

# AMBASSADOR

## Aber Suzuki Center

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

**November, 2011**

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**

Music of the Masters  
Dreyfus University Center – Alumni Room  
Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres 6:00 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm  
Program 8:00 pm

**Saturday, November 19, 2011**

Marathon, 9am – Noon

**Sunday, November 20, 2011**

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

**December 3 & 4, 2011**

Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra  
Featuring ASC's Teddy Schenkman,  
Violist, and boy soprano Sam Ginnett  
Theater @1800

**Saturday, December 10, 2011**

Marathon, 9am – Noon

**Sunday, December 11, 2011**

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

### From the Director's Desk

By Pat D'Ercole

November seems to be a month for reflection. Our culture has set aside days for celebrating our ancestors who have gone before us, a day dedicated to remembering war veterans' and a day devoted to giving thanks for the many blessings we've received. Perhaps it's because the days get shorter and darkness comes earlier and stays longer; it seems that nature is telling us that it's time to slow down a little and to take some time to reflect about what's important to us.

So what's so important about music? Why is it that we are attracted to it? Why do we spend our precious time and invest so much money to provide our children with the opportunity to master a musical instrument? I suspect we all have many answers, but my hunch is that a large number of them would have to do with pleasure. Music gives us pleasure – pleasure for the performer and pleasure for the listener. In fact, the pleasure of music-making and listening is really enhanced when it's a community activity, when we have someone with whom to share it. Think about it, more than one performer or more than one listener really increases the excitement about what we are to hear as the audience or play as members of an ensemble.

So then you might ask, "If music is so enjoyable or pleasurable, why is practicing so hard?" Some answers that come to mind in my experience are the-

se: It takes time and discipline to develop any skill to a high level so that it works automatically and effortlessly so that we can enjoy it. Another answer could be because our goal and our abilities are not equally matched and we are not always in the best mindset to face the fact that we may have to struggle a bit to succeed. Yet another reason may be because we lack a goal—clear practice goals for the next lesson or the more distant goal of a performance. If we never have to get a piece ready by a certain date, what's the point of practice?

Would your child go to basketball practice every day if he/she never got to play in the game? Just as in sports there are games of various degrees of importance—regular season games, games against longtime rivals, play-offs and tournaments, so too, in music. There are performances at informal family gatherings and there are performances for more formal family occasions such as weddings. Sometimes musicians provide background music, sometimes their aural creation is the focus of the audience's attention. Sometimes the performance carries a great consequence such as winning a scholarship for college or a chance to play with a symphony. Sometimes it's just for the love of playing and sharing a particular piece that speaks to us. Build confidence and consistent practice with frequent low-impact recitals. That makes the less frequent high-impact performances a little easier.

We have performances that are both low and high impact on Nov. 12 for the Music of the Masters Dinner. Sometimes the students will be in a low-impact performance situation and playing as background music and other times their performance will be the focus of the audience's attention. Showcasing our students' talents at various stages of development will hopefully present a compelling case to our supporters to help make an ASC Suzuki education financially viable for families. Naturally, we want the quality of the students' work to speak for itself. There are many factors that are considered when inviting students to be a part of the groups that are not pre-formed (such as a string quartets or Dolce for example). Some of the factors include age, ability, gender and representation from each studio, whether the student played the previous year, student availability and the number of students at the particular level tasked with the performance. This year of the 250 students enrolled in

ASC, 90 students will perform at the dinner. It is a privilege to perform at the Music of the Masters dinner and one that we hope to share with all students at some point in their career here at ASC.

PS. Watch for MoM commercials on Fox TV-Wausau and listen for MoM commercials on WPR.



### **An Interview with Jennifer Burton**

#### **What are your hidden talents?**

I enjoy paper making, stamp collecting, bird watching and collecting baseball cards. Making homemade paper is very relaxing and every piece is unique, just like people. I sometimes write poetry on it and give it as a gift or give it to students with a personal message on it. I add things to the pulp like dried wild flowers, glitter, pieces of shells or cat hair. My favorite U. S. postage stamp went up on the space shuttle and back! And one of my favorite baseball cards is a 1934 card of Babe Ruth.

#### **What is your favorite travel destination?**

Paris, Venice, Jordan Park in Portage County and Port Aransas, Texas are my favorite places in the whole world. I have been to Europe three times and loved tracing family roots in Germany. Once I went to Mass at Notre Dame in Paris on Christmas Eve. I'll never forget it. I heard "Silent Night" sung in many different languages. Jordan Park is my favorite biking destination. I sit on the banks of the river and watch birds with my binoculars or just sit. And Port Aransas has a wonderful bird sanctuary and I saw whooping cranes in their natural habitat. Sometime I'd love to return to Europe and see the Tour de France bicycle race.

#### **What is your favorite restaurant in town so far?**

I like the Wooden Chair for breakfast, Matsu Ya for lunch (especially the Bento Boxes!), and Michelle's for Walleye Provencal.

#### **What types of music do you like to listen to?**

My taste in music is vast. I love to listen to Mozart and Beethoven violin concerti, sonatas and sym-

phonies. Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell and Yo Yo Ma are my classical artists. They are well-known classical artists who also play jazz, world music and film music. I also enjoy listening to rock and roll from the 50's and 60's. As a child, I used to listen to the Top 40 Countdown every Saturday morning and keep track of my favorite songs. Rock and roll is upbeat and brightens my day. It's also good for cleaning the house, one of my least favorite tasks.

**If someone were visiting Stevens Point, what would you tell them to see or do?**

Stevens Point is a beautiful place to live and has many cultural amenities. When family and friends visit, we walk around Lake Joanis, walk or ride bikes on the Green Circle or spend some time at the farmers market. We watch birds in Parkdale Park, Iverson Park and take a walk along the Wisconsin River. I treat them to a Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra concert or the Festival of India, Portage County Cultural Festival or to the Children's Museum. If someone is a sports enthusiast, like I am, we attend a Pointer hockey game or basketball game.

**Do you have any guilty pleasures?**

Burrito Supremes and hard shelled tacos from Taco Bell are my indulgences. I reward myself with one of each after I go to the dentist or doctor.

**What is your first music-related memory?**

My mom told me that she heard me humming the first theme from Haydn's Surprise Symphony when I was two years old. I would always giggle when the Big Bang came. Mom used to play records of symphonies while she did house work so I heard a lot of classical music from birth.

**Where did you grow up?**

I am the youngest of five children and grew up in Neenah, Wisconsin. My mom was an artist and my dad worked at Kimberly Clark, loved to sing and was an avid sportsman. We had a family puppeteer business and would travel across Wisconsin on weekends to give our shows. My sister and I were the puppeteers, my mom made hand puppets out of paper mache. We recorded the scripts on a reel-to-reel tape recorder and I spliced in sound effects and music.

**When and how did you decide to be a professional musician?**

I decided to go into music in high school. I had a hard decision when applying for colleges. I was offered a full scholarship to study French at Carroll College and was offered a partial scholarship from UW-Eau Claire to study music. I chose music over getting a French degree because I enjoyed music on so many levels. Plus, I figured I was more marketable as a musician since I could teach as well as play. I'm glad I followed my heart's desire; it was the best decision I ever made.

**What do you love most about teaching?**

I love to see the "Ah ha!" moment happen for a student. After working on a skill for a while, there is a point where everything clicks and the student gets this big grin on their face. I see this with all my students, whether they are 3 years old, 15 years old or 75 years old. These moments are life-giving and make my day fly by. Another close second thing that I love about teaching is seeing the bond grow between the parent and the child. I have taught many children from kindergarten through high school and it's beautiful to see the closeness grow.

**What do you love most about the Suzuki Method?**

The thing I love most about the Suzuki Method is that everyone can succeed. When I studied Suzuki literature in graduate school with Miss Aber, I learned how the pieces were selected to build a strong foundation. Each one builds on the skills of the others. When coupled with the help of a parent in daily practice, a child can develop their potential.

**The Aber Suzuki Center is essential to the Central Wisconsin community because...**

The Aber Suzuki Center gives so much to Central Wisconsin. Students often perform in the community to bring the joy of music to residents. Families seek this school for its quality teachers and programs. The American Suzuki Institute is one of the foremost Suzuki institutes in the world and brings many well-known teachers here every summer.

**When not practicing or teaching, what would you be doing?**

Every day I walk, bike or swim. These activities are relaxing and invigorating. I also enjoy weekend visits with family in Waukesha, Rothschild and Neenah. I am a Green Bay Packer owner so every Sunday in

the fall and winter I watch my team on TV. I also like to volunteer at my church, the state Suzuki association, CWSO and the Stevens Point Music Teachers Association.

### **What is your favorite thing about Stevens Point?**

When I moved here from Dallas, I considered Madison, Waukesha and Stevens Point. I chose Stevens Point due its quality of life. I love its size, proximity to the country, the taste of the water, its emphasis on recycling and its cultural offerings. I also appreciate that it has been designated as a United States Bird City, an award given to cities that provide habitats for birds. This city is home to me and enables me to be close to those I love.



### **The American Suzuki Foundation Wants YOU!**

The Aber Suzuki Center (ASC) has associated with it a nonprofit foundation called the American Suzuki Foundation (ASF). The ASF is based in Stevens Point and exists for the purpose of financially supporting the ASC, primarily by giving scholarships to ASC children. The goal is to allow all children – not just those who can afford it- to study music, if they desire.

The Foundation (ASF) Board is a group of mostly Suzuki parents who believe in the vision of making the world a better place one child at a time. Our main source of funding for need-based scholarships is the annual Music of the Masters event.

The ASF Board is now seeking to expand in size, under the concept that many hands make light work. We meet once per month (not in summer), with the major jobs being 1) contributing to the preparation for the Music of the Masters event, and 2) giving away scholarships. Please consider volunteering for this most rewarding role.

To volunteer to be on the board of the American Suzuki Foundation, please contact Pat D'Ercole.



### **Mark Your Calendar for the Music of the Masters Dinner**

This year the Music of the Masters will be held on Nov. 12 at the Alumni Room, DUC beginning with cocktails at 6:00p.m. The American Suzuki Foundation (ASF), an independent not-for-profit, whose sole purpose is to support Suzuki education especially in Stevens Point, sponsors this event. Through its fundraising efforts the ASF has provided needs-based and merit scholarships for ASC students, teacher training scholarship for UWSP and ASI teachers-in-training and support for continuing education for ASC faculty.

The Music of the Masters begins with cocktails and appetizers at 6:00 pm with music provided by string quartets and pianists. During this time, guests may



bid on silent auction items or purchase raffle tickets for the one-of-a-kind necklace created especially for this event by internationally acclaimed designer, Thomas Dailing. The value of the pendant is \$1,800. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10 and can be purchased at the ASC office or from ASF board members. Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase at the Music of the Masters.

Music of the Masters guests will choose from Grilled Salmon with Peach Sauce, Apricot Ginger Cornish Hen or Vegetable Lime Orzo for their meal while pianists provide dinner music or strolling violinists roam from table to table. Following dessert, the evening will conclude with musical selections by various instrumental groups and the Suzuki Singers accompanied by the Central State Chamber Orchestra. The master of ceremonies will be none other than "Franz Schubert" as portrayed by John Knowlton. Please encourage your family and friends who value the benefits of this program to support the Music of the Masters through the purchase of dinner or raffle tickets or perhaps reserve a table. All pro-

ceeds generated provide funds for the needs-based scholarships.

Dinner tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$45 after Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Only 150 tickets are available.

The Aber Suzuki Center would like to thank ASF board members Karen Harms, president, Diane Sands, vice president, Andy Felt, treasurer, Kaushalya Iyengar, secretary, Orsolya Gosztony, Brian and Daniela Kurzynski, Claudia Trimarco, Pat D'Ercole, and Jeff Morin, ex officio who work very hard on this event each year for the benefit our families.



#### Parent Discussion a Great Success

Novice and experienced parents met during the October marathon to enjoy some donuts with coffee donated by Emy J's and to share their successes and challenges as Suzuki parents. So many good ideas were coming forth that the idea of having an ASC book of practice ideas published was proposed. The idea could actually be done very easily. Go to the ASC Parents' Blog, *From Solo to Symphony* <http://ascparentssolo2symphony.blogspot.com/> and post your idea there. While you're there you might find some ideas that will solve a struggle you're having. You can also get to the blog by going to the ASC webpage and clicking on "Resources" in the drop down menu. Thanks to faculty member, Ann Marie Novak who moderates the blog.



#### Taiwanese Students Leave for Home

Our new friends from Taiwan were a little sleepy-eyed at the airport on Monday, Oct. 24 at 6:15 am, but ready for their 21 hour flights back to Taiwan after their 21 day stay in Stevens Point. Only one

student had to repack her suitcase due to weight restrictions! Our host families all agreed that the students liked shopping!

Thanks to all of you students who agreed to let them observe your lessons. They enjoyed watching you, playing at the marathon and your performances at the recitals. Thanks, too, to all who contributed to their hospitality—Kyoko and David Fuller, Dani Lai and Gene Hahn, Santha Bickford, Sheila and Jon Banovetz, Bonnie Ensminger, Christine Kancler and Jennifer Burton. Watch our Facebook page (UWSP Aber Suzuki Center) for pictures of their visit.



#### The Aber Suzuki Center Celebrates 45 Years Party on June 2, 2012

First of all, mark your calendar for Saturday, June 2, 2012. That's the day that the Aber Suzuki Center will celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> year of existence. We're going to have a party and invite current Suzuki families and 45 years of alumni and their families back to visit our new home in the NFAC, see their teachers and friends, make music together, listen to a concert given by alumni and CELEBRATE! You won't want to miss it!

The Aber Suzuki Center has always enjoyed a national reputation for Suzuki education. Not only was it one of the first places in the U.S. to have a Suzuki program, but in 1971 it was the first to host a Suzuki "camp" modeled after the summer school experience Dr. Suzuki offered in Japan. The American Suzuki Institute as it was named was held from Aug. 1-14 and consisted of two one week sessions as it does still today. Its goals were to meet the needs of the Suzuki triangle—students received lessons and furthered their skills, parents attended their child's lessons and lectures to further their understanding of their role and teachers interested in this new way of teaching music could receive training. "280 students registered for that first institute with 26 faculty and over 460 people in total from 18 states and Canada." <sup>1</sup>



Many of those who had been to Japan with Miss Aber came to teach for the Institute and it was because this came to be the gathering place for leaders in the Suzuki movement that lots of "firsts" happened here. For example, on this campus, in 1972 the Suzuki Association of the Americas, the association for teachers, parents and students who support Suzuki education, was born. It was also the place that Suzuki cello got its start. The cello teachers would meet here and in their "off hours" suggest, discuss and experiment with the repertoire for the Suzuki cello books.

Watch for more ASC history next month!

<sup>1</sup>Aber, Margery, *Hip! Hip! Hooray! 30 Years with the American Suzuki Institute*, 2001



### **Composer of the Month Johann Hummel**

**By Ann Marie Novak**

Johann Hummel was born into a musical family on November 14, 1778. His talent became evident to his family early in life; by the age of 4, he was already playing the violin very well and was reading and writing music. He began teaching himself to play the piano. Upon observing this, his mother likened him to the very popular Wolfgang Mozart, and suggested to her husband, Johannes, what a wonderful piece of good fortune it would be if the young boy could somehow study with Mozart, who was in his thirties at the time. When Johann was 8 years old, his father was offered the position of conductor and concertmaster of the Theater of Vienna; his father accepted the position, and soon the family was off to a new and exciting life in Vienna. Frau Hummel's dream of little Johann studying with the great Mozart was about to come true. In fact, Mozart was so impressed with Johann's piano playing and understanding of music that he decided to have Johann live with him and he would teach him free of charge. This arrangement lasted for 2 years, at which time Mozart decided that it was time for his prized pupil to embark on his first concert tour.

Johannes took time away from his position at the Theater to make the tour with his son. They travelled all over Europe, and were well-received virtually everywhere they went. The tour was put on hold briefly when Johann contracted smallpox; fortunately, Johann recovered relatively quickly, and they were able to continue and complete the 4 year schedule.

When Hummel was 15, he thought it was time for him to make a life for himself. He decided to remain in Vienna, and he began to take piano students in order to pay the bills. He taught by day, studied scores and composed by night, and he took advantage of the rich musical life of Vienna whenever he could. He briefly took organ lessons with Haydn, who warned him to not spend too much time on organ technique, since it might interfere with his spectacular piano technique. He had an on and off friendship with the aging Beethoven, and he rubbed elbows with the wealthy and noble members of Viennese society. He became concertmaster to Prince Esterhazy at Eisenstadt in 1804 (the aging Haydn was still the head of all musical endeavors at the court until his death in 1809...at which time Hummel took over) and remained there until 1811, when, for reasons unknown, he was dismissed. Fortunately, he had kept up his contacts in the musical world of Vienna, so when he returned there, he was able to gain audience for his works through the theaters. In 1814, his new wife, herself a singer, convinced him to return to concertizing throughout Europe. He did this very successfully for several years.

In 1819 he became Kapellmeister at Weimar, where he settled in happily. He conducted the opera there, but he did not write much theater music. Because he was a Catholic at a Protestant post, he was exempt from writing the sacred music that came with the position. The one part of the job that gave him much freedom was the 3-month leave that he was allowed each year. He used this time to concertize, compose and to write piano arrangements for foreign publishers. This served to establish him as one of the most important figures in composer-publisher relations and a leader in the fight for the right to copyright protection. He continued to be well-received in his concertizing until around 1830, when the newer, flashier style of the romantics became the craze of the times.

He ceased to tour in 1834, and he continued to compose until the end of his life. He died a wealthy man, (which is rare for a composer of that time) but he also left *us* richer, mostly in his piano compositions, chamber music, and of course, his celebrated Trumpet Concerto.

Sources:

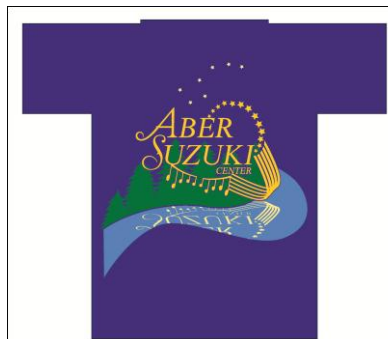
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### Watch for ASC T-shirt Order Forms

Beginning Monday, December 5th, order forms for the 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 \$5.75, and we plan to distribute the orders at the January 28th Marathon.



### Don't Delay! Get Your Tickets for the December CWSO Concert Soon!

Reserve Dec. 3rd or 4th on your calendar and get your CWSO tickets early. Not only is that the date to hear **Teddy Schenkman**, violist and winner of the CWSO Concerto Competition perform with the CWSO, but ASC will be very well represented on that concert by other students as well. Boy soprano **Sam Ginnett** will perform the part of Amahl in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Menotti. And, ASC students have been invited to provide the music at intermission.



### Student News

Congratulations to ASC Students who were selected for the following all-state ensembles:

#### WSMA Middle School Honors Orchestra

**Lucas Chan - violin**

**Jon Peck - violin**

**Lara Prebble – viola**

**Antony Van Tiem – violin**

**Rachel Ley -violin**

**Jason Smith**

#### WSMA High School Honors Orchestra

**Al Reeser – violin**

**Teddy Schenkman – viola**

**Lauren Sheibley – violin**

**Laura Josephson**

**Annie Yao**

**Brittany Greendeer**

#### WSMA Honors Choir

**Cianna Rose**

The following students played for JusticeWorks on Saturday, September 3: **William and Anna Hahn, Carolyn and Julia Storch and Faith Kluck and Olivia Yang.**

## Faculty News

These students played for Celebrate Amherst: **Julia Storch, Anna and William Hahn, Grace Olson, Desiah Melby, Faith Kluck and Cassidy Martin.**

**Tom Felt, Carolyn Storch, Hope Mahon and Marco Kurzynski** played for Helen Godfrey's memorial service at St. Paul's. Ms. Godfrey was president of the American Suzuki Foundation in the 1980s. It was a privilege to honor her request that ASC students perform at her memorial service.

The Earth Quartet will perform a concert Saturday December 17, at 7:00 in NFAC 221. Featured on the program will be Dvorak's *American String Quartet* as well as works by Mozart, Shostakovich, Borodin, Gershwin and Queen. The Earth Quartet is: **Wade Dittburner, Erik Sands, Teddy Schenkman, and Emily Clay.**

Cellists from ASC performed at this year's *Empty Bowls* event at SPASH on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. **Charity Hentges, Gerald Sakamaki, Isa Mahon, Trenton Seegert, Dinesh Traynor, Natalie Van Tiem, and Sam Schmitz** provided music for this annual event which serves the low income population of Portage county.

**Dave Becker, Kyoko Fuller and Dee Martz** played in the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra Concerts on Oct. 8 & 9.

**Pat D'Ercole** was the facilitator for the SAA's new course, *Suzuki Principles in Action* course taught in Fort Worth, TX on Sept. 25-26.

**Jenny Burton** presented a lecture entitled, "How Music Affects Your Mind, Moods and Spirit" at the Stevens Point Music Teachers Association on Wednesday, October 19.



## October 2011 Graduations

**Lucia Stephani, Violin Twinkles**  
**Michael Reeser, Violin Book 2**  
**Gwenyth Severson, Violin Twinkles**  
**Josie Reeve, Viola Book 1**

