

Aber Suzuki Center



University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point

AMBASSADOR

FEBRUARY 2015

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 28, 2015

Marathon, 9 am – noon

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Solo Recitals

Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Marathon, 9 am – noon

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Trenton Seegert, Cello

Senior Recital

NFAC 221, 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 29, 2015

Solo Recitals

Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Marathon (piano only)

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Group Senior Recital

NFAC 221, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Austin Konkol, Voice

Senior Recital

Michelsen Hall, 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 26, 2015

String & Voice Festival Concert

Ben Franklin Junior High School, 2:00 pm

Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm

Director's Column

By Pat D'Ercole

Red is the color of February. You might think that it's left-over red from the Christmas season, but red sheds its green companion in February. Christmas stars become hearts and colored lights become candle light as we celebrate yet another day dedicated to love. It's kind of odd that we need to be reminded to let those we love know how we feel about them, but maybe it's because we get so involved in the tasks of daily survival, that we lack the time to reflect on who/what's really important in our lives. It's good then to be reminded, even though it may be a little more commercialized than we'd like.

In light of last month's Paris violence, Ann Marie Novak's feature article is a timely reminder on how we are counteracting that violence by teaching our children about beauty through music. Though it may seem to be a small contribution, we must, as the saying goes, "Think globally and act locally." We who pursue the Suzuki philosophy realize that we are systemically changing the world one family at a time. In addition, to Dr. Suzuki's dream for all children, music has its own properties that soothe, calm and heal our hearts--our own and that of those who listen to us. Some of the articles this month are concrete examples of this philosophy in action. Read Mr. Yang's article about how a group of ASC students and parents used their musical talents to raise the donations for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign at Shopko. We've also included an article from the Washington Post about research that

shows that the brains of children who study music are more likely to have increased attention skill, anxiety management and emotional control.

Lastly, here's an idea for a very concrete way to put some music into Valentine's Day. ASC students can send a recording of themselves performing a musical selection to grandparents or special friends via Skype, Facetime or recorded on a phone or computer. Audio valentines would be a great way to say, "I love you." Then, maybe we can say with Pablo Casals, "Perhaps music will save the world."



Suzuki's Place in the Universe: A Statement of Hope

By Ann Marie Novak

I recently found myself browsing through a very beautiful website, devoted to the subjects of kindness, nurturing, love, decency, and respect. It basically is a picture of a sort of galaxy, dotted with many different stars and constellations. As I navigated the site, I encountered zones such as the "Twinkle Nebula" and the "Nurturing Love Starfield". I found it to be so peaceful and relaxing, especially in the throes of a hectic day. It is a site well worth the look.*

You may have guessed by now that it is a Suzuki-related website. In fact, it is the site for charitable contributions for the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA). It is set up so that, once you click on an individual star, you can read the name of the person to whom the star is dedicated, along with a written testimonial of that dedication. But wait!!! This has nothing to do with asking for contributions...this is purely about the spirit generated by this picture and what it represents.

The connection of twinkles to stars notwithstanding, there is much here to be pondered and experienced. As Suzuki teachers, students, parents and families, we seem to focus locally, in our own homes, studios and programs, but sometimes I

believe that we need to look at the "bigger picture". Looking at that field of stars reminded me that, while we do make a difference, one student, one family at a time, we really do have an important place in the world at large.

Dr. Suzuki had a vision. He also had a philosophy which spawned a method. The way that these two things converge is nothing short of genius. While he spent a great deal of time fine-tuning the manner and execution of instruction of playing the violin, he never lost sight of his philosophy of nurturing talent into fine ability in each and every student. More than that, he never lost sight of his vision of a world at peace.

It is easy to look around ourselves today and to be cynical, especially when we look at the atrocities committed in every corner of the world. We might think to ourselves that we are failing...that it is hopeless. Maybe...but think for a moment about the world in which Dr. Suzuki lived when he was struck by the notion that, "All Japanese children speak Japanese!" Think about all that surrounded him and his fellow musician, Pablo Casals, when he (Casals) said, "Perhaps music will save the world."

It is difficult to adequately describe the enormous devastation of Post-World War II Japan. Yet in that environment, Dr. Suzuki found that tiny seed of hope and he himself nurtured that seed into a reality. They say that the Phoenix arises from the ashes. Dr. Suzuki was able to see the vision of that Phoenix...and we are that vision.

So, when the world seems harsh and heartless, remember that you are part of an ongoing vision: when we raise a generation that appreciates and creates beauty, that generation will desire to preserve, not destroy, that beauty; perhaps that desire ultimately will lead to world peace.

*If you have an interest in browsing the starfield mentioned, the site is:

<https://suzukiassociation.org/giving-galaxy/>

A Relevant Quote From Pablo Casals

"Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that never was before and never will be again. And what do we teach our children in school? We teach them that two and two make four and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them: Do you know what you are? You are a marvel. You are unique. In all of the world there is no other child exactly like you. In the millions of years that have passed there has never been a child like you. And look at your body – what a wonder it is! Your legs, your arms, your cunning fingers, the way you move! You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you a marvel? You must cherish one another. You must work- we must all work – to make this world worthy of its children."



A Very Merry Christmas

By Tom Yang

On Saturday, December 20, 2014 a group of young musicians from three different music programs in the area congregated at the Salvation Army Kettle Site at the Plover Shopko to play holiday music in order to encourage shoppers to donate to the Salvation Army. Surrounded by musical cheer for four hours, the Shopko Kettle received over four hundred dollars in donations.

This event was one of the most fulfilling of my music teaching career. I witnessed that:

- All four hours were covered, everyone came who said they would come, some even came as a surprise. Many stayed beyond what they had signed on for. This event took place a week before Christmas and many families were already booked to the top.
- Many parents stayed during their child's shift providing very welcome support.

- The director of the event, employees in the store and shoppers were uplifted by the music. I think that the music helped remind everyone that the holidays are not just about rushing about to meet deadlines.
- The students were unbelievably game. The temperature in the "airlock" was cold, the students repeated the cycle of carols 4 or 5 times per hour and yet they were unflagging in energy and some not really ready to quit when their shift was up. After every warm-up break, the kids were ready to go again.

This experience showed me that giving is best when the lines between giving and receiving are blurred. The kids were able to give to the shoppers, those whom the Salvation Army ministers to and ultimately themselves and their parents. It also convinced me as both a parent of musicians and a music teacher that what we really are giving our kids with music lessons is yet another tool in which they may speak into the lives of others.

Thanks go out to:

Bánk Bodor, Huba Bodor, Koppány Bodor, Zsanna Bodor, Rebekah Bruner, Anna Hahn, William Hahn, Anika Herheim, Isa Mahon, Sarah Mahon, Max Malek, Aidan Simons, Adler Simons, Kim Simons, Scarlet Simons, Karen Stephani, Lucia Stephani, Dinesh Traynor, Roshini Traynor, Elijah Vang, Havilah Vang, Jace Yesse, and Anissa Zaske.



ASC Begins Adult Ensemble

By Merietta Oviatt

We are very pleased to announce that we will be offering an ensemble for our adult students here at the Aber Suzuki Center. The group will be led by Merietta Oviatt and is open to any adult student at any ability level. The course will start March 27th and will be held for 8 weeks. The cost is only \$50 per participant! We will meet in NFAC 142 on Friday evenings from 5:30 – 6:15. If you have any questions about the ensemble you may e-mail Merietta at moviatt@uwsp.edu. For registration information contact the Aber Suzuki Center office.



Star-Spangled Banner Gig for ASC Students

We have been invited to play the National Anthem at the Pointers' women's basketball game on Saturday, February 21 at 3:00 pm in Berg Gym. All string and voice students who are approved by their teacher to participate can sign up in the waiting room. The first 20 students to sign up will be the lucky players. It is required that each participant attends at least one rehearsal.

Three rehearsals will be held for this event and will be conducted by Ms. Burton. The first two are Monday nights, February 9 and 16 in NFAC 290 from 7:00-7:30 pm. The third and final rehearsal will be at 1:30 pm on Saturday, February 21 in Room 101 just across from Berg Gym in the UWSP Health Enhancement Center. This building is on the corner of Fourth Street and Reserve. You can park in Lot X across the street from the east end of the Health Enhancement Center.

Music will be available from your teacher the first week of February. Study your part before coming to the rehearsal. Music stands will be available in NFAC 290 but you will need to bring a music stand to the performance. Adult sized chairs will be available for any cellists who want to play. If you need a smaller chair, you will need to bring

your own to the rehearsals and to the performance.

We will wear our ASC T-Shirts and black or blue pants at the performance. Please wear gym shoes or any shoe with rubber soles so we don't harm the gym floor.

Performers can stay for the game for free but adults and siblings who come with the performers must pay \$6.00 admission. Seating is general admission so you can sit wherever you want. The performers will play facing the Pointer's bench so you might want to sit behind the Pointer bench.

If this sounds like fun to you, please ask your teacher for a copy of the music and learn it. Please sign up in the waiting room so you can reserve your performance slot. All voice students will sing the melody. All string players should learn the melody as well. String students in Book 4 and above should learn the melody and either the second or third part. We will assign parts for the more advanced students at the rehearsal.

This game is a special one for the Pointers' women's basketball team. It is their last home game for this season and it is Senior Day. We are excited to be asked to begin this game with a special Star-Spangled Banner! Come and give your gift of music to the Pointers!



ASC Receives Special Citation from Stevens Point School Board

In some ways, one could say that the Aber Suzuki Center received an early valentine. On January 12, Superintendent Weininger, on behalf of the Stevens Point Area Public School District Board of Education, presented the Aber Suzuki Center with a citation for our partnership with the district. The plaque read:

*Community Service Recognition Award
presented to the
Aber Suzuki Center of Stevens Point*

*In recognition of the significant and profound contributions
to the District, for advancing the education of all its stu-
dents, and for helping us to fulfill our mission: prepare each
student to be successful.*

With deep, heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

The Stevens Point Area Public School District

In October of last year, the contributions of ASC were also commended by the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra. We are fortunate to live in a community where the musical arts are recognized, valued and celebrated.



**Science Just Discovered Something Amazing
About What Childhood Piano Lessons Did to You**

By [Tom Barnes](#), Mic.com, January 08, 2015

If your parents forced you to practice your scales by saying it would "build character," they were onto something. The *Washington Post* reports that one of the largest [scientific studies](#) into music's effect on the brain has found something striking: Musical training doesn't just affect your musical ability — it provides tremendous benefits to children's emotional and behavioral maturation.

The study by the University of Vermont College of Medicine found that even those who never made it past nursery rhyme songs and do-re-mi's likely received some major developmental benefits just from playing. The study provides even more evidence as to why providing children with high-quality [music education](#) may be one of the most effective ways to ensure their success in life.

The study: James Hudziak and his colleagues [analyzed](#) the brain scans of 232 children ages 6 to 18, looking for relationships between cortical thickness and musical training. Previous studies the team had performed revealed that anxiety, de-

pression, attention problems and aggression correspond with changes to cortical thickness. Hudziak and his team sought to discover whether a "positive activity" like musical training could affect the opposite changes in young minds.

"What we found was the more a child trained on an instrument," Hudziak told the [Washington Post](#), "it accelerated cortical organization in attention skill, anxiety management and emotional control."

The study found increased thickness in parts of the brain responsible for [executive functioning](#), which includes working memory, attentional control and organizational skills. In short, music actually helped kids become more well-rounded. Not only that, they believe that musical training could serve as a powerful treatment of cognitive disorders like ADHD.

We need this sort of proof now more than ever. In presenting their [findings](#), the authors reveal a terrifying truth about the American education system: Three-quarters of high school students "rarely or never" receive extracurricular lessons in the music or the arts. And that's depriving kids of way more than just knowing an instrument.

School systems that don't dedicate adequate time and resources to musical training are robbing their kids of so much. Prior research proves that learning music can help children develop [spatio-temporal faculties](#), which then aid their ability to solve complex math. It can also help children improve their reading comprehension and verbal abilities, especially for those who speak English as a second language.

In these ways music can be a powerful tool in helping to close the [achievement gaps](#) that have plagued American schools for so long. It's even been shown that children who receive musical training in school also tend to be more [civically engaged](#) and maintain higher grade-point averages than children who don't. In short, musical education can address many of the systemic problems in American education.

Hudziak's research is an important addition to the field because it shows that music helps us become better people, too. One thing is clear: Learning music is one of the best things a person can do. Who knows — running scales may have changed your life. And it could change the lives of future generations too.

h/t [Washington Post](#)

[Tom Barnes](#) is a Staff Writer for Mic.com's music section. A graduate of NYU, he's worked brief stints with Columbia Records and Miracle Music. He believes the mind needs music like the body needs food and water. He always feels the thirst.



Student News

Congratulations to the voice students who sang in concert with the Wisconsin Master Chorale on December 10, 11 and 13 at the Church of the Intercession: **Mariah Studinski, Ruixue Du, Anna Meilahn, Tom Felt, Macayla Tranel, Austin Konkol, Lydia Ensminger, Catriona Quirk, Abby Spaay, Sofia Cerron-Palomino, Michael Treder, Zsanna Bodor, Huba Bodor, Janet Asplin, Megan O'Brien, Ellie Schoenecker, Emma Dorshorst, Roshini Traynor and Tom Treder.**



Bravo to the ASC students who are members of the Central Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra programs. The orchestras made their premier performances on December 14 to a

standing- room only audience in Michelsen Hall. Philharmonia members: **Yuling Sun, Sawyer Eiden, William Hahn, Hope Stephani, Lucia Stephani, Logan Bauman, Lillian Mahon, Max Malek, Josalin Kumm, Elisabeth Mahon, Natalie Reichel and Frederick Van Tiem.** Symphony Orchestra members: **Lucas Chan, Zsanna Bodor, Alyssa Eiden, Faith Kluck, Antony Van Tiem, Havilah Vang, Roshini Traynor, Marco Kurzynski, Hope Mahon, Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, Frederick Van Tiem, Thomas Felt, Michael Reeser, Natalie Van Tiem, Koppány Bodor, Dinesh Traynor, Kate Young and Joshua Dvorak.**

Richard Meilahn performed *How Great Thou Art* for services at Trinity Lutheran Church on November 30.

Julia Storch and Jane Story performed at the Portage County Health Care Center on January 3 and were led by Jenny Burton. They dazzled the seniors with jazz tunes and holiday music.

Thank you to the following students who played for the P. E. O. meeting held at Oakridge on January 13 led by Pat D'Ercole: **Tatiana Van Tiem, Anna Hahn, William Hahn, Natalie Berk, Tam Doan, Hope Stephani, Lucia Stephani, Julia Storch and Yuling Sun.**



Hip, hip hooray to the following students who participated in the Collaboration Weekend on January 9 and 10: **Rachel Marten, Hope Stephani, Lucia Stephani, Jocelyn He, Finn Borgnes, Berit Borgnes, Annika Borgnes,**

Roisin Willis, Josie Reeve, Jane Story, Julia Storch, Jace Yesse, Richard Meilahn, Sharon Roark, Kerry Heineke, Tomi Dittburner, Lynn Karbowski, Zsanna Bodor, Koppány Bodor, Bánk Bodor, Huba Bodor, William Hahn, Anna Hahn, Max Malek, Tatiana Van Tiem, Megan O'Brien, Catriona Quirk, Tori Tillotson, Lydia Ensminger, Tom Felt, Michael Treder and Austin Konkol.



Thanks to the ensemble managers: Ginger Marten, Kimber Borgnes, Sarah Reeve, Teresa Story, Brenda Yesse, Sharon Roark, Orsolya Gosztony, Dani Lai, Heidi O'Brien and Annie Tillotson. A special thanks to the ASC coaches: Tim Mutschlecner, Merietta Oviatt, Jenny Burton, Ann Marie Novak and Tom Yang. The event coordinators were Ann Marie Novak and Jenny Burton. The event was a HUGE SUCCESS! We had a record number of ensembles (10) and the groups enjoyed our guest clinicians, Roy Meyer and Joseph Hauer.

Hope and Lucia Stephani performed at St. Bronislava on Christmas Day. They will perform with ASC alumnus, Thomas Meronek on January 25 and will be accompanied by Karen Stephani.



Carolyn Storch, Julia Storch and Abishua Kealisher performed at the Family Church in Stevens Point on December 14, 21, 25 and on January 4 as a public service.

Rachel Marten regularly serves as a teacher assistant for the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Orchestra. Her mother, Ginger Marten, is the orchestra conductor in Wisconsin Rapids and she enjoys her daughter's patience with the beginners.

Julienne Verbrick performed for five events in the Town of Rome over the holiday season. She played for the Town of Rome sit-down fund raising dinner on December 3, for the assisted living center on December 10, for two church events on December 7 and 11 and for Armistice Day.

Drew Bandy performed his violin during the dog agility and dog obedience trials in Waupaca on September 19 and 26, October 25 and 26, and on October 30 and 31. He put his case on the floor in front of him while he played and enjoyed the joy that his music brought to the people and dogs at the events.

Logan and Luke Vayder played cello and guitar at Harmony Home on January 6.



Faculty News

Pat D'Ercole taught Every Child Can! at the Wisconsin Music Conservatory in Milwaukee on Friday, January 16.

Jenny Burton's lecture *Play It Again Sam: Strategies for Improving Listening at Home*, is part of the Parents as Partners Online series sponsored by the Suzuki Association of the

Americas. This series goes from January to June and includes many 10 to 15 minute presentations to inspire and educate parents and teachers. ASC parents can enroll through their teachers.

Mary Hofer, Jenny Burton, and Pat D'Ercole attended *Point to the Future! Trends in Teaching and Learning* on Tuesday, January 13. This was a teaching conference sponsored by UWSP.

Oscar Soler taught at the Denison University Suzuki Winter Workshop in Granville, Ohio January 16-18.

Oscar Soler taught at the Parker Elementary School Suzuki Workshop in Houston, TX February 3-6.



December 2014 Graduations

Payten Hagen, Violin Twinkles
Andrew Lai, Piano Twinkles
Megan Peterson, Violin Twinkles
Peter Pu, Piano Twinkles
Evelyn Burch, Violin Book 1
Antonio Koehn, Violin Book 1
Chaeli St. Bernard, Piano Book 1
Devin Powers, Violin Book 2
Abbigail Spaay, Voice Book 2
Aidan Simons, Viola Book 3
Zsanna Bodor, Violin Book 7



January 2015 Graduations

Caleb Kich, Piano Twinkles
Kai Huang, Piano Book 1
Jonah Price, Piano Book 1
Madelyn Andreae, Violin Book 2
Anna Hahn, Violin Book 3
Carolyn Storch, Violin Book 4
Frederick Van Tiem, Violin Book 8

