

AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

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

February, 2012

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Lauren Sheibley, Senior Recital
Michelsen Hall, 2:00 pm

Saturday, February 18, 2012

Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, February 19, 2012

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

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, March 11, 2012

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

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Michael Josephson, Senior Recital
Chestnut Center, Marshfield, 2:00 pm

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Piano Only Marathon, 9am – Noon

Sunday, April 15, 2012

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

From the Director's Desk

By Pat D'Ercole

Notes... Notes that say, "You're special." Notes that say, "I love you." Notes that say, "Here is my heart." Notes... We can buy the ones that convey our sentiment or we can make our own. They come to us written on paper, usually in red envelopes, sometimes with flowers or chocolate—an artistic feast for our eyes. We send them to those we love and care about. It's something we should say often to those we love, but sometimes forget because we think our actions show how we feel. It's nice to have a day in February to remind us to show and tell those we care about that we love them.

Notes... Notes that say, "You're special." Notes that say, "I love you." Notes that say, "Here is my heart." Notes... These are a different kind of note. Notes that come to us in the silence of the moment, vibrations set in motion by the air from our lungs, the felt-covered hammers on strings or strands of horsehair—an artistic feast for our ears. We play them for those we love and care. We give them freely. It's something we should think about often when we play for those we love, but sometimes forget because we were thinking too hard about playing the right notes. These notes too, are a gift of love freely given. These notes may not have the aroma of fragrant flowers or sweet chocolate, but they do convey love, hours of dedication and the foregoing of other activities

for the sake of practice. The beauty of the performance tells the listeners, "You're special." "I love you." "Here is my heart." It's nice to have a day in February to remind us show and tell those we care about that we love them.

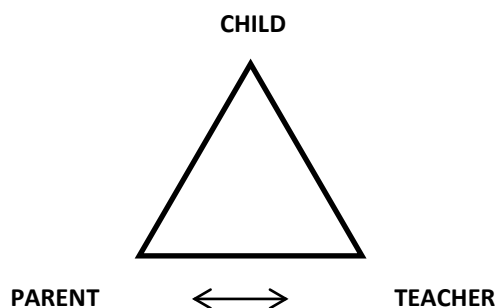
Students, take some time in the next two weeks to send a musical Valentine to those you love. And parents, know that when your children are grown, they will look back with great appreciation at the one-on-one time that you gave them in practice each day. They will remember the happy memories (and yes, memories of struggles too), and be grateful for the time and treasure you spent to provide an instrument, lessons and other musical enrichment activities. Many former students have told me that their parents not only told them that they loved them, they *showed* them by taking the time to practice with them each day, driving them to lessons and attending their performances. From the vantage point of a young adult who maybe now has children of their own, they are in awe that you gave them a gift that will last a lifetime - the gift of music and your love. Happy Valentine's Day!



The Suzuki Triangle: The Lesser Known Side

By Ann Marie Novak

We know that the Suzuki Triangle consists of the child, the parent and the teacher. Much attention is given to the relationship between the child and the parent and the child and the teacher, but what about the third side: the relationship between the parent and the teacher?



The essential component on this "third side" is communication. It is so natural for good communication to take place between the parent and the child (in practice) and between the teacher and the child (in the lesson), but when do we reserve time for communication between the parent and the teacher?

Teachers certainly make every effort to clarify practicing objectives within the lesson, but usually, there is little time for other discussion. How can we work together, to better communicate about issues that concern you or questions you may have? Below are some suggestions to aid parents and teachers in this area.

Personal Connections:

1. Asking questions or providing information at lesson time. While we do want the lesson to flow smoothly, with few distractions, sometimes it is important for a parent to make a brief comment to the teacher. As an example, the simple comment that, "we had a very busy week this time" can be of great help to the teacher when stated before the lesson. Another way that you can help the teacher to understand circumstances at home is to slip him/her a note before the lesson, asking for a phone conference or making some comment that you may not want to say in front of the child.
2. Telephone conferences. If you have an important issue that you feel needs to be discussed with your teacher, please feel free to call him/her during the week. Most teachers would rather hear about an issue sooner than later, and that the time spent on a phone call is well worth it if we can help you and your child make steady progress.
3. Marathons with coffee for parents. These marathons usually occur twice yearly. You may or may not be able to talk directly to your specific teacher, but there will be a faculty member present at these sessions. The other vital component here is the opportunity to talk with other parents.
4. Parent-Teacher Conferences. When the teacher's schedule permits, he/she will some-

times offer conferences to parents within the studio. This is a wonderful opportunity for a more in-depth discussion about the way that things are going in both lessons and in practices. Sometimes you may have questions and/or concerns about progress or methods of teaching or practicing. Other times, you or the teacher may want to share both the fact that things are going beautifully at this time and also the reason why. Both situations are good reasons for a conference. Remember that it is just as important to know what is working as it is to know what is not working. As a teacher, it is usually fairly apparent that progress is being made, but it is not necessarily so apparent that there is a problem in the working relationship between the parent and the child. Sometimes, the only way for a teacher to know this information is to hear it directly from the parent. Often, the teacher can be of help in that situation, and he/she may offer possible solutions that he/she has learned from other parents over the years. Other times, the opposite is true...maybe things are fine at home, but there is some frustration in the lesson scenario. Often times in this situation, an insight from the parent can be of enormous aid to the teacher.

Technological Methods:

1. Email. All faculty members are available at their email addresses at uwsp.edu. If you are uncertain about a specific teacher's address, you can find all of them listed on your directory (which you should have received in lessons from your teacher recently).
2. Parent Handbook. If you are looking for inspiration or charts or games, or just plain information about listening or practicing or taking care of your instrument, consult your parent handbook, either in hard copy or on line at: www.uwsp.edu/suzuki/Pages/asc/parentHandbook.aspx This handbook was carefully prepared by the entire faculty with many of their favorite articles and charts; it is a good source of information on many topics.
3. The Parent Blog. There is a link to the blog at the ASC site, or you can go directly to the blog

at: <http://ascparentssolo2symphony.blogspot.com/>. This blog provides a unique opportunity to read articles on various subjects and to get involved in discussions with teachers and/or with other parents on salient issues.

I hope I have made communication with your teacher seem a little bit more accessible. Please take advantage of all that our program has to offer in assisting you in your musical journey with your child. All faculty and staff strive to be helpful to you in as many ways as possible. We hope that you enjoy your journey for many years to come!



ASC Begins Harp Program Fall 2012

The Aber Suzuki Center has just received news that we have been awarded a grant from the Dean's Office to purchase the harps that we need to start a Suzuki Harp Program in the fall of 2012! This is an exciting development and one for which we want to spread the news far and wide. There are only four Suzuki harp teachers in the entire state, so we are very fortunate to be able to plan to offer lessons here. Tell your friends and neighbors!



\$50 Rebate on Your ASC Tuition

The American Suzuki Foundation is offering a \$50 rebate on tuition for students enrolling for the current semester (Spring 2012) and for the Fall 2012 semester. This is how it will work: Encourage a family to enroll their child for lessons at the Aber Suzuki Center. When they call the ASC, tell them to say that they were referred by you. Once they are scheduled with a teacher and have a lesson time, and if they've given your name as a reference, both you and the new family will receive a \$50 rebate on your tuition.

Parent Discussion Group During February 18 Marathon

New and veteran parents are welcome to come and share the joys and challenges of parenting in the Suzuki style during the February Marathon. We'll gather outside of Michelsen Hall near the Music Dept. office about 9:15. Coffee and donuts will be provided. We'll watch one of the SAA's Parents as Partners online videos as a discussion starter. Come when you can and stay as long as you'd like. We hope that the group aspect of marathons will provide parents a chance to learn and grow from each other in just the same way that it does for the students.



Hot Off the Press Aber Suzuki Center Viewbooks

The Aber Suzuki Center viewbooks, a glossy, 32-page book about the Aber Suzuki Center, are now available for the taking. They are stored on the bookshelf in the waiting room. Inside you'll find lots of pictures of current students, articles by alumni, articles about the programs we currently offer, biographies of faculty, and a historical timeline. After you peruse the book, give it to an interested friend or neighbor or bring it to your workplace.

The printing and paper for this publication was generously donated by the Worzalla Printing Co. to the UWSP College of Fine Arts and Communication



ASC Students Provide Music for The Xu Bing Receptions

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is pleased to announce an exciting upcoming art event and exhibition in Stevens Point, WI.

February 2-March 10, 2012, the UW-Stevens Point College of Fine Arts and Communication will host a month-long exhibition and series of programming featuring the work of world renowned Chinese conceptual artist, Xu Bing. Xu Bing's work will be on exhibit in the UWSP Carlsen Art Gallery from mid-February through mid-March 2012. ASC students will provide the music for the opening and closing receptions. Under the direction of Mary Hofer, they have learned special Chinese music for the occasion. Xu Bing will also be traveling from China to facilitate student workshops and give a public presentation during his short-term stay.

Along with the exhibition UWSP will host a month-long series of programs and events on contemporary Chinese art and culture titled "CO-FAC Creates: Xu Bing and the Art of Rewriting China". One event of interest to ASC families is the Qi Shufang Peking Opera Company performing March 10 in Michelsen Hall at 7:00pm.

You are invited to participate in this outstanding series, and to share this information with other arts enthusiasts. Visit these links for more information and event dates:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cofac/Pages/Activities/2012-COFAC-Creates.aspx>
<http://www.facebook.com/events/248573975210208/>



Composer of the Month Johann Sebastian Bach

By Ann Marie Novak

Johann Sebastian Bach was born on March 21, 1685 in Eisenbach, Germany. He was the youngest of four boys in a very musical family. He reportedly had a beautiful singing voice and loved to play the organ and the clavier (a small keyboard instrument). When little Johann was about 9 years old, his parents died ; thus he and his brother, Jakob, were sent to live with their eldest brother, Johann Christoph (also a fine musician). Christoph made certain that Sebastian had excellent musical training, but the young lad did not need to be pushed...he often asked for more difficult clavier pieces from his older brother so that he could advance as quickly as possible. In fact, he was so hungry for musical knowledge that he would sneak into the music room at night to copy manuscripts written by famous musicians of the time. By doing this, he was able to learn how the musical masterminds of the time (such as Pachelbel and Froberger) worked.

Sebastian studied long and hard at his trade, and although he became a very respected musician (perhaps one of the greatest that ever lived), his life did not proceed without difficulties. In fact, he always seemed to be getting into trouble in some way. He was reprimanded for insulting musicians he worked with, he was not very popular with the students he taught, he was accused of adding too many trills and other ornaments in the hymns, and he was scolded for making his church music too long and complex (he responded by writing the introductions so short that the congregation would not be ready to begin singing on time!).

Sebastian married twice in his lifetime: the first time to Maria Barbara Bach, and the second time (after Barbara's death) to Anna Magdalena. He had a total of 20 children – seven to his first wife, and 13 to his second wife. Many of these children went on to become well-known musicians and composers in their own right. He wrote many of his smaller keyboard works for the purpose of teaching his wife and his children how to play the

harpsichord and clavier. Some of these pieces, such as the Minuets and Musettes are found in our Suzuki literature.

Johann Sebastian Bach left his mark on the musical world in many ways, not the least of which was in the sheer numbers of pieces he composed. He was one of the most prolific composers who ever lived. He wrote throughout most of his life, and he wrote for just about every instrument that was available at the time. He is responsible for sharing with us over 200 sacred cantatas, 250 keyboard works, and far too many instrumental works to list here. The range of complexity of those compositions goes from the two-voice texture of one of the minuets or one of the two-part inventions to the grandest 5-voice fugues ever conceived.



Bach Around the Clock

Come celebrate Bach's 327th birthday in Madison—a twelve hour community celebration of the music of the great composer, Johann Sebastian Bach. (Read about his life in this Ambassador!) The date for this year's concert is Saturday, March 17th from noon to midnight. Everyone, of all ages, abilities and instruments are welcome to play a solo, a duet or whatever combination of instruments you can gather during these 12 hours. Anyone can participate as long as you play music written by Bach. You can come and go as you wish, but if you want to play, you must call Cheryl Dring at 608-890-2585 or email her at cheryl.dring@wpr.org to get on the schedule, or if you have any questions.



**The Aber Suzuki Center
Celebrates 45 Years on June 2nd**

(Ed. note: Mark your calendar for June 2nd. We're going to have a party to celebrate our 45th birthday! We sent out over 750 Save-the-Date cards to alumni --both students and parents. This is our fourth installment on the history of ASC.

There were lots of new faces in the 1980's at ASTEC. In 1984 at the age of 70, Miss Aber, the founder of the ASTEC and the American Suzuki Institute, retired. Paul Landefeld, a violin/viola teacher from Pittsburgh, who had just returned from Japan, was hired as the new director. His wife, Lorraine, a pianist was also hired to teach. 1984 was also the year that Kyoko Fuller and Pat D'Ercole, both violinists, joined the faculty. Soon afterward Lawrence Leviton, cellist, was hired to teach the students of Kathy Franceschi, the first ASTEC Suzuki cello teacher. The faculty was growing in number and more room was needed. The Women's Resource Center that was housed on the first floor of the Suzuki House was relocated so that renovations could be made to the first floor to accommodate more studios. The archways to the living room and dining rooms were narrowed so doors could be added. These larger rooms served as piano studios. The den or study in the southwest corner of the house became the director's office.

1986 was a very busy year. First of all, the Japanese tour group came to Stevens Point. There were ten children who were between the ages of 6 and 14 who studied the Suzuki Method in Japan. The Japanese teachers that came with them gave workshops to our students and the tour group gave a concert in Sentry Theatre.

Sometime in the 80s, four ASTEC students, Charys Schueller, violin, Eric Lee, violin, Celise Kalke, viola and John Landefeld, cello, formed the ASTEC String Quartet. They were all playing at a very advanced level and their string quartet soon was doing the same. In 1986, the ASTEC String Quartet coached by Vasile Baluska, entered the very

prestigious Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the quartet won first place!

1986 was also the year that Mr. and Mrs. Landefeld left for warmer climates, Dallas, TX, and Dee Martz became the third director of ASTEC. Mrs. Martz was already teaching viola for the Department of Music and had experience as the director of the Conservatory of Creative Expression. With her appointment as director and teacher, now ASTEC students could study the newly published viola books with a viola teacher. And expansion didn't stop there. During the 80s, Mary Hofer, who was corresponding with Paavi Kukkamaki the founder of the Suzuki Voice method, began the very first Suzuki Voice program in the United States. By the end of the decade the ASTEC offered lessons in violin, viola, cello, piano and voice.



ASC Alumni in Superbowl Ad

When watching the Superbowl, did you see the Re-invented Toyota Camry ad? Steve Zander, ASC alumni, violin, was playing in the recording for that commercial.



Student News

Students and teachers from the Aber Suzuki Center attended the 6th Annual Winter Retreat of the Suzuki Association of Wisconsin in Madison on January 20-22. They joined 124 Suzuki students and 30 teachers from across the state in a concert at the Capitol Building Rotunda, which was accompanied by our own Ann Marie Novak.

(Below) From left to right in the front row: **Lucia Stephani, Anna Hahn and William Hahn; middle row: Kate Young, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler and Hope Stephani; back row: faculty members Jen-**

nifer Burton, Ann Marie Novak and Pat D'Ercole.
(Oscar Soler, not shown)



(Below) Front row, l to r: **Lucia Stephani, Anna Hahn, William Hahn**; Row 2: **Ching-Chih Lai, Dani Lai, Andrew Lai, Kate Young, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, Hope Stephani**; Row 3: **Cathy Scroeckenthaler, Gene Hahn, Ann Marie Novak, Pat D'Ercole, Karen Stephani**; Back Row: **Jennifer Young, Charles Young and Jennifer Burton**.



William Hahn and Sophie Emerson participated in the Very Young Composers of Central Wisconsin Workshop, which met three times a week during the month of January. The final concert was held January 30th, and one of Sophie's pieces was performed. The workshop is given by Dr. Robert Rosen here at UWSP.

These students performed in the Tomorrow River Christmas Concert at Amherst High School on December 15: **Revyn Abbott-Beversdorf, Tuvshin Anderson, Alyssa Kirsling, Landry Kirsling, Desiah**

Melby, Grace Olson, Alyssa Eiden and Sawyer Eiden. They were led by Jenny Burton.

The following violinists played at Oakridge Senior Living Center on December 18: **Marcy Kirsch, Ciera Shaver, Emily Horgan, Hope Stephani, Lucia Stephani, Karen Stephani, Carolyn Storch, Julia Storch, Lola Tauchman, Nathaniel Meadows, Faith Kluck, Alyssa Kirsling, Landry Kirsling, Revyn Abbott-Beversdorf, Rachel Marten, Dane Chung and Yuling Sun**. They were led by Jenny Burton. These piano students played solos and were assisted by Ann Marie Novak: **Sophie Emerson and Kala Jensen**. Ms. Novak also accompanied the violin ensemble.

The following students performed at the *Youth of Portage County Fine Arts Exhibit* sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club and held at Mark Motors in Plover on January 3: Violinists **Anna Hahn, William Hahn, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, Hope Stephani, Lucia Stephani and Karen Stephani** were led by Jenny Burton. Cello students **Emily Clay and Aileen Winn** joined Tim Mutschlecner and his daughter, Audrey. Pianists **Marco Kurzynski, Samantha and Trevor Carlson, Alexa Haynes, and Supriya Keefe** performed under the guidance of Ann Marie Novak, who also accompanied the violins and cellos.



Inclement Weather Cancellations Policy

During times of severe winter weather, the local media will be notified if UWSP is closing to the public. Information will also be available by calling University Information at 715-346-0123. In the event you hear that the University is closed, you can assume the ASC program is also closed, however the University closes to the public only under the most extreme weather conditions. If the University is not closed, whether or not to reschedule lessons due to the weather is up to the individual teacher.

If we feel there is a need to cancel a Marathon or recital due to severe weather, the local media will be notified.

If you need to cancel your child's lesson for any reason, it would be helpful to the teacher if you leave a message on his or her voice mail, rather than the Suzuki general number.

Dave Becker	346-4902
Jenny Burton	346-4503
Pat D'Ercole	346-4938
Mary Hofer	346-4921
Tim Mutschlecner	346-3580
Ann Marie Novak	346-4889
Oscar Soler	346-4951
Tom Yang	346-4977



Faculty News

Pat D'Ercole presented the Every Child Can! Course to parents and teachers at the SAW workshop January 20th in Madison.

Jennifer Burton, Ann Marie Novak, and Pat D'Ercole, and Oscar Soler attended the SAW workshop January 20-22 in Madison. Our faculty joined a volunteer teaching force of 30 teachers from across the State of Wisconsin. Ms. Burton was on the planning committee for the event.

Jenny Burton was a violin clinician for the MacPhail Suzuki Workshop January 13-15.



December 2011 Graduations

Daisy Jagoditsh, Piano Twinkles
Anna Vandehey, Viola Twinkles
William Hahn, Violin Twinkles
Anna Hahn, Violin Twinkles
Katie Huang, Piano Twinkles
Linnea Turner, Piano Book 1
Josalin Kumm, Cello Book 1
Victoria Tillotson, Piano Book 2
Madison Tepp, Voice Book 2
Sabrina Tang, Violin Book 3
Tom Felt, Violin Book 5
Dinesh Traynor, Cello Book 5
Alan Kiepert, Violin Book 6
Michael Josephson, Piano Book 7
Natalie Van Tiem, Cello Book 9



January 2012 Graduations

Trenton Niles, Piano Twinkles
Samuel Kingston, Viola Twinkles
Katya Leek, Piano Twinkles
Jeffrey Leek, Piano Twinkles
Rachael Bouwer, Voice Book 1
Aidan Simons, Viola Book 1
Landry Kirsling, Violin Book 1
Anna Meilahn, Voice Book 2
Ada Sell, Violin Book 2
Isaac Klasinski, Piano Book 3
Cal Irons, Violin Book 6
Jonathan Cochrane, Violin Book 9
Gerald Sakamaki, Cello Book 9
Roshini Traynor, Violin Book 10

