See Dr. Tim for more details.

In addition, on Friday evening at 7:30, Mr. Thomas' classically infused indie-rock band, I'm Not A Pilot, will perform at the Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts in Marshfield. Voted Best Rock Band in the Shepherd Express 'Best of Milwaukee 2010 Awards', Band of the Year in the 88.9fm Radio Milwaukee 'Milwaukee Music Awards', and nominated for two 2011 WAMI Awards, I'm Not A Pilot has been performing for audiences of all ages since they released their self-titled debut EP in mid 2009.

Originally from Stevens Point, where he started to play the cello in 1986 at age five, Peter Thomas was born into a family of musicians. He graduated from the ASC in 1999 studying under Dr. Lawrence Leviton and went on to win numerous scholarships and competitions. As of November 2008, Mr. Thomas resides in Milwaukee after winning the position of Third Chair Cello in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. An active chamber musician and experimental collaborator, Thomas can be heard with his string quartet, the Arcas Quartet, and his classically infused indie-rock band, I'm Not A Pilot, in the Milwaukee area and on many local radio stations.



Alumni Interview – Dale Carlson

1. *How old were you when you started your Suzuki studies?* Age 6
2. *Tell us about your life now?* I'm married with three young children and live in the Appleton area. I've been a self-employed Financial Advisor since graduating from college in 2001, and many of my clients are teachers (my wife was a teacher before we had children) and self-employed musicians. Being a musician and self-employed myself, I have a keen insight into the concerns and goals of these clients.
3. *What was the piece, event or achievement that really "hooked" you on your instrument?* Going to Institute in the summer, because I felt like I was part of a much bigger group of kids who were doing the same thing as me. I was always amazed how far some kids traveled to come each summer – I only had to drive from Wisconsin Rapids!
4. *Was there a time in your ASTEC/ASC career when you wanted to quit lessons?* Yes, many of my early years were difficult and I didn't enjoy practicing because I often felt alone in what I was doing.
5. *If so, how old were you and what advice would you give to students/parents now?* I don't remember really enjoying playing until I was in fifth grade, because at that time I was in a school orchestra every day and felt great about how all my years of practicing had enabled me to play on a higher level than the rest of the kids in my orchestra (only a couple other kids were Suzuki trained). My advice is to be involved with other Suzuki kids in a group (especially a quartet), so you all feel part of the same endeavor.
6. *What is your favorite ASTEC/ASC memory?* Quartet class at Institute. I love the intimate nature of the quartet, and these classes were so enjoyable because we all worked hard at blending our individual sounds into one.

7. *How has Suzuki affected your life?* Suzuki has given me an appreciation for music, as well as a work ethic that I have transferred to my professional life.

8. *What benefits do you credit to your Suzuki experience?* Having the ability to play the cello is something I'm proud of and happy I stuck with, because most of the kids I played with in my school orchestra likely quit after they got out of school. Music is universal and can be shared in many ways, including playing at my church. Who do you know who doesn't love music? Being a cellist is something that helps me bond with others who love music.

9. *What do you value most about your ASTEC/ASC experience?* The simple fact that I stuck with all the years of practicing and lessons have given me an ability that many people don't have, which I can now share with my wife and children. I hope my kids will have the same love for music that I have.

10. *Do you still play/sing for fun, in a community group, professionally?* Since high school I've played cello in and managed The Wisconsin String Quartet. We perform for weddings and corporate events throughout Wisconsin. These sort of events have seen us performing in some interesting places, including the stands at Lambeau Field! You can learn more about us at WisconsinStrings.com

11. *Please reflect on your experience with Suzuki and your relationship with your parents?* My mom was the source and motivating factor when it came to my three siblings and I learning to play an instrument. I credit her with my ability to play the cello. She passed away when I was a junior in college (I attended UW-Stevens Point). Many of my memories of her have to do with Suzuki - whether it was all the years of driving back and forth for lessons, the hard times when I didn't want to practice and she encouraged me to keep going, or attending Institute in the summer. If it weren't for her dedication, I probably would've quit playing when I was young.

12. *What words of wisdom would you like to share with today's ASC families?* Get your kids involved in Suzuki when they're young, get them playing in a group, and don't quit. Encourage them to do their best and reward them for all their hard work. Help them to think about their future and how playing their instrument will benefit them when they are older. Music is a gift that keeps giving over a lifetime.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thanks to the kind "angel" who cleaned and organized the book shelf in the waiting room. Dr. Suzuki often said that one sign that parents are succeeding in developing sensitive human beings is if children anticipate the needs of someone and do it without being told. In the 90s this idea also became known as "random acts of kindness." Thank you again whoever you are!



Student News

The following students participated in WMTA and/or WSMA: **Natalie Galster, MJ DeBot, Alan Kiepert, Maleah Zinda, Craig Felt, Stacey Rolak, Rachel Ley, Alyssa Eiden, Madeline Luetmer, Lucas Chan, Jason Smith, Lara Prebble, Teddy Schenkman, Jessa Quick, Naomi Crump, Lauren Sheibley, Al Reeser, Erik Sands, Ciana Rose, Alexa Haynes, Annie Tillotson, Joe Dickinson, Jilian Jenkins, Karl Graham, Zara Markman, Emily McIntee, Charity Hentges, Sam Ginnett, Elizabeth Hofer, Anjali Iyengar, Emily Smith, Kelly Tillotson, Victoria Tillotson, Michael Treder, and Tom Treder.**

Congratulations to **Ciana Rose** for being chosen to participate in the 2011 State Honors Choir.

Congratulations to **Alexa Haynes** for her role as Peter Pan in the Central Wisconsin Theaters production of "Peter Pan."

Congratulations to **Lucas Chan and Teddy Schenkman** who both made it on to the Wall of Fame at the district solo ensemble.

Natalie Galster played piano during dinner for the Habitate for Humanity Gala on March 12 at Camp Lakotah in Wautoma. On March 18 she played Celtic music on her cello for the enjoyment of diners at the Buck Rub Restaurant in Pine Ridge of Wautoma. Natalie will perform cello and piano for the HEROES Musicales benefitting the American Red Cross. This event will be held on April 30 at the home of John and Vicki Jenks in Wild Rose.



Festival Concert Review Lists

Mark your calendars! Invite family and friends! The Festival Concert will be held on May 1 at Ben Franklin Junior High at 2:00. It's time to begin our preparation. Though it may seem a bit premature to print the review list, the April Ambassador would be a little too late. Besides we need to be really polished as this year's concert will be video-taped and aired on cable access TV so all your friends and family in the area can see you. Please be sure to give extra attention to these pieces:

Violin

Fantomen	Ost/McLean
Bach Double	J.S. Bach
Two Grenadiers	R. Schumann
Happy Farmer in C	R. Schumann
Allegro in A	S. Suzuki
May Song in D	Folk Song
Song of the Wind in A	Folk Song
Twinkles in D	S. Suzuki

Viola

Sonata in G Major 2. Allegro	B. Marcello
Serenade	G. B. Sammartini
	Grace Vamos
Theme from Witches Dance	N. Paganini
Trio Sonata in a minor	M. McLean
Happy Farmer	R. Schumann
May Song in D	Folk Song
Go Tell Aunt Rhody	Folk Song
Twinkle Var. A	Folk Song/Suzuki

Cello

Elegy	G. Faure
March in G	J. S. Bach
Happy Farmer	R. Schumann
Rigadoon	H. Purcell



**MAP TO BEN FRANKLIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
2000 POLK STREET
STEVENS POINT**

**Aber Suzuki Center Festival Concert
Sunday, May 1, 2011
2:00 pm
Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium**

